

**551-88U-1430
Operate Switches
Status: Approved**

Distribution Restriction: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

Destruction Notice: None

Foreign Disclosure: FD1 - This training product has been reviewed by the training developers in coordination with the Transportation School, Fort Lee, VA foreign disclosure officer. This training product can be used to instruct international military students from all approved countries without restrictions.

Conditions: Assigned as a Railway Specialist with the requirement to advise COCOM/Host Nation personnel on operating switches, given a railyard with switches, Personal Protective Equipment, completed risk assessment, System Special Instructions (SSI), and references, day or night, in all weather conditions, and in an operational environment. Some iterations of this task should be performed in MOPP 4.

Standards: Operate switches so the train is directed onto correct track without causing injury to personnel or damage to equipment, all in accordance with applicable references.

Special Conditions: None

Safety Risk: Medium

MOPP 4: Sometimes

Task Statements

Cue: Your team has been tasked to advise COCOM/Host Nation personnel on how to operate switches.

DANGER

None

WARNING

None

CAUTION

Working around live tracks is always dangerous. Follow all safety procedures outlined in the GCOR. Install portable derail or flag protection IAW GCOR and ATP 4-14.

Remarks: None

Notes: None

Performance Steps

CAUTION

When switch is locked, make sure it is locked back into the position that it was found.

1. Prepare to move switch.
 - a. Visually check switch points for obstructions.
 - b. Place both feet in front of switch facing toward tracks.

DANGER

A stuck or rusty switch can cause serious back injury. Lift switch handle by using legs to lift and not your back.

WARNING

Do not lift switch handle with one hand and throw to other side. You must walk it over to avoid damage to switch and yourself.

CAUTION

Seek help with hard to move switches.

2. Release latch by pressing down on the release lever with one foot.

WARNING

While keeping back straight lift with your legs not your back with a slow even pressure.

CAUTION

During winter months, snow and ice may prevent switch points from moving. When cleaning out switch points, don't use your hands; use a stick or broom.

3. Lift up on switch and maneuver handle into position to affect a change in track routing.
 - a. Once into desired position push down on the switch arm until it stops.
 - b. Pull up on the switch arm to check if latched securely.
4. Inspect switch to see if switch points fit flush against rail without gaps and that indicator indicates correct setting.
5. Reset switch back to normal operating position once the train passes the switch point and ensure indicator shows that switch is set to main/correct line.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

Evaluation Guidance: Score the Soldier GO if all performance steps are passed (P). Score the Soldier NO-GO if any performance step is failed (F). If the Soldier fails any step, show what was done wrong and how to do it correctly.

Evaluation Preparation: Ensure that all materials required to perform the task are available. Tell the Soldier that he/she will be evaluated on operating switches.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Prepared to move switch.			
2. Released latch by pressing down on the release lever with one foot.			
3. Lifted up on switch and maneuvered handle into position to affect a change in track routing.			
4. Inspected switch to see if switch points fit flush against rail without gaps and that indicator indicated correct setting.			
5. Reset switch back to normal operating position once the train had passed the switch point and ensured indicator showed that switch was set to main/correct line.			

Supporting Reference(s):

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	BASIC TRAINING MANUAL	Basic Training Manual for Brakemen and Switchmen	Yes	Yes
	GCOR	General Code of Operating Rules (GCOR), Seventh Edition	Yes	No

TADSS : None

Equipment Items (LIN):

LIN	Name
NA1520	Case, Ear Plug
DA3045	Boots, Safety
HA4052	Safety Glasses, Revision Sawfly E
DA159T	Vest Safety RV-1
J68064	GLOVES LTHR MN WORK 1

Materiel Items (NSN) :

Step ID	NSN	LIN	Title	Qty
No materiel items specified				

Environment: Environmental protection is not just the law but the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects. Refer to the current Environmental Considerations manual and the current GTA Environmental-related Risk Assessment card. AR 200-1 delineates TRADOC responsibilities to integrate environmental requirements across DOTMLPF and ensures all training procedures, training manuals, and training doctrine includes sound environmental practices and considerations. The Army's environmental vision is to be a national leader in environmental and natural resource stewardship for present and future generations as an integral part of all Army missions. Environmental protection is never completed. Continuously be alert to ways to protect our environment and reduce waste.

Leaders must ensure that their unit has an active and strong environmental program. They must understand the laws and know what actions to take. Leaders bring focus, direction, and commitment to environmental protection. Commanding officers should ensure the following environmental programs are in place and are being maintained:

- Hazardous materials program.
- Hazardous waste program.
- Hazardous communications program.
- Pollution prevention and hazardous waste minimization recycling program.
- Spill prevention and response plan program.

Safety: In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with current Risk Management Doctrine. Leaders will complete the current Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet in accordance with the TRADOC Safety Officer during the planning and completion of each

task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW current CBRN doctrine. All operations will be performed to protect and preserve Army personnel and property against accidental loss. Procedures will provide for public safety incidental to Army operations and activities and safe and healthful workplaces, procedures, and equipment. Observe all safety and/or environment precautions regarding electricity, cable, and lines. Provide ventilation for exhaust fumes during equipment operation and use hearing protection when required IAW AR 385-10, the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the CAA amendments, and the OSHA Hazard Communication standard.

Accidents are an unacceptable impediment to Army missions, readiness, morale, and resources. Decision makers at every level will employ risk management approaches to effectively preclude unacceptable risk to the safety of personnel and property affiliated with this task.

- (a) Take personal responsibility.
- (b) Practice safe operations.
- (c) Recognize unsafe acts and conditions.
- (d) Take action to prevent accidents.
- (e) Report unsafe acts and conditions.
- (f) Work as a team.

Prerequisite Individual Tasks : None

Supporting Individual Tasks : None

Supported Individual Tasks : None

Supported Collective Tasks : None

Knowledges :

Knowledge ID	Knowledge Name
K-551-P-0009	Knowledge of switch components
K-551-U-0002	Knowledge of railcar switching
K-551-E-0074	Knowledge of railroad terminology

Skills : None

ICTL Data : None