



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY DEFENSE AMMUNITION CENTER  
1 C TREE ROAD  
MCALESTER OK 74501-9053

ATCL-AC

11 July 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Use of Improvised Shade Cover for Ammunition and Explosives Operations

1. References:

- a. Ammunition Information Notice (AIN) 87-06, Use of Solar Shades in Ammunition/Explosives Operations or Environments, August 2006.
- b. DA Pam 385-30, Risk Management, 2 December 2014.
- c. DA Pam 385-64, Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards, Rapid Action Revision 10 October 2013.

2. Purpose. In light of recent heat related damage to munitions in the CJTF/CJFLCC CJOA, this memorandum provides guidance for the use of improvised shade cover in support of ammunition/explosives operations.
3. The use of improvised cover (such as camouflage netting, vehicle tarps, etc.) in connection with ammunition in standard packaging will reduce temperature extremes and associated potential damage and has a negligible increase in risk due to static electricity generation. Do not place shade covers directly on the ammunition or explosives rather leave space to allow for air circulation around the boxes/pallets.
4. The current operational environment in Iraq is conducive to the generation of static electricity under certain conditions. Ammunition handling, minor maintenance, unpackaging/repackaging, inspection and demilitarization should incorporate appropriate precautions where a possible hazard from static discharge exists. It is impractical to employ depot/ammunition plant anti-static practices (conductive floors, conductive shoes, extensive anti-static bonding) in tactical situations. The enclosure provides recommended practices to reduce the risk from static electricity in a field environment.
5. In any operation involving ammunition and explosives (AE) risks must be assessed and mitigated (including those associated with the use of improvised cover) through development of a hazard analysis, as outlined in DA Pam 385-30, Risk Management. The safe use of improvised cover for munitions in an operational environment requires continual vigilance to prevent unsafe practices and conditions.

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6. The point of contact for this memorandum is Mr. Greg Heles, Commercial (918) 420-8877 (DSN 956), [gregory.s.heles.civ@mail.mil](mailto:gregory.s.heles.civ@mail.mil) or the undersigned, DSN 956-8901, [upton.r.shimp.civ@mail.mil](mailto:upton.r.shimp.civ@mail.mil)

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as

UPTON R. SHIMP  
Executive Director  
Defense Ammunition Center/US Army  
Technical Center for Explosives Safety

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### Static Electricity Recommendations in a Tactical Environment

Ammunition in production outer-pack is well protected from static electricity and the risk associated with storage in outer-pack from static discharge is negligible. As such, munitions should remain in production/depot packaging and configuration until use. Do not put tarps/cover directly on the ammunition boxes, leave a space to allow for air circulation. The following applies to unpackaged ammunition.

#### **Recommended:**

- When working with unpackaged munitions seek the support of your local QASAS or trained ammunition Servicemembers.
- Wear cotton outer garments
- Where possible, raise humidity level, i.e., fan driven "mist devices"
- Drive a metal stake (razor wire picket would work) as far as possible into the soil/sand. Have operators frequently grasp the stake/metal object to drain or at least equalize the static charge on the operator.
- Be aware of ammunition items that are sensitive to static spark including 20mm, 30mm, 120mm tank, 2.75" rocket, electric detonators or damaged munitions.
- Control the use of fuels/solvents that could create an ignitable vapor
- Use of grounded standard issue camouflage netting such as NSN 1080-01-475-0696

#### **Things to Avoid:**

- Handling electrically initiated munitions on dry windy days
- Wearing nylon and/or polyester fabric (silk and wool should be avoided to a lesser degree)
- Use of conductive material for sunshades such as nylon/polyester blankets or nylon/polyester based parachutes materiel.