

Explosives Safety Bulletin

December 2008

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Unit Storage and Turn-in of Ammunition and Explosives

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Units turning in ammunition to their supporting Ammunition Storage Area (ASA) must make every effort to ensure that ammunition is transported in a safe manner and turned over to the ASA in a safe condition.

This can most easily be achieved by developing and enforcing safe handling and storage procedures at the unit level from the time of initial receipt of the ammunition until return of unused ammunition and residue to the ASA. Units should make every effort to maintain ammunition in the original container and packaging until issued to individuals.

Ammunition containers should not be opened until ready for issue and only the minimum number of containers should be opened for the amount of ammunition to be issued. After issue, the original packaging material should be retained for repacking any unused ammunition turned in at the unit level. Excess packaging material should also be retained for turn-in to the supporting ASA. Guidelines in FM 4-30.13, Ammunition Handbook: Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for Munitions Handlers (formerly FM 9-13) state in part:

3-19. For safer and easier control of the munitions turn-in process, the following guidelines must be observed:

- *Encourage units to return munitions in original packaging.*
- *Discourage units from opening more rounds and packages than they need for their operations.*
- *Inspect all turn-ins thoroughly to identify unserviceable and hazardous munitions and mixed lots.*
- *Inspect all salvage and residue items thoroughly to ensure that they do not contain any explosive or hazardous materials.*

The above points must be emphasized throughout the logistic and combat chains.

Repackaging ammunition to the original packaging configuration is critical for safe transportation of ammunition. In one instance, while loading loose ammunition, a primer was struck causing the cartridge to function. This incident resulted in a fatality.

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DA PAM 385-64, Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards requires that all outbound motor vehicle shipments of explosives be inspected using DD Form 626, Motor Vehicle Inspection. The post loading portion of this form requires that loads be properly secured to prevent movement prior to release of the vehicle for transport.

ASAs should develop external SOPs for the units they support. The SOP should provide instructions for drawing and turning in ammunition and ammunition residue with emphasis on the following points:

- Retain ammunition in the original package until time of issue
- Retain all packaging materials for reuse in packaging ammunition that may be turned in to the ASA
- Retain unused excess packing materials and turn-in to the ASA



IMPROPER UNIT STORAGE



IMPROPER UNIT TURN-IN

- Repackage all ammunition prior to transporting
- Inspect transport vehicles using DD Form 626
- Prepare appropriate paperwork for turn-in (DA Form 581, Request for Issue and Turn-In of Ammunition)
- Certification statement is required on DA Form 581 for residue turn-in
- Advisory message that unit turn-in personnel may be required to assist with segregation and repackaging of ammunition and inspection of residue when these tasks are not accomplished by the unit prior to turn-in

Ammunition managers at all levels; unit, brigade, division and corps should emphasize proper control of the ammunition issue, storage and turn-in process by using units to promote the safety of their personnel. Such emphasis will also serve to ensure a smooth, orderly and more timely retrograde or redeployment process.



IMPROPER UNIT STORAGE



IMPROPER UNIT TURN-IN