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MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND • PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION

# AMMUNITION

## QUARTERLY

# A MARINE HONORS A MARINE

MARINE AND MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT, SGT DAKOTA L. MEYER, SHARES INSPIRING STORIES OF ONE OF HIS MENTORS DURING THE 2014 AMMO TECH AWARDS RECEPTION.

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Supporting The Warfighter ☆ A Marine Corps Tradition

[https://mcscviper.usmc.mil/sites/pmammo/Pages/Program-Manager-Ammunition-\(PMM116\).aspx](https://mcscviper.usmc.mil/sites/pmammo/Pages/Program-Manager-Ammunition-(PMM116).aspx)

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**AMMUNITION QUARTERLY**

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**ON THE COVER:**  
Marine and Medal of Honor Recipient, Sgt Dakota L. Meyer shares inspiring stories of one of his mentors during the 2014 Ammo Tech Awards Reception.

Photo by  
Craig Thoburn

Photo source by Monique Randolph

MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND • PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION

# AMMUNITION QUARTERLY



VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 4 • SPRING 2014

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**MARINE CORPS  
PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION**

**A Note From the PM**

*By Steve Costa,  
Program Manager for Ammunition,  
Marine Corps Systems Command*

Welcome to the Spring 2014 edition of Ammunition Quarterly. In the last issue, I had the opportunity to introduce myself as the Program Manager for Ammunition (PM Ammo) to the Ammunition Community. Recently, I made the hard decision to retire from federal government service. My last day of government service was May 3, 2014. For most of my 26+ years, I made career choices that took me away from my family—this will bring me back home. I will be moving to God’s country (Massachusetts) and starting my new adventure. Please know that while short lived, it has been an honor and my distinct pleasure serving with you. For your situational awareness, Lt-Col Robert Emminger (Deputy PM Ammo) will fill the PM Ammo role for a short gap until the new PM Ammo is selected. It is my expectation that this billet will be filled by late August/September.

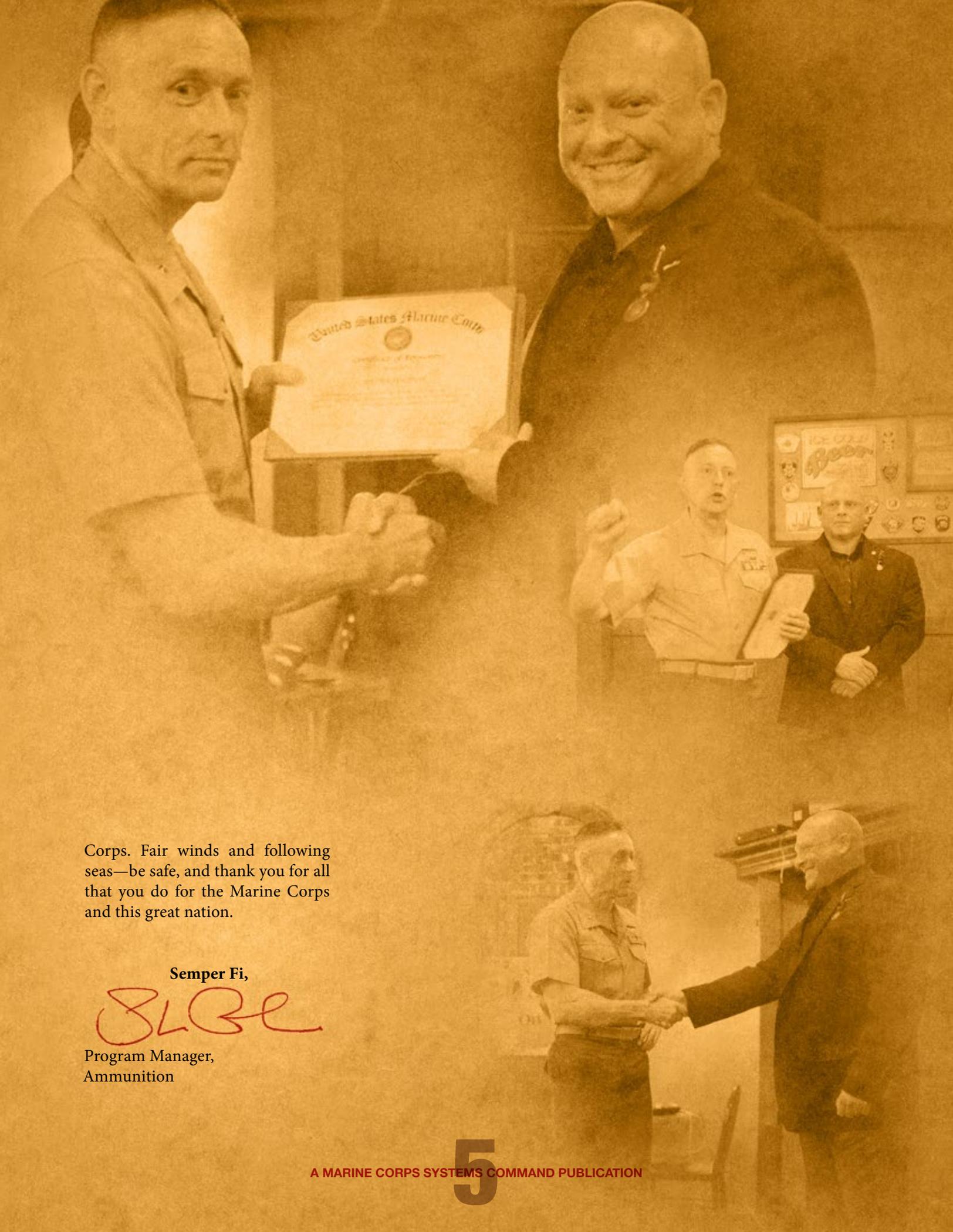
My 6 months as PM Ammo only confirmed what I already knew about the ammunition team—true professionalism and dedication to our Marine Corps mission. My focus for this organization remains unchanged and will be my pass-down to my relief—to provide the same continued excellence in support that my predecessors and current teammates are providing to the Marine Corps.

As the Marine Corps faces the challenges of reducing our total force structure, so will Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM) and PM Ammo. We will strive to continue to look at opportunities to streamline processes and do more with less. I am highly confident that the Ammunition Community will step up to these challenges, as we always have, to support the Marine Corps.

A new initiative will be kicked off within the next year. MARCORSY-

SCOM will assume full management responsibilities for explosives safety inspections (ESIs) at all Marine Corps installations beginning in FY15. Notification within the Marine Corps for this transition was disseminated to the respective Deputy Commandant offices and the Director, Marine Corps Staff. The assumption of ESI responsibilities will allow the Marine Corps to realize potential efficiencies in the overall enhancement of its Explosive Safety Management Program (ESMP)—for example, consolidating ESIs into regional evaluations and incorporating other evaluations, such as the munitions portion of environmental compliance evaluations, munitions response audits and physical inventory control program workshops into the new ESI program. These changes will enhance an already effective ESMP with the added benefit of being less intrusive to our installations.

As I stated earlier, it has been an honor serving you and the Marine



Corps. Fair winds and following seas—be safe, and thank you for all that you do for the Marine Corps and this great nation.

**Semper Fi,**

Program Manager,  
Ammunition

# SUSTAINING



**WELCOME TO HAF  
IWAKUNI**



The U.S. Pacific Command's (PACOM's) Area of Responsibility (AOR) encompasses about half of the earth's surface, stretching off the West Coast of the U.S. to the western border of India, and from Antarctica to the North Pole. In January, Marines from Ammunition Company, 3d Supply Battalion attended the first United States Forces Japan (USFJ) Mainland Professional Military Education (PME) tour. The goal of the trip was to assess the capabilities of storage areas, demilitarization and renovation facilities within USFJ that support the Marine Forces Pacific region. Specific sites visited were Naval Munitions Command (NMC), Sasebo, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Iwakuni and

the 10th Regional Support Group (RSG) Ammunition Depot, Kure. Specific points of interest were familiarization of storage capabilities, inbound/outbound shipment procedures, personnel and staffing, as well as special capabilities and facility limitations.

### **Naval Ordnance Facility, Sasebo**

In September 1945, the U.S. Marine Corps' 5th Division landed at Sasebo, and in June 1946, U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo was established. In the mid 1970s, the U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo became the Naval Ordnance Facility Sasebo. Today, Sasebo sustains capabilities to support 33 percent of all Navy and Marine Corps munitions requirements in the region. It provides quality am-

munition and ordnance management to the warfighter. Sasebo functions as an ordnance-loading and



*The interior of an AGM in Sasebo. These magazines, referred to as "pagodas," are over 100 years old. The hatches above the stacks of ammunition were once used to house the ordnance workers and their families.*

trans-shipment facility and coordinates resource requirements in support of fleet units and/or operational forces in the Pacific Fleet AOR.



# THE PACIFIC

By CWO2 Alejandro Pulido and WO Mike Reynolds  
Photos by WO Mike Reynolds

## PORT OPERATIONS JAPAN



*Iwakuni Seawall: The Marines of Ammunition Company, 3d Supply Bn and the OIC for Station Ordnance on the Iwakuni Pier. From left to right; CWO3 Flick, MSgt Stravers, MGySgt Bomberly, CWO2 Pulli, WO Raines, Capt Smith, CWO2 Pulido and WO Reynolds.*

The facility consists of seven Above-Ground Magazines (AGMs) (known as “pagodas”) and 12 climate-controlled tunnel magazines. Sasebo is split between two smaller sub facilities: Hario-shima and Maebata. Approximately 7 miles separate the two locations. These facilities belong to NMC East Asia Division. Sasebo has a large storage capacity and has dedicated space for the Marine Corps. Sasebo is tucked into a bay and protected from the swells of the sea. Due to the encroachment issues and draft limitations, ships must be loaded at two anchorage points in the middle of the bay.

Sasebo hosts an ammunition renovation site. When visited, the facility was conducting renovation opera-

tions for approximately 1,200 155 mm artillery rounds (D529). The rounds were damaged in a flood while stored aboard ship. The ship’s fire-suppression system failed and saturated the rounds with water, sub-



*Sasebo maintains the capability to conduct limited renovations. During the visit, MLCs were refurbishing D529s.*

sequently causing the rounds to prematurely rust and become unserviceable. The rounds were transported

to Sasebo and reconditioned at near depot-level maintenance for a cost of \$7,000—compared to shipping to the states, where transportation costs alone would be at tens of thousands of dollars. Aside from cost savings, utilizing Sasebo maintains theater stockage objectives.

The majority of the work is performed by Master Labor Contractors (MLCs). Most MLCs have long familial ties with the facilities, and many Japanese employees have been working for NMC for over 20 years. There is a small military presence at Sasebo. Part of the military contingent is a Marine Corps Systems Command Ammunition Liaison Officer (LNO). The LNO serves as a direct link to the supported distri-

tribution points throughout the PACOM AOR for the Marine Corps. The LNO's mission is to provide lead distribution for the ammunition facilities located at Yokosuka, Okinawa's Henoko Ammunition Supply Point (ASP), Korea, Camp Fuji ASP and Guam. The LNO supports the Landing Force Operational Reserve Materiel, Marine Training Ammunition for the Marine Expeditionary Unit and manages the Marine Corps Class V(W) war reserve stocks. Essentially, no Marine Corps Ammunition moves in the PACOM AOR without his knowledge.

**MCAS Iwakuni**

Originally designed as an Imperial Naval Air Station in 1940, Iwakuni housed over 150 Zero fighter planes and thousands of naval cadets. Iwakuni was heavily targeted during World War II and, upon conclusion of the war, was used by the Allied forces until designated as a U.S. military base in 1950. In the early 1950s, Iwakuni facilitated operations during the Korean War.

The Station Ordnance was recently rebuilt on reclaimed land, with completion achieved in 2009. Station Ordnance Iwakuni possesses 28 facilities including 25 Earth-Covered Magazines (ECMs); a receipt, segregation, storage and inspection area; a weapons assembly area and the packaging and operating area. All ECMs are newly constructed, high-performance magazines equipped with internal lights, electronically controlled doors and internal grounding points. Of the 25 ECMs, two are designated primarily for Class V(W) storage to support organic ground units attached to MCAS, such as Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Provost Marshal's Office. Fewer than 30

Marines operate the Ordnance Station at MCAS Iwakuni.

The main purpose of the ordnance station is to manage the Class V(A) assets for the support of Marine Air Group-12 (MAG-12) squadrons, tenant units, and any other visiting units operating in vicinity of MCAS Iwakuni. The majority of the muni-



*The weapons assembly area at Station Ordnance Iwakuni—a fully customizable area that allows Ordnance Techs the ability to assemble missiles and bombs.*

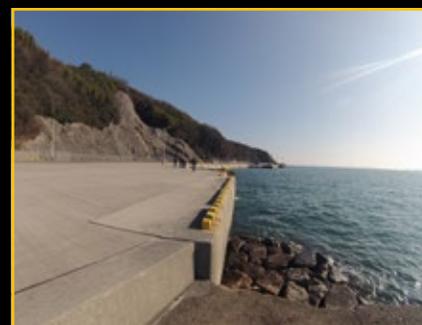
tions stored within the 25 ECMs are designated for contingency operations, which includes Alert Contingency MAG Task Force requirements. However, because only a small portion of the stored munitions is allocated for training, the operational tempo is not very demanding on a day-to-day basis.

Station Ordnance Iwakuni is able to conduct port operations via an anchorage point; however, the Marines have not required such operations. A nearby pier can be used for barging operations and is available if such a requirement arises. Barge operations require contracted support, as there is no organic support equipment for said operations. Iwakuni does not typically conduct containerization operations, but in the event the requirement arises, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36 on Okinawa, Japan would

be contacted for coordination and execution.

While conducting the PME, differences between ground- and air-side procedures were identified and brought to light for discussion. Unlike the ground-side, air-side ammunition requests are submitted via three different means: Ground units submit ammunition requests via Total Ammunition Management Information System, tenant aviation units submit ordnance requests using the Standard Form 344, and external aviation units submit ordnance requests through a naval message preposition request.

Once an ammunition or ordnance request is accepted by the Ammunition Stocks Reporting (ASR) Section, they print an Ordnance Information System (OIS)-generated Shipment Preparation Worksheet (SPW) that



*A view of one of the two shipping and receiving piers at Hiro Port, where barges can transport ammunition from ships at anchorage points.*

provides the Storage Section Marines with the location and all other details of the request. Once the request is pulled, the SPW is filled out and returned to the ASR Section. The ASR Section then accepts and processes the SPW into OIS and either prints out the 1348 documentation for the ammunition shipment or returns it to the Storage Section for any corrections or changes that need to be

made. In summary, the aviation side receives ammunition requests by three different means and they have an additional step in their documentation process that the ground-side ammunition community does not.

### **10th RSG Ammo Depot Kure**

The headquarters (HQ) of the 10th RSG is situated in the port city of Kure, 20 kilometers from Hiroshima. The 10th RSG is responsible for storing Army ammunition prepositioned stocks, ammunition basic load, training ammunition and operational stocks. The 10th RSG operates three storage locations across mainland Japan: the Akizuki, Hiro and Kawakami depots (known collectively as the Kure Ammunition Depot Complex). The 10th RSG as a whole is operated by minimal U.S. military presence and over 400 MLCs.

Kure Ammunition Depot's mission is to operate the strategic prepositioned ammunition supply activities in support of PACOM full spectrum operations and the Joint Munition Command maintenance and demilitarization programs. The Depot is also responsible to inspect, demilitarize, store and ship munitions. It has the capability to support all branches of the U.S. military.

### **Kawakami**

Kawakami Ammunition Depot is the largest of Kure's facilities and is located approximately 42 km from the HQ at Kure. Kawakami comprises 69 structures within 643 acres of land. This is the main storage facility for Kure and the only facility in 10th RSG able to store large quantities of 1.1 munitions. Munitions are stored in 21 AGMs, 47 ECMs, and one tunnel magazine. What makes Kawakami unique are some of the

many other facilities it has, such as the deactivation furnace, the burning pad and the disassembly area. Other facilities include the maintenance shop, container stock yard, surveillance workshop, equipment workshop, facilities engineer workshop, fire station, security guard station and a helipad.

The demilitarization capabilities of Kawakami far exceed the abilities of local EOD teams because EOD is limited to training and emergency disposal operations. Kawakami's demilitarization operations are possible with the use of the open burn pit and Ammunition Peculiar Equipment (APE) 1236 furnace, as well as a disassembly and renovation area. During the tour, burn capabilities were demonstrated as the facility destroyed D532 Red Bag propellant charges. The burn pit can conduct four to five burns per day, and each burn is limited to a maximum of 4,200 lbs. NEW of propellant. The furnace has the capability for thermal destruction of explosives contained in small arms ammunition, primers,



*Mr. Lemaster explains the process of the renovation line in Kawakami. During the site visit, the national employees removed the primers and propellants from 155 mm projectiles. The propellants were burned in the burning grounds, and the primers were disposed of in the APE 1236 furnace. The operation prepared the rounds for future maintenance in CONUS, reduced the weight of the ammunition prior to shipment and saved the demilitarization costs in CONUS prior to final maintenance.*

boosters and fuzes. Ammunition is fed via a steel conveyor belt, which carries it high above the mouth of the furnace and drops into the furnace. After the ammunition has been destroyed, the inert metal is carried into another conveyor and dropped into bins for disposition.



*Mr. Lemaster (Chief Renovation and Demilitarization Branch Manager) and Mr. Fortner (Pacific Theater Demilitarization Manager) brief the Marines on the set-up and capabilities of each propellant burn in the open burn pit.*



*The Marines of Ammunition Company, 3d Supply Bn were able to witness the burn pad in operation. Kawakami can burn propellants in 4 to 5 burns per day. From left to right: Capt Smith, CWO2 Pulido, WO Reynolds, MSgt Stravers, CWO2 Rulli, MGySgt Bomberry and WO Raines.*

Kawakami also can restore ammunition to serviceable conditions by removing critical defects and/or assisting in the renovation process. In the course of the tour, the MLCs that work at the disassembly and renovation area were busy conducting a partial disassembly and demilitarization of multiple 105 mm artillery projectiles. The projectiles were deemed unserviceable because the

propellant had reached serviceability limits and the primer protruded out of specification. The MLCs removed and replaced the propellant and primer for each round, and then rela-



An ammunition incinerator known as an APE-1236 at Kawakami. (For more detail on how this and similar systems work, see CWO2 Roy's article in *Ammunition Quarterly* Vol. 17, No. 1.)

beled and repackaged them back into their original crates. Their goal was to renovate approximately 16,000 rounds before sending them back to CONUS for the final renovation process. This project was scheduled to take 4 months' time from start to finish. Conducting the partial disassembly and demilitarization of the rounds at the Kawakami facility is economically smart because each round then weighs much less. When shipping munitions to CONUS, the cost for storage is \$42/short ton per day, and the transportation cost is \$2,000/short ton per day.

### Hiro

The Hiro Ammunition Depot is the smallest of the three Army ammunition depots and is located approximately 13 km from HQ at Kure. The Hiro Ammunition Depot serves mostly as a port facility and primarily conducts port and barge operations. It is composed of three structures—one AGM and two tunnel magazines—within 88.4 acres of land. It also has two ammo loading piers, a container repair facility, two container stock yards, an equipment mainte-

nance workshop, a facilities engineer workshop, a fire station, a security guard station and a helipad. Due to Hiro's size, the storage capacity is limited and temporary. The MLCs coordinate incoming shipments by offloading, staging and conducting final destination transportation to Kawakami Ammunition Depot as soon as possible. Typically, shipments are in and out of Hiro in less than 30 days. All required equipment and gear for offload and transport is contracted to host nation support groups. Lastly, it is important to note that the Hiro facility is not sited to handle explosives. Hiro operates under a temporary Certificate of Risk Acceptance that must be reviewed and renewed every 5 years by the United States Army Pacific.

### Akizuki

The Akizuki Ammunition Depot was the last facility visited. It is located approximately 30 km from the HQ at Kure and comprises 19 structures—13 cave magazines and 6 AGMs—within 138.2 acres of land. Akizuki also contains ammunition loading piers, a container stock yard, an equipment maintenance workshop, a surveillance workshop, a facilities engineer workshop, a fire station, a security guard station and a helipad. Unlike the Kawakami Ammunition Depot, it does not have the capabilities to conduct demilitarization or maintenance operations.

The Akizuki magazines were constructed in the early 1900s by Chinese and Korean forced labor. Nearly 50 percent of the magazines have the inside bulkheads lined with cedar for humidity control. Approximately 80 percent of the stored munitions are U.S. Army prepositioned stocks. However, the remaining stocks are

designated for training purposes and are slowly being shipped to the Kawakami Ammunition Depot for long-term storage and consumption.

Akizuki does not have appropriate funds required to conduct routine magazine re-warehousing operations. When incoming shipments are identified, Akizuki personnel must determine the long-term storage location because once the ammunition is stored, it will likely never move again until required. Funding is not available for re-warehousing unless a magazine undergoes scheduled maintenance or renovation operations. Akizuki is also limited in storage capacity due to local population encroachment.

### Conclusion

In summary, the visits conducted at these Navy, Marine Corps, and Army ammunition depots is important because they allow the ammunition community to become familiar with the basic characteristics, capabilities and limitations of each facility. It also provides a better understanding of how these facilities operate and what they can offer the community. With



An ECM in Akizuki constructed in the early 1900s by forced labor. The ceiling and most of the walls are lined with cedar for humidity control.

continued operations in the Pacific Region, through increased exercises and the ever-present alert contingency, Sasebo, Iwakuni and Kure will continue to bring very specific

capabilities to the fight. Regardless of branch of service, all locations visited support the PACOM region and are able to assist each other in the conduct of one another's missions. Each unique area has the ability to sustain the Pacific through resupply, disposition and/or any myriad of ca-



*One of six AGMs in Akizuki. This specific AGM is currently storing white phosphorus.*

pabilities in between. With these very important and strategically located facilities, the ammunition community within the PACOM AOR is ready to fight tonight and win.



Illustration by Craig Thoburn

# Four Receive Honors at 2014 Ammo Tech Awards Reception

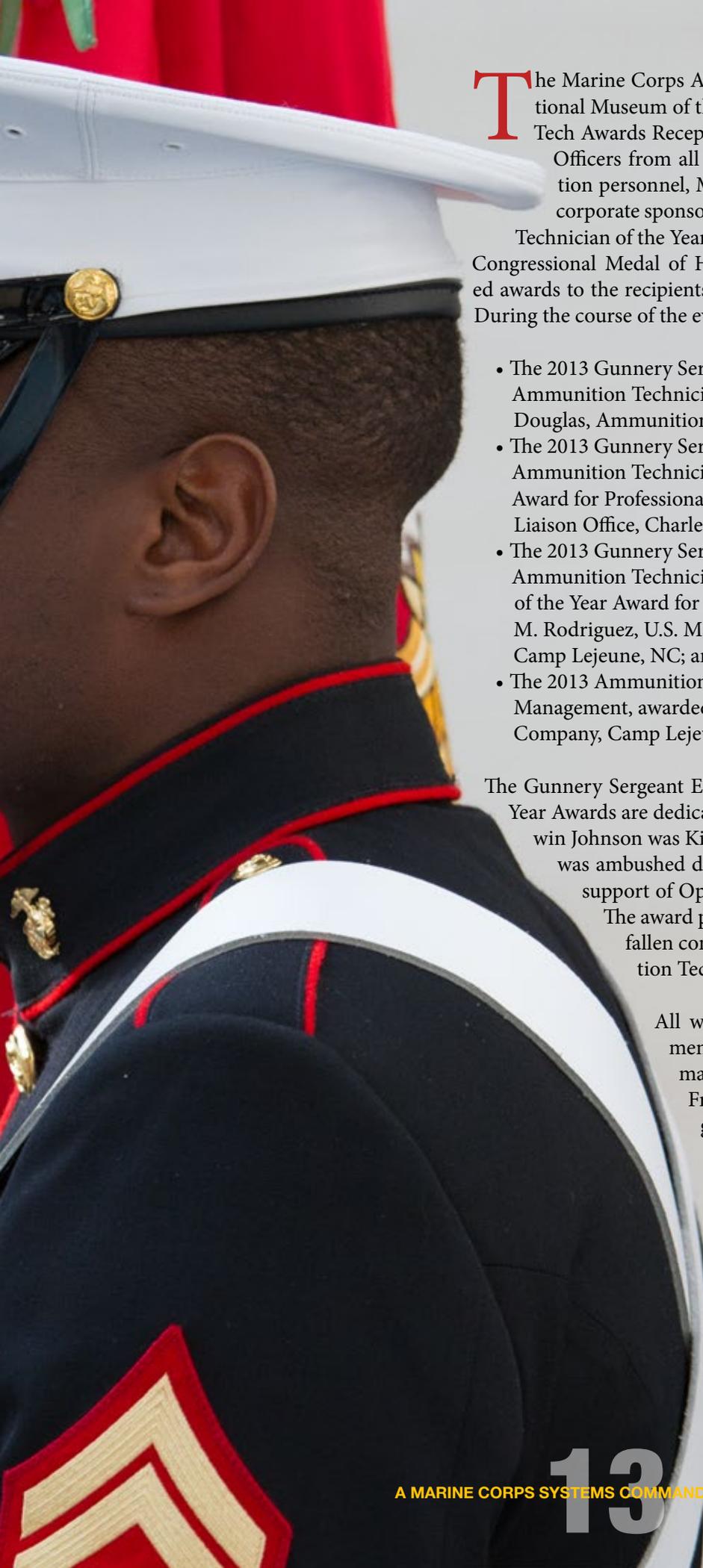
By LtCol Robert Emminger,  
Program Manager for Ammunition

- Commanders' Unit Libraries
- Marine Excellence Awards
- Respected Publications
- Camaraderie and Networking
- Commanders' Forums
- Guest Speakers
- Online Discussions
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AMMUNITION QUARTERLY SPRING 2014

[https://mcscviper.usmc.mil/sites/pmammo/Pages/Program-Manager-Ammunition-\(PMM116\).aspx](https://mcscviper.usmc.mil/sites/pmammo/Pages/Program-Manager-Ammunition-(PMM116).aspx)

Photos and Illustration by Craig Thoburn



The Marine Corps Association and Foundation (MCA&F) and the National Museum of the Marine Corps, recently hosted the 2014 Ammo Tech Awards Reception. Ammunition Technicians and Ammunition Officers from all corners of the globe, along with retired ammunition personnel, MCA&F representatives and ammunition industry corporate sponsors, gathered to honor the 5th Annual Ammunition Technician of the Year Award recipients. This year's Guest of Honor was Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt Dakota Meyer, who presented awards to the recipients and spoke one-on-one with many in attendance. During the course of the evening, four awards were presented:

- The 2013 Gunnery Sergeant Edwin W. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Ammunition Technician of the Year Award, presented to LCpl Guno Douglas, Ammunition Company, Camp Pendleton, CA;
- The 2013 Gunnery Sergeant Edwin W. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Ammunition Technician Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year Award for Professional Excellence, presented to Sgt Jason S. McCrady, Liaison Office, Charleston, SC;
- The 2013 Gunnery Sergeant Edwin W. Johnson, Jr. Memorial Ammunition Technician Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) of the Year Award for Distinguished Service, presented to GySgt Jason M. Rodriguez, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, Camp Lejeune, NC; and
- The 2013 Ammunition Officer of the Year Award for Exceptional Management, awarded to CWO3 Gable K. Mountain, Ammunition Company, Camp Lejeune, NC.

The Gunnery Sergeant Edwin Johnson, Jr. Ammunition Technician of the Year Awards are dedicated in remembrance of one of our own. GySgt Edwin Johnson was Killed In Action when his Embedded Training Team was ambushed during a patrol in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on September 8, 2009. The award presentation allowed us the opportunity to honor a fallen comrade, as well as pay tribute to our finest Ammunition Technicians in the Marine Corps today.

All were honored for their superior personal achievements in the course of their duties during 2013. Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, BGen Frank Kelley, along with the guest speaker, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt Dakota Meyer, presented the recipients with their awards. GySgt Tasha Johnson, spouse of GySgt Edwin Johnson Jr., was in attendance to congratulate the awardees, as well.

Sgt Meyer gave very moving remarks honoring the memory of GySgt Edwin Johnson, Dakota's own teammate in Afghanistan. He spoke of "how confident, firm and caring he was as a leader." Dakota remarked on what separated GySgt Johnson

from other leaders was the fact that he was willing to admit when he didn't know something and learn from those that did, regardless of rank. He commented that GySgt Johnson will always be remembered as a man of great humility and integrity. He closed with talking about the awards standing as a testament to GySgt Johnson's excellence and the fact that he is filled with pride to know that his teammate's name is honored through the awards. Dakota's hope is that, "(the) four recipients also take great pride knowing that they now carry his (GySgt Johnson's) name with them forever and that it was their dedication to outstanding performance that is a standard for all other Marines to follow."

I spoke to the basic ammunition students from Fort Lee telling them, "These [four Marines] represent the commu-

nity you are about to become a part of, they have exhibited exceptionally noteworthy performance and displayed initiative, dedication and esprit de corps. They have consistently demonstrated abilities and knowledge above what is expected of an Ammunition Technician or Officer of their rank." I continued with a challenge to the students to perform at the very highest level, so they too could be standing on stage being recognized. I offer that same challenge to all our Ammunition professionals around the world. Whether in garrison or deployed, I ask that you keep charging and wish to offer a thanks for all that each of you do every day to make our Ammunition Community better.

Semper Fi,

LtCol Robert Emminger  
Program Manager for Ammunition

**Below:** Brig. Gen. Frank Kelley presents the Ammunition Technician Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) of the Year GySgt Jason M. Rodriguez. **Right Top to bottom:** Brig. Gen. Frank Kelley presents the Ammunition Technician of the Year LCpl Guno Douglas; Ammunition Technician Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year Sgt Jason S. McCrady; and the Ammunition Officer of the Year Award CWO3 Gable K. Mountain.





Photos and Illustration by Craig Thoburn

# AMMO TECH DAY

*By David Denomy; Plans, Operations, and Safety Division;  
Program Manager for Ammunition, Marine Corps Systems Command*

A significant portion of the population behaves very strangely on Friday the 13th. They won't fly in airplanes, host a party, apply for a job, get married or even start a new project. Some people won't even come into work. In the United States, roughly 8 percent of the population is afraid of Friday the 13th, a condition known as paraskevidekatriaphobia. This fear has its roots in many traditions and cultures. Whether you are superstitious or not, there is one thing about a Friday the 13th that is symbolic in the ammunition community—it is Ammo Tech Day in the United States Marine Corps!

Some Background: During the Civil War, there was an ordnance factory named the Confederate States Laboratory. It was located in Virginia on Brown's Island, which is on the James River in the City of Richmond.

On this particular Friday the 13th, everything seemed to be going along as normally as could be expected in a Civil War-strangled city. That is, until a young girl working in the ammunition facility had a mishap with a friction primer that caused an explosion. This explosion caused a chain reaction of explosions.

The accident was caused by the ignition of a friction primer in the hands of a young woman by the name of Mary Ryan. Her account of the circumstances were that the primer stuck in the varnishing hoard and she struck the board three times very hard on the table to drive out the primer. She says she was immediately blown up to the ceiling and, on coming down, was again blown back up.

The Richmond Daily Examiner gave its account of the scene, "The apartment in which the explosion occurred, about fifty feet in length and twenty in width, was blown into a complete wreck, the roof lifted off, and the walls dashed out, the ruins falling upon the operatives, and the horrors of fire were



Photo by Sgt Ray Lewis

threatened to be added to those of the explosion; but the flames were suppressed.”

The resulting explosion claimed between 40 and 50 killed and wounded. This is believed to be the source of the correlation between ammunition and Friday the 13th.

These days, when dealing with a commodity that is designed to fire a projectile, blow up a structure, take out a tank, breach a wall and is just inherently dangerous if not properly handled, stored or transported, just know that there is a group of professionals in the USMC who perform this mission as safely as possible.



*“This is my chili. There are many like it, but this one is mine.”*

For Ammunition Technicians, it has become a recent tradition to celebrate this day with a steel beach picnic, office parking lot barbecue or Ammunition Supply Point grill-out. This event takes time to honor the community of active, former and retired Ammunition Technicians and

Ammunition Officers by enjoying chow, telling sea stories and participating in competitive sporting events. They even allow submarine sailors to show up on occasion. So, mark your calendar this June, Friday the 13th, 2014 and come out and celebrate Ammo Tech Day in whatever clime and place!

**Semper Fi!**

# DEFECT CODES:

## WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

By GySgt Ronald A. Everson;  
Ammunition Logistics Operations Chief; Analysis and Evaluation Team;  
Program Manager for Ammunition; Marine Corps Systems Command

### Definition and Purpose:

A Defect Code (D/C) is a six-digit, alphanumeric code that complements and supplements ammunition Condition Codes (C/C) by identifying specific reasons for C/C assignments and/or identifying specific defects or conditions.

### Composition:

D/Cs are constructed in four parts, as follows:

XXXXXX	Complete, Six-character D/C
X————	Status Code—First Character
—XX——	Component Code—Second and Third Characters
——X——	Classification Code—Fourth Character
———XX	Defect/Special Remark Code—Fifth and Sixth Characters

### Reference Material:

A complete list of applicable alphanumeric codes may be found in reference NAVSUP P-805. Assets locally assigned C/C “H” shall have an assigned “M”-series status code. This does not apply to assets reclassified by Notice of Ammunition Re-classification (NAR). The status code “H” shall not be used for Marine Corps Class V(W) assets.

Proper D/C assignment facilitates the Inventory Control Point’s determination of why some stocks are in C/Cs other than alpha, and aids the Analysis and Evaluation Team in providing monthly safety oversight through our Monthly Inventory Review Reports. This report identifies lots that have been downgraded by NAR but may have been missed by storage activities. Also, this report helps to filter out those lots that are legitimate local

downgrades and missed NARs. In some cases, scrubbing this monthly report requires a great deal of effort from our storage activities because some activities, not knowing the proper D/C to use, began assigning local D/Cs that do not meet the criteria for a proper D/C.

In an effort to simplify the D/C assignment process, MCO 8010.13 establishes 54 commonly used D/Cs by all our Marine Corps OT Current Operations Group activities. Please keep in mind that the list of D/Cs in *Figure 1* is not complete, nor will it cover every type of ammo problem and situation. Because it covers the most commonly used D/Cs, though, this list should be a starting point, as it provides the basic foundation for D/Cs.

We are at a point where correcting or avoiding inventory errors and complying with our Safety Oversight Program requires that we use properly assigned D/Cs. They provide a depth of visibility we have never had before. When D/Cs are not used, it merely slows down our effort to provide our Marine Corps supported units and supporting activities with a good inventory tool. We suggest that all units/activities use the D/Cs in *Figure 1* on their assets that are in other than C/C alpha and that have not already had a D/C applied to them during local downgrades, or assigned by a current NAR.

These D/Cs should apply to all lots in your inventory in other than C/C alpha for the reasons listed. D/Cs enable us to improve the Physical Inventory Control Program and ultimately increase overall inventory accuracy of the Class V(W) stockpile. Furthermore, D/Cs provide a means for the Item Managers at PM Ammo to quickly identify certain categories of ammunition and their associated lot numbers.

By utilizing the list of D/Cs with corresponding descriptions provided, using MCO 8010.13 and NAVSUP P-805, you cannot go wrong in assigning your D/Cs!!!

FAA0X	MALFUNCTION REPORT, UNSAFE MATERIAL
FAAZZ	LOCAL SUSPENSION
LAAZZ	SUSPENDED, ASSET PENDING SDR/INVENTORY ADJUSTMENT
MAAAZ	UNSERVICEABLE, NAR ISSUED, PENDING DISPOSITION
MAAZ04	UNSERVICEABLE, UNSAFE, EXPLOSIVE EXUDATES/RESIDUE/CONTAMINATION, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZ07	UNSERVICEABLE, UNSAFE/DROPPED, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZ08	UNSERVICEABLE, UNSAFE, MISFIRE/UNSAFE/HANG FIRE, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZ1A	UNSERVICEABLE, DROPPED (EXCEEDING SAFE LIMITS) SAFE FOR STORAGE/TRANSPORTATION, PENDING DISPO
MAAZ1B	UNSERVICEABLE, MISFIRE/HANGFIRE, SAFE FOR STORAGE/TRANSPORTATION, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZ1X	UNSERVICEABLE, LEGIBLE MARKINGS, FOUND ON STATION, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZ20	UNSERVICEABLE, SHELF-LIFE EXPIRED, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZ22	UNSERVICEABLE, WET/EXCESSIVE MOISTURE, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZ23	UNSERVICEABLE, EXCESSIVE RUST, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZ27	UNSERVICEABLE, EXUDING/HYDROGEN GAS BUILD UP, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZ51	UNSERVICEABLE, INCORRECT/UNAUTHORIZED CONFIGURATION (MN79), PENDING DISPOSITION.
MAAZZ	UNSERVICEABLE, UNDEFINED, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MCCZ60	UNSERVICEABLE, DAMAGE TO CARTRIDGE CASE, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MLKZ50	UNSERVICEABLE, MISSING LINKS, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MLKZ60	UNSERVICEABLE, DAMAGED LINK, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MLNZ50	UNSERVICEABLE, MISSING LOT NUMBER, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MMKZ28	UNSERVICEABLE, MARKING ILLEGIBLE, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MOBZ60	UNSERVICEABLE, DAMAGE TO OBTURATOR BAND, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MPJZ60	UNSERVICEABLE, STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO PROJECTILE, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MPPZ50	UNSERVICEABLE, MISSING PROPELLANT INCREMENT(S), PENDING DISPOSITION.
MPPZ60	UNSERVICEABLE, DAMAGED PROPELLANT BAGS, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MPRZ08	UNSERVICEABLE, UNSAFE, DAMAGED PRIMER/MISFIRE, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MRBZ60	UNSERVICEABLE, DAMAGED ROTATING BAND/PUNCHED RD, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MSNZ50	UNSERVICEABLE, MISSING SERIAL NUMBER, PENDING DISPOSITION.
MZZZ60	UNSERVICEABLE, COMPONENT NOT IDENTIFIED, STRUCTURAL DAMAGE, PENDING DISPOSITION
NBNZ55	LOOSE BANDING
NBNZ60	BROKEN BANDING
RRHZ21	UNACCEPTABLE HUMIDITY INDICATOR
ZAAAZ	RECLASSIFIED BY NAR
ZAABZ	TRAINING USE ONLY
ZAAC25	WEATHER DETERIORATION
ZAAC65	SAND, DUST/FOREIGN MATERIAL
ZAAC80	PRIORITY OF ISSUE, NON-STANDARD PACK.
ZAACZ	PRIORITY OF ISSUE.
ZAAD5F	MISSING/INCORRECT MARKINGS
ZAAD80	PRIORITY OF ISSUE (TRAINING USE ONLY), NON-STANDARD PACK.
ZAAHZ	NOT CLEARED FOR OVERHEAD FIRE
ZAAZ34	FAILED SYSTEMS TEST
ZAAZ3X	WILL NOT HOLD FILL (EXCALIBER)
ZAAZ81	SERVICEABLE, NOT STANDARD PACK
ZAAZ83	UNSERVICEABLE CONTAINER- SERVICEABLE AMMUNITION
ZBBZ50	MISSING BARRIER BAG
ZBTAZZ	BCU REPLACEMENT REQUIRED
ZCEZ50	COMMERCIAL EXPLOSIVE (DYNAMITE) MISSING
ZGRZ50	MISSING GROMMET
ZMKZ50	MISSING MARKING, STENCILING, COLOR CODE
ZMKZ52	INCORRECT MARKING, STENCILING, COLOR CODE
ZPOZ60	CONTAINER (LOADED) DAMAGED
ZRBZ6X	ROTATING BAND DAMAGED
ZSLZ50	MISSING/BROKEN TRACEABLE SEALS

Figure 1. Most Commonly Used Defect Codes

# OUR WORLD OF ACRONYMS: DODAAC, UIC, RIC, & RUC

*By GySgt Ronald A. Everson;  
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Acronyms are strange critters; however, in our modern military, they are absolutely essential to make communications easier for all of us. The four acronyms to be discussed in this article are used commonly by the operators and by logisticians. But, what are they, really? We will break these acronyms down over the next few paragraphs. Let's start with the Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DoDAAC).

## **Department of Defense Activity Address Code (DoDAAC)**

The use of the DoDAAC is directed by DoD Manual 4000.25-6-M. This manual prescribes uniform methods, codes, formats and standards for the establishment, maintenance, publication and dissemination of required address data to the military services, federal agencies, and civil agencies. The Defense Automatic Addressing System Center (DAASC) serves as the Central Control Point responsible for maintaining the official, master Department of Defense Activity Address Directory (DoDAAD). Required updates to the DoDAAD are forwarded to DAASC from designated service/agency DoDAAC Service Point activities. These updates include additions, changes and deletions to the mailing, shipping and billing addresses of the identified DoDAAC.

The DoDAAC is one of the codes used in support of the Defense Transportation Payment Program. It is a six-position code that uniquely identifies a unit, activity or organization that has the authority to requisition and/or receive materiel. Military Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedures (MILSTRIP) orders are only shipped to a DoDAAC-associated address. There can be up to three distinct types of address associated with each DoDAAC, which are as follows:

- **TAC1** – identifies the mailing address for the activity (mandatory)
- **TAC2** – identifies the “ship to” (freight) address for the activity
- **TAC3** – identifies the billing address (the activity responsible for payment)

The first position of the DoDAAC designates the particular service/agency element of ownership, example:

- **M** = Marine Corps
- **N** = Navy
- **A** = Air Force
- **W** = Army

**Unit Identification Code (UIC)**

The second through fifth positions of the DoDAAC make up our second acronym, the Unit Identification Code (UIC). Take, for example, DoDAAC MMLQ50. In this DoDAAC example, the first position of MMMLQ50 is M, representing a Marine Corps activity. The next five positions, or UIC, represent the specific Marine Corps unit to which the DoDAAC is assigned. In this case, it represents:

COMMANDING OFFICER, 2D SUPPLY BN (ASP),  
PSC BOX 20128, CAMP LEJEUNE NC 28542-0128

The UIC identifies a ship, shore activity, operational unit, agency, contractor or other operational entity in the manner specified by individual military service/agency for financial or other purposes. This is a unique code assigned to each Marine Corps unit to identify that specific unit and, as described above, is a component part of the AAC. Current Marine Corps policy is that all UICs, when combined with the service designator (the “M,” in our example) will be identical to the AAC and listed in the DAAS. For those who have served, or are serving, with the Navy—or are Retail Ordnance Logistics Management System (ROLMS) users—the UIC is not a foreign term. The Navy uses the UIC instead of the AAC in its management systems for ammunition accounting.

**Routing Identifier Code (RIC)**

The RIC is assigned by services/agencies for processing inter-service/agency and intra-service/agency logistical transactions. The RIC performs multiple roles and can be used as a source of supply code, an intersystem routing code, an intra-system routing code and a consignor (shipper) code. A specific, unique RIC is assigned to inventory control points, inventory manager’s distribution points and designated storage points. The RIC is a three-position, alphanumeric code. RICs identify the activity originating the supply document, the recipient of the supply document and/or the shipper. Numeric codes in the first position are not recognized within MILSTRIP.

*First Position:* All authorized RICs will contain one of the alphabetic characters in the first position, depicting service assignment, as follows:

A, B, C, W	Dept. of the Army
D, E, F	Dept. of the Air Force
N, P, Q, R	Dept. of the Navy
M	Marine Corps
G, V	GSA, Other Civil Agencies
S, T	Single Manager Agencies
H	Other DoD Activities
Z	Coast Guard

*Second Position:* When the character in the second position of the RIC is alphabetic, the first and second positions together identify the service and the facility. In these instances, the third position may identify a specific internal address or storage component within such a facility, or it may be insignificant. For example:

BB2	W53XMD	Crane Army Ammunition Activity
MLQ	MMLQ50	Ammunition Branch DSSC Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

**Reporting Unit Code (RUC)**

Intentionally, the RUC was saved to be the last item. Why? The answer is that the RUC is not used for logistics, while the other three are. It is also a Marine Corps-unique term. The RUC is five characters long and is only used for manpower matters—e.g., personnel, pay and allowances, and/or leave.

It is important to note that a Marine Corps RUC, a term most of us are familiar with, is not the same as a UIC; and the last five characters of the UIC are not the same as the RUC. They are not interchangeable. As an example, RUC-30002 represents Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico, VA. However, UIC-M30002 is assigned to the Director, Command and Control Systems School—clearly, a different organization.

Hopefully, this brief introduction to some common acronyms we encounter every day will help you to understand your ammunition business just a little bit better. Now, you will be able to look up your unit in a variety of ways, by the DoDAAC, UIC, AAC, RIC, RUC, or even your mailing ZIP code. Do some exploring and learn more about how your logistics systems perform their magic!

**SHOW  
YOUR  
COLORS**



**YOUR  
LOGO  
HERE**

# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

*By David Denomy, Editor, Ammunition Quarterly;  
Plans, Operations, and Safety Division;  
Program Manager for Ammunition, Marine Corps Systems Command*

Welcome to the Spring 2014 issue of Ammunition Quarterly (AQ). This is the magazine's fourth edition with the enhanced graphics and robust editorial review process. We would like to hear from the fleet what you like and don't like, and how we can make AQ better and more exciting to you, our reader. With that said, we need your input—deck plate information that is important to your MOS and is not readily publicized or captured in other venues.

My invitation for the “show your colors” tee shirt design competition has its first submission. Congratulations to Ammunition Company, 3rd Supply Battalion, Combat Logistic Regiment-35. You can see the fruits of their labor highlighted on this page. I know there are more artists out there who are proud of their unit and would like to show off their talents. Remember—your unit can be spotlighted in AQ, too. The only requirement is that it has to be in a tasteful format—nothing derogatory or offensive in nature.

As always, I am plugging for articles from the fleet. Whether you are a PFC or LtCol, your opinions, ideas and experiences are going to be beneficial to the readers of this magazine. What's more, vital and pertinent information to your MOS will languish without your support. You do not have to be an English major or combat correspondent to supply valuable articles and pictures. We promise not to completely rewrite your article or judge you on your choice of grammar. All we ask is that you use your own words (or put in quotation marks any words that aren't your own and tell us who said/wrote it first!). Pictures can tell a thousand words, so the more the better. Remember, you get an official “I was published in Ammunition Quarterly” coffee mug for any article that makes it to the magazine. Send articles to:

AmmoMail@usmc.mil

Thanks for your readership, and keep those articles coming!



# MISSION

**In support of the National Strategic Plan and Defense Planning Goals, PM Ammo will conduct/leverage research, development and acquisition activities and execute post-production total life cycle management support for all conventional ground ammunition required by Marine forces to train for and successfully conduct Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare.**

**Our mission is clear—to introduce military munitions into the Marine Corps stockpile and manage all facets thereafter. From formulating budgets and developing acquisition strategies to procuring and disposing of munitions, PM Ammo supports the complete or total life cycle of ground conventional ammunition and explosives for our Corps.**



MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND • PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION

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