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# Reducing A&E Risk in the Field

*NOTE: Although there currently is no test data or regulatory policy on these field A&E risk mitigation measures, these are good measures to reduce A&E risk and will prompt improving future policy.*

You've heard it all before: you need distance between Ammunition and Explosives (A&E) storage and personnel/assets. Over in the theater, that is sometimes easier said than done, or is it? None of the instances below meet all explosives safety standards, however they represent instances where units in Afghanistan have employed mitigation measures to minimize risk of A&E to personnel/assets.

At Forward Operating Base (FOB) Dubbs, A&E storage needed some attention, so the unit moved their A&E out of their billeting and into a newly constructed Ammunition Holding Area (AHA). Does this storage meet all Explosives Safety standards? No, but it has moved A&E into a location farther away from troop billeting (approximately 300-feet), it is protected on four sides by earthen cover (reduces effects of Indirect Fire (IDF)), provides protection from the weather and provides a degree of security.



At Joint Combat Out Post (JCOP) Giro, their AHA was constructed too close to their offices, billeting and Dining Facility (DFAC). Although the site was preferable to other locations around the Helicopter Landing Zone (HLZ), the Commander wanted to further reduce effects in the event of an accidental detonation of A&E. Task Force (TF) 1-82 moved their A&E storage to a location further away from living quarters and



DFAC. They constructed earth covered storage. They separated their A&E by distances sufficient to prevent sympathetic detonation between storage locations. Do the wooden doors provide high security? No, but what it does provide is another barrier to prevent random access from unauthorized personnel in the area. You

will also note there is only Mission Essential Quantities (MEQ) of A&E at this location. This minimizes the chances of total loss of mission capability and enhances the survivability of assets in the area.

At JCOPs Khilegay and Blackhorse, the units converted MILVAN containers into Earth Covered Magazines



(ECMs). They also installed security fencing around the entrance. ECMs provide a high degree of protection from IDF, and minimize fragmentation and blast effects to the rear and sides. The fence provides a double lock access which enhances container security.

