

APPENDIX D

USAF MINIMUM SAFE DISTANCES FOR SURFACE TARGETS

This appendix provides a reference chart depicting the minimum safe distances for various US Air Force used to engage surface targets.

USAF MINIMUM SAFE DISTANCES FOR SURFACE TARGETS (COMBAT)

WEAPON	PROTECTED TROOPS (METERS) ¹	UNPROTECTED TROOPS (METERS) ²
Bomb: 1,000 pounds and larger	240	1,000
Bomb: 750 pounds low drag	195	750
Bomb: 750 pounds high drag	150	750
Bomb: 500 pounds low drag	220	500
Bomb: 500 pounds high drag	145	500
Bomb: less than 500 pounds	145	500
CBU: clamshell only	1,000	1,000
CBU: aft and downward, dispenser only	105	105
Rockets: all pods	220	220
Cannon and guns:		
20-mm, .50 caliber, 7.62-mm	25	25
30-mm	50	50
Nepalm:		
parallel to friendly forces	75	75
overhead of friendly forces	115	115
¹ Protection refers to bunkers, trenches, fighting positions, or armed vehicles. ² Entries are based on figures extracted from USAF ammunition tables and consider delivery system errors. Also they are based on USAF SOP and may be altered by the FAC concerned.		
NOTE. Consideration must be given to type ordnance used, delivery system attack procedures used, and local weather conditions. Any of these can greatly alter the MSD for a given target.		
LEGEND: CBU = cluster bomb unit FAC = forward air controller MSD = minimum safe distance		