

# SAFETY ALERT



HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES FORCES - IRAQ  
BAGHDAD, IRAQ  
APO AE 09342-1400

DEC 31 2010

USFI-DCG-O

## MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

**SUBJECT:** Handling and repacking of Illumination Star Cluster Signal in the PA142 Plastic Container

1. Ammunition and explosives are inherently dangerous and must be handled and packaged safely. One USF-I Soldier was recently injured when a signal inadvertently functioned due to improper packing of a Illumination Star Cluster Signal in the PA142 Plastic Container.
2. The PA142 container is designed for the signal to be inserted with the primer end down; however, the signal will also fit improperly with the cap end inserted first. When the signal is inserted with the cap end first, the cap will remain stuck in the bottom of the container with the firing pin exposed. If the Soldier is not alert and reinserts the signal properly with the primer end down, the primer will strike the firing pin. This could possibly cause the signal to inadvertently function. **DO NOT SHAKE THE CONTAINER WITH THE SIGNAL IN IT!**
3. With unit drawdowns / base closures and ammunition / explosives turn-ins, commanders and leaders must impress upon their Soldiers to be vigilant while repacking Illumination Star Cluster Signal into the PA142 plastic container. Personnel must look inside the container to ensure there is not a cap stuck inside prior to inserting a signal. Attention to detail when dealing with ammunition / explosives will prevent catastrophic accidents. Additional guidance can be provided by the Ammunition LARs, QASAS, and USF-I Explosives Safety personnel.



**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS**  
**POC: USF-I EXPLOSIVES SAFETY OFFICE AT 485-5333**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Cone".

**ROBERT W. CONE**  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Deputy Commanding General  
Operations

DISTRIBUTION: A

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