

A P P E N D I X C

A M M U N I T I O N S U P P O R T
I N A N N B C
E N V I R O N M E N T

This appendix describes ammunition support in a theater of operations where combatants have used, or are able to use, NBC weapons. This appendix supports AirLand Battle doctrine and should be used with emerging NBC defense doctrine and with TRADOC Pamphlet 525-20 and TRADOC Pamphlet 525-49.

NBC PROTECTION

Since the enemy will be capable of using NBC weapons on future battlefields, ammunition supply facilities and activities will become prime targets. Therefore, ammunition support systems must be structured with the capability and flexibility to continue operations in an NBC environment. Protective measures and procedures to offset the effects of NBC weapons should be integrated into daily operations. In an NBC environment, frequent testing for contamination of supplies and operational assets is required. Continuous monitoring is desirable.

CONTAMINATION AVOIDANCE

Contamination avoidance is one of the major problems to be faced in providing ammunition support in an NBC environment. It is also the key to survivability. Contamination avoidance is individual or unit measures taken to avoid or minimize NBC attacks and to reduce passive and active contamination avoidance measures.

Passive contamination avoidance measures are concealment, dispersion, deception, and the use of cover to reduce the probability of the enemy's using NBC weapons on US units and to minimize damage

caused by NBC weapons if they are used. Active contamination avoidance measures are contamination control; detection, identification, and marking of contaminated areas; issuance of contamination warnings; and relocation or rerouting to an uncontaminated area.

To increase survivability and supportability, units should take necessary actions to avoid contamination, increase mobility, and lessen the initial and residual effects of nuclear weapons. For example, using smoke to cover operations and installations significantly lessens the light and thermal effects of a nuclear detonation. The following should be used as much as possible:

- Alarm and detection equipment.
- Unit dispersion (consistent with operational requirements).
- Overhead shelters.
- Shielding materials.
- NBC-hardened materials.
- Protective covers.
- Chemical-agent-resistant coating (CARC) paint.
- NBC reconnaissance assets.
- Technical tactical intelligence assets.
- NBC-hardened shelters and tents.

Ammunition stocks are stored in dispersed sites to minimize the effects of nuclear and chemical weapons and to complicate the enemy's target acquisition efforts. Class V materiel is separated from other commodities and kept as mobile as circumstances permit. Resupply is accomplished at night as often as possible.

AMMUNITION RESUPPLY

Conventional ammunition support units must try to provide uncontaminated ammunition to combat units. Primary emphasis should be placed on contamination avoidance measures. If uncontaminated ammunition is not available for issue, those items that will be introduced into a clean environment should be decontaminated first. Since ammunition support units lack decontamination capabilities, decontamination roles and procedures must be clearly understood. This way, the unit's assets are used most effectively. Refer to FM 3-5 and FM 3-100. Where possible, simple weathering should be allowed to reduce contamination to acceptable levels.

Protective overwraps on containers reduce the effects of chemical agents and make decontamination easier. This outer packaging protects the individual round from becoming contaminated while in storage or during the unpacking process. If ammunition is not packaged with protective overwrap, makeshift coverings (such as tarpaulins, plastic sheets, and so on) provide some degree of protection from contamination and can speed up decontamination. Any protected ammunition must be stored on a decontaminatable pallet.

Contaminated stocks are normally not issued; they are kept segregated from clean stocks until they are fully decontaminated. In emergency situations when there are not enough uncontaminated items available, certain contaminated items may be issued. Contaminated items are issued only if they will provide a decisive tactical advantage to the receiving unit. They will be issued first to units that are similarly contaminated. Only under the most extreme conditions will contaminated stocks be issued to an uncontaminated unit. The decision to issue contaminated items is made jointly by the issuing and the receiving commanders. The decision is based on the tactical situation, the criticality of the items, the type and extent of contamination, and resources available for decontamination. Every attempt must be made to avoid spreading contamination. Contaminated stocks must be clearly marked using standard North Atlantic

Treaty Organization NBC markers. After issue, the user decontaminates, if necessary.

Dealing with contamination means that leaders at all levels must be more innovative and take more initiative than ever before. Paramount to success is the leader's ability to "read the threat" and respond accordingly. This means leaders must do the following

- Identify threat locations on the battlefield.
- Identify threat weapons (and associated agent loads) that can reach their locations.
- Disperse and cover exposed stocks to minimize vulnerability.
- Continually use intelligence assets to update the threat.

The transportation of contaminated ammunition must be carefully coordinated and conducted. It requires greater flexibility in routing, marshaling, serializing, and communicating. Because of the vapor clouds produced from vehicles carrying contaminated stocks, the hazard to terrain, the local population, and follow-on vehicles must be considered. The following measures can minimize the hazard of contaminated ammunition transport:

- Attempt to reduce decontamination as much as possible.
- Cover all loads with NBC-protective covers.
- Coordinate the movement of contaminated stock with the responsible movement control office.
- Designate specific routes as MSRs for contaminated supplies.
- Until all transportation vehicles have been equipped with collective protection, designate units with collective protection vehicles as contaminated ammunition handlers.

UNIT STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES

Unit SOPs should be written according to the guidance in this appendix and the AR 385 series regulations (safety), the AR 380 series regulations (security), and the AR 190 series regulations (military police). Command SOPs may be used for format and organization guidelines. As a minimum, and in keeping with the mission of the supply system, SOPs should address the following areas:

- Dispersal of stocks within the storage area to prevent all of one type of ammunition from becoming contaminated.

- Weathering of contaminated stocks, if feasible.
- Decontamination of personnel, MHE, facilities, and stocks.
- Issuing contaminated stocks only as a last resort.
- Contamination avoidance by using International Standards Organization (ISO) containers, military-owned remountable containers, shrink wrap, CARC paint, NBC-protective covers, pallets, and agent-resistant packaging materials.
- Collective protection for rest and relief and C² facilities.
- Procedures to identify and mark contaminated stocks so there will not be accidental exposure to chemical agents.
- Transporting contaminated stocks using collective protection vehicles and NBC-protective covers.
- Establish priorities for issuing of stocks to using units, including contaminated ammunition.