

## **Chapter 17**

### **Ammunition and Explosives Safety**

#### **17-1. General**

Safety as it relates to explosives is an important aspect of an Army mission. Maintaining the proper balance between absolute safety in an inherently hazardous mission and total disregard for risk to life and property is what our explosives programs must strive to achieve. The catastrophic potential for accidents during handling, storage, and use of ammunition/explosives (AE) must be guarded against by implementation of safety principles.

#### **17-2. Responsibilities**

a. Commanders at all levels are responsible for the protection of personnel and equipment under their command and for the effective implementation of ammunition and explosives safety standards, IAW references below.

b. Installation Safety Office will:

- (1) Inspect Ammunition Supply Points (ASP) at least semi-annually.
- (2) Inspect all arms rooms twice annually using the Fort Lee Form 385-4, Arms Room Checklist, at the end of this regulation.
- (3) Furnish local ammunition license for ASP storage. Coordinate with the Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Surveillance (QASAS) for assistance.
- (4) Investigate ammunition and explosives accidents IAW AR 385-10, chapter 3.
- (5) Assist units with determining quantity distance (QD) requirements.
- (6) Convene/chair the Installation Ammunition Certification Board quarterly.
- (7) Provide the local Armorer and Ammo Handlers safety awareness training quarterly.
- (8) Issue arms room licenses with the QASAS assistance.

c. DOL Ammunition Officer will:

- (1) Ensure magazines comply with license for amount of explosives and compatibility.
- (2) Ensure units return amount of brass and unfired ammunition equal to amount initially drawn from ASP.
- (3) Notify the Installation Safety Office of QASAS inspections and furnish the Installation Safety Office with a copy of the report.

(4) Ensure the lightning protection system is mechanically checked every 24 months and visually checked every 6 months. Furnish the Installation Safety Office a copy of the lightning protection system survey report.

(5) Furnish Fire and Emergency Services an inventory of ammunition in each magazine annually or when significant changes occur.

d. Supervisors and operating personnel will:

(1) Be responsible for accident prevention to the same extent that they are responsible for production or other services.

(2) Maintain a safe and healthful workplace.

(3) Assure personnel under their supervision observe all appropriate ammunition and explosives safety standards, to include the use of personal protective equipment when handling chemical ammunition.

(4) Promptly evaluate and take appropriate action as required to correct hazards reported by personnel or identified through accident investigations.

(5) Require subordinate supervisors to assist in explosive safety awareness.

(6) Supplement HQDA safety directives with more detailed and specific instructions to support missions and environments.

(7) Identify in writing personnel immediately responsible for supervising each explosives operation and for ensuring the use of safe practices.

(8) Ensure that necessary technical manuals and SOPs are available for each explosives operation.

### **17-3. Accident reporting, investigation, and analysis**

a. Unit commanders will:

(1) Immediately cease fire.

(2) Contact Ammunition Officer.

(3) Contact the Installation Safety Office.

(4) Relate available information pertaining to accident.

(5) Secure malfunction site.

(6) Contact Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) office.

(7) Send preliminary report IAW AR 75-1.

b. Ammunition Officer or QASAS will:

(1) Instruct unit to retain residue.

(2) Assign malfunction number.

(3) Gather malfunction data.

(4) Locally suspend affected ammunition.

(5) Ensure prompt and complete report is submitted to Joint Munitions Command (JMC) for dud and misfire reporting rates and copy furnished to the Installation Safety Office.

(6) Coordinate JMC on-site investigation if required.

(7) Interview witnesses.

(8) Inspect site.

(9) Inspect weapon.

(10) Inspect impacted unpacked ammo/residue.

(11) Submit detailed report to CDR, Joint Munitions Command (JMC) Surveillance Office, Rock Island, IL, within 10 calendar days.

(a) Include photos.

(b) Include all data required by DA Form 4379 and AR 75-1.

(c) Furnish information copy to Installation Safety Office.

c. EOD will assess safety of ammunition/residue and take action required by AR 75-15.

#### **17-4. Unit arms room**

a. Temporary ammunition storage/holding in unit arms room requires an approved explosive storage license issued by the Installation Safety Office.

b. Prior to a unit storing/holding any AE in an arms room, the unit commander will approve the CRM worksheet. The CRM worksheet must be coordinated with the Installation

Safety Office prior to issuing the AE storage license. The approved CRM-worksheet must be posted in the arms room.

c. Commanders shall initiate an authorization memo stating the quantity of ammunition required for a specific operational necessity or immediate training operations. The authorization memo must be posted in the arms room.

d. Appointed Armorer, or personnel handling ammunition, must complete the Installation Armorer and Ammo Handlers Safety Awareness training.

e. The approved CRM worksheet will be briefed to arms room personnel annually.

f. An arms room SOP with safety procedures and awareness must be posted inside the arms room.

g. The appropriate fire explosive symbol will be posted on all arms room doors and/or outside the building when storing ammo/explosives.

h. All double stacked weapon racks will be properly secured/anchored for personnel safety.

i. Inform the Installation Safety Office and Fire and Emergency Services when holding ammo/explosives.

j. Request temporary authorization when licensed quantity limits may be exceeded for training or operational events.

#### **17-5. Transporting**

a. Units will:

(1) Ensure all packages/boxes are marked "THIS END UP" and stacked properly on pallets.

(2) Check load for correct compatibility and class of ammunition.

(3) Ensure no smoking within 50 feet or no open flames within 100 feet during loading or unloading.

(4) Allow no smoking during transport.

(5) Turn engine off during loading and unloading.

(6) Handle explosives with care and never overload the vehicle.

(7) Carry two fire extinguishers and know how to use them.

- (8) Ensure that no loading is done near the vehicle exhaust.
- (9) Close and secure the tailboard or tailgate; no loading on the tailgate.
- (10) Do not drive past a fire on the highway without first making sure it is safe to do so.
- (11) Never push or tow a truck carrying explosives except to move it off the road.
- (12) Do not transport detonating caps with other explosives.
- (13) Avoid congested areas and heavy traffic.
- (14) Drive a safe distance away from other traffic and avoid sudden stops.

b. Any class A or class B ammunition and explosives transported over public highways require state permit and vehicle markings with the appropriate DOT hazardous material placards posted at the front, rear, and both sides of the vehicle..

c. Personnel must complete a Hazardous Transportation Course (AMMO 62), IAW 49 CFR 172.700 -704 for cargo certifying shipments of hazardous materials for transporting Class A or Class B ammunition and explosives on U.S. government highways.