

# Basic Digital Camera Usage & Reminder

(Using Canon digital SLR as examples)

## Preparation and handling

1. A digital camera is a delicate & expensive equipment. Always have the camera strap around your neck. Have the camera strap wrap around the camera when it is not around your neck. Keep the camera away from the table edge.
2. Keep the camera away from water and heat (do not leave it in your car under the sun by itself).
3. Sign out every equipment you check out.

## Before take off for shooting

1. Check battery chamber to see if there is battery in it. Also turn on the camera to see how full the battery power is.
2. Check memory card chamber to see if you have the right size of memory card for your job.
3. Format the memory card before you leave for your assignment.
4. Turn on the camera to check if the camera is functioning and all settings are proper for your job (e.g. Exposure compensation, ISO, P,A,TV,M shooting mode, white balance, focus point ...)

## Basic setting

1. Shooting mode
  - A. P stands for Program, which automatically choose the F-stops and shutter speed for you.
  - B. TV stands for Shutter priority, you choose the desire shutter speed, the camera try to choose the F stops.
  - C. AV stands for Aperture priority, you choose the desire aperture, the camera try to choose the appropriate shutter speed.
  - D. M stands for Manual. Photographer has to manually set the shutter speed and f-stops.
2. Lens setting
  - AF means auto focusing
  - MF means manual focusing
  - Stablizer: On/Off
3. Playback (Chimping)
4. Exposure compensation setting (Av +/- & turn dial): add or cut down exposure to your photo.
5. ISO setting (bright: lower ISO, dim: high ISO)
6. Pop-up flash
7. File size setting: L (medium)
8. Single shot/Contiuous shot setting
9. Metering setting
10. White balance setting
11. Focusing point setting

## Few more things to remember:

1. Never delete any photo when you are on Ranger assignments (the trash can).
2. Do not detach the lens from the camera unless it is absolutely necessary (to avoid dust).
3. No overnight equipment checkouts unless pre-approved by Photo advisor or Photo Editor.
4. Format the card after you downloaded your photos.
5. Sign off every equipment you check out.