

Explosives Safety Bulletin

June 2008

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TURN IT IN RIGHT!



Abandoned Discarded Military Munitions

This picture is Discarded Military Munitions (DMM) that was left in a remote area at one of our major installation's training range. Someone abandoned these munitions instead of properly returning them back through the ammunition supply system. DA Pam 710-2-1, Using Unit Supply System (Manual Procedures), Chapter 11, Ammunition Management describes the documentation and the physical process to properly return ammunition and accountable residue to the issuing Ammunition Supply Point.

Accountability of ammunition serves not only to establish ownership, quantity, and quality of ammunition stocks on-hand; but also ensures that munitions are not pilfered or left lying around to pose an explosive danger. The munitions pictured were found by installation fire department personnel

who were conducting a controlled burn of the training range vegetation. They could have been found by anyone or been detonated by the fire. Munitions knowingly left anywhere to circumvent the ammunition turn-in procedures, whether it is in the woods, a body of water, or even by the side of a road, constitutes an unnecessary and preventable explosives hazard. Further, these practices will lead to AR 15-6 investigations to determine the individuals responsible for these acts. Even worse, DMM, in any condition, are "time bombs" waiting for the "wrong" circumstances to function with the potential for injury or death.

The DA Form 581 (Request for Issue and Turn-In of Ammunition) for live ammunition turn-in must contain a statement certifying that all ammunition received by a Unit was either expended or turned in. A completed DA

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5811-R (Certificate-Lost or Damaged, Class 5 Ammunition Items), signed by the first LTC in the chain of command, is required at turn-in for any residue shortages that exceed the allowable losses. Clearly this was not the case with the ammunition pictured here.

While we're on the subject of proper ammunition turn-in; don't use the Ammunition Amnesty Program to avoid the "hassle" and responsibility of properly turning-in your ammunition and residue.

There are a few things you can do to make the turn-in process easier. First (and foremost) don't

open an ammunition box if you're not going to use it. Sealed boxes are much easier to inspect than opened boxes that require 100% inspection at turn-in. If you do open it, make sure it is properly packed, so save the packaging material. Make sure the lot numbers (and/or serial numbers) on the munitions, inner packs, and outer packs match. A using Unit is required to keep explosive items and residue separate by inspecting these items before turn-in. By-all-means, if the munitions item has a safety device(s) or safety setting, as with the case of artillery fuzes, make doubly sure the safety is properly installed or set before they are repacked.

Remember, be safe, be smart, and do your part to keep others safe too. Turn-in your unused ammunition using established procedures rather than "getting rid of it". If you need help, contact your local supporting QASAS, ammunition LAR, or unit ammunition officer. Ammunition and explosives are inherently dangerous material and must be handled professionally at all times. Don't leave a hazard out there for your Army buddies!!!

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More abandoned DMM

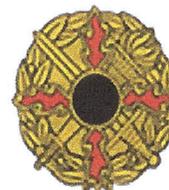


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