

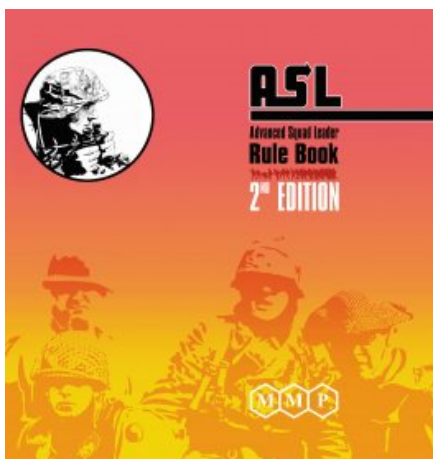
Smoke Mortars: A Constant Question

Description



Hello again. I recently attended Bitter Ender in North Carolina and faced the same question three times over the course of the event: when does the +2 DRM apply to a Smoke Mortar? In particular, does it apply if it is the first thing my vehicle does in the Movement Phase? For a rule I think is pretty clear, it sure gets asked an awful lot. Why is that? Let's look and see if we can figure it out.

Rules Dive



First, let me state this right up front. A vehicle which begins its MPh Stopped, and isn't yet a Moving Vehicular Target, does not apply a +2 DRM to its Smoke Mortar. What follows explains the rules origin and how I conclude this.

Rule D13.32 states "**A moving/Non-Stopped (C.8) AFV must add a +2 DRM to its *sM Usage DR.***" If you have read any of my previous articles on moving, moving



vehicular target, Stopped, and Non-Stopped, you can probably already see the problem. The ASL Rule book does not define “Moving”. The ASOP loosely defines “moving” as the unit currently conducting its MPh. So in a sense, you can understand where the confusion comes from: this unit is “moving” so the +2 DRM applies.

Notice the reference to C.8. That rule defines what a “moving vehicular target” is. It is the rule resolving application of a Case J To Hit DRM. It also helps to define what “Non-Stopped” is so there is still some room to doubt that “moving” is enough to apply the +2 DRM.

History Of the Rule

The original version of the rule did not include a +2 DRM. It speaks only to Case A DRM and is silent on anything relative to “moving”. The +2 DRM first appears in the ‘89 replacement pages. The language remains largely the same today. Notably, the reference to C.8 is missing. Knowing this, we can dig into Q&A from that era to see what the rationale for the rule change is.

13.32 sM: A successfully fired sM places white di one hex of the firer’s choice within the AFV’s TCA a If the CA is to be changed in order to use the sM, A CA-change To Hit DRM *does* apply to the smok but not to subsequent fire by turret-mounted weap [EXC: Those CA-change DRM would apply to su weapons in Defensive First Fire if the sM is used c MPh; however, the CA is not changed (and CA l subsequent attacks) unless the sM successfully fir

D13.31 version 1

- **13.32 sM:** A successfully fired sM places dispersion Level of any hex of the firer's choice that is at a range of 1-6 hexes from the AFV, is within its TCA and in its LOS. When the AFV uses its CA to fire its sM, the appropriate Case A TH is used for sM Usage DR. During the AFV's MPh that Case A DR applies to subsequent Bounding First Fire by CA-restricted weapons. CA (C5.13), but during the opponent's MPh it would not apply to subsequent Defensive First Fire by such weapons. When the CA actually changes (and that Case A DRM will apply to Defensive First Fire attacks) only if the sM successfully hits. A Moving AFV must add a +2 DRM to its sM Usage DR for the distance between the AFV's hex and the hex it wishes to place the sM on to that DR (including a subsequent dr for Dust if applicable).

D13.31 Version 2

Period Q&A

- **D13.32** Does the +2 DRM for firing the sM of a "moving/Motion AFV" apply to a Stopped vehicle that qualifies for being a Moving Target per C.8? To a Non-Stopped vehicle that is *not* a Moving Target?

A. Yes. No.

The ASL Annual '96, page 38 offers this Q&A:

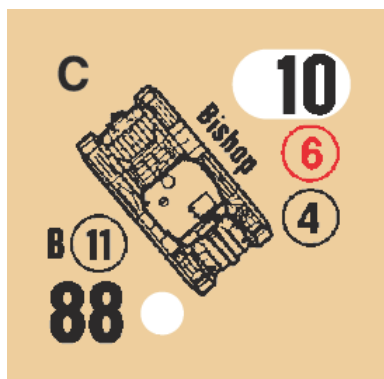
D13.32 Does the +2 DRM for firing the sM of a "moving/Motion AFV" apply to a Stopped vehicle that qualifies for being a Moving Target per C.8? To a Non-Stopped vehicle that is not a Moving Target?

A. Yes. No. [An96; Mw]

Given the timing of that Q&A and the subsequent update of the rule, it is safe to say the

update is likely a response to the Q&A. While it might take some unpacking, the Q&A is clearly saying the +2 DRM only applies to AFV which is a “Moving Vehicular Target”. Notice how the +2 applies to a Stopped AFV that Case J applies to but does not apply to a Non-Stopped vehicle that Case J does not apply to. There is also an older Q&A that spells this out¹D13.32 In line 10 does a “moving” AFV in this sentence refer to a Motion AFV? an AFV that is a moving target? or an AFV that is presently executing its MPh? A.Yes. Yes. Not necessarily. [Letter77].

Conclusion



This is a case where knowing the origins of the rule change is very helpful interpreting the rule. I don't think this necessary though because I know the original rules used “moving” in several contexts. This is all spelled out in Ole Boe's Stop and Go Traffic: Moving, Motion, and Non-Stopped Status article in the same '96 Annual. Subsequent rules changes have deprecated some of that article but I encourage you to read it if you get the chance. I summarized some of that article in [this post](#).

Colophon

I am trying a new footnote plugin for this article. It is much more cumbersome than the one I usually use but this one seems to get the footnotes into the PDF downloads. I am going to try this out for a while to see how distracting it is. From a proofreading standpoint, it is a real pain to use since footnotes are in-line and handled by a style sheet to put them at the bottom of the article. You see them at the end of the article, as you should. I see them [footnote]inserted into the middle of the sentence where it will appear and I have to overlook the footnote when proofing.[/footnote] like this. We'll see how it goes.



Have a good weekend everyone.

Footnotes:

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D13.32 In line 10 does a “moving” AFV in this sentence refer to a Motion AFV? an AFV that is a moving target? or an AFV that is presently executing its MPh? A.Yes. Yes. Not necessarily. [Letter77]