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MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND • PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION

AMMUNITION

QUARTERLY



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AMMUNITION QUARTERLY

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Provide ideas/articles to the Program Manager for Ammunition, Marine Corps Systems Command, 2200 Lester Street, Quantico, VA 22134 or via email to AmmoMail@usmc.mil

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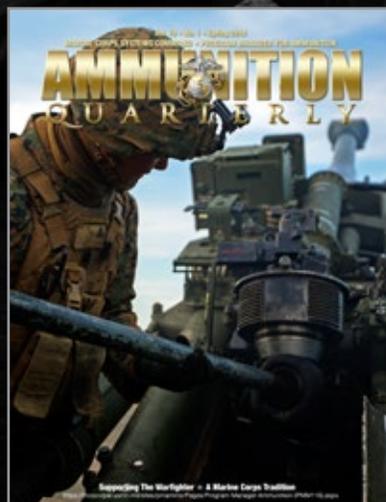
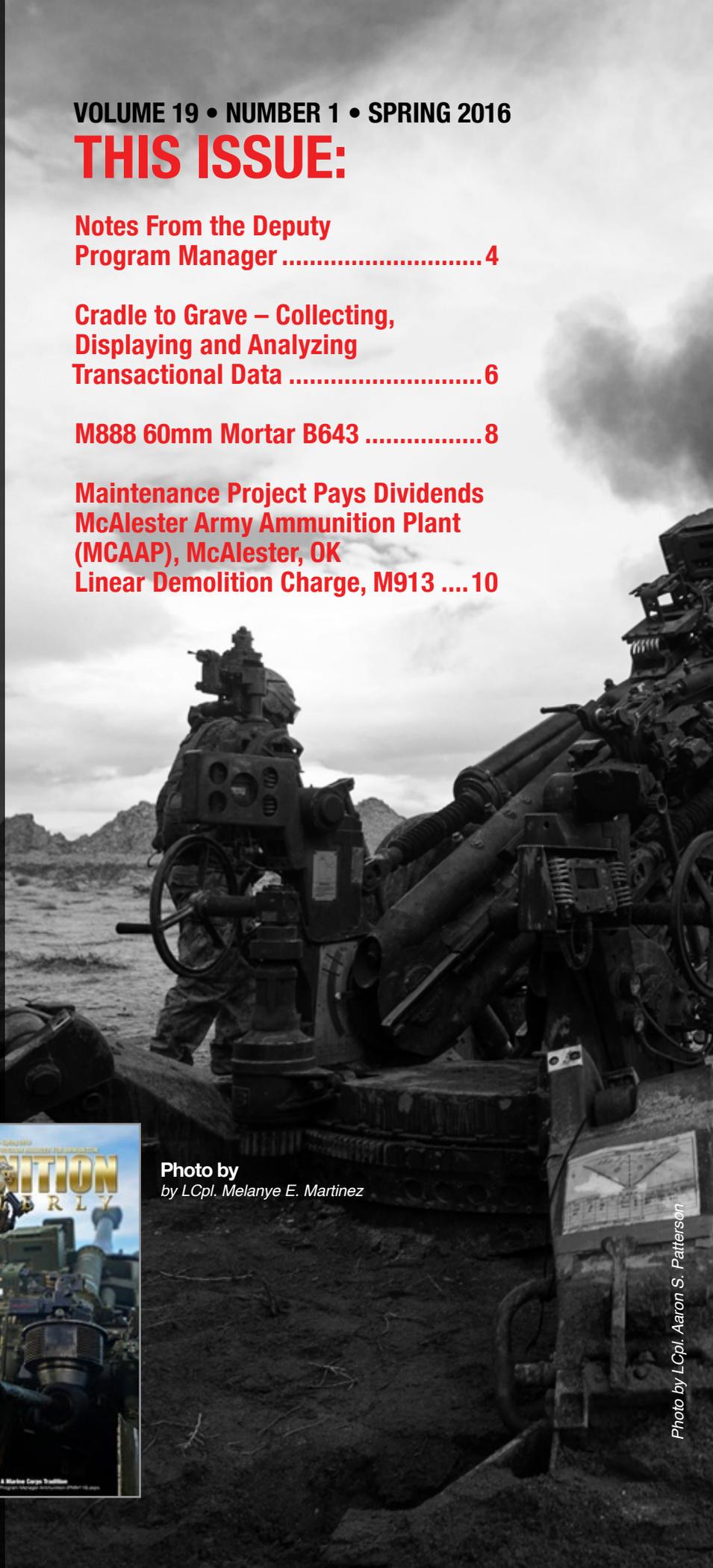


Photo by
by LCpl. Melanye E. Martinez

Photo by LCpl. Aaron S. Patterson



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MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND • PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION

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MARINE CORPS PROGRAM MANAGER FOR AMMUNITION

Notes From the Deputy Program Manager

*By LtCol William Lanham,
Deputy Program Manager for Ammunition*

First, I want to thank all of the professionals who contributed to making this issue possible. We received numerous articles and feedback regarding the Ammunition Quarterly. Contributions from across the Ammunition Enterprise are essential to satisfy the need for up-to-date information for our community and our customers. Thank you.

These are exciting times in Ammo! Last year Program Manager for Ammunition (PM Ammo) conducted an internal reorganization. This year, Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC) will reorganize. Efforts are being made to redesign the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF). The Commandant refers to the effort as “not about structure...it’s about design and capabilities.” Our Ammunition Community needs to explore the skills and capabilities we can use to best support MAGTF 2025. How can we enhance our individual capabilities? The future is coming, and you are poised to influence it! Now is the time to challenge the status quo and communicate creative ideas to shape the community to support our Marine Corps.

Our effort to shape the future has made progress by overhauling our Training and Readiness (T&R) Manual. We added several collective and

individual tasks to the T&R Manual. The collective tasks are targeted to better prepare ammo Marines to perform combat service support operations working together as company, platoon and crew size units. Team operations include establishing and operating field ammunition supply points and basic load ammunition holding areas. Individual skill requirements were updated to prepare us to use advances in technology, such as using web-based supply chain management systems as well as managing an explosives safety program. The next step is to meet with the Course Curriculum Review Boards for each course: Ammunition Technician Basic, Ammunition Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), Ammunition Managers and Warrant Officer. There were significant changes that require the Managers Course and Warrant Officer Basic Course to be reconstructed. I am looking forward to the first course being taught to the new standards!

A goal outlined in the PM’s Strategic Plan is to “continuously improve our professional credibility.” We are making efforts to improve our capable and confident community. We revised the administrative process of our Ammunition Awards Program. We expanded the board membership to a larger population to include a few members from outside the MOS. Names of the board

members and award nominees will be communicated to the community in effort to show transparency in our process. Board members will be able to share information about the competitiveness of our nominees. In addition to improving professional credibility through transparency, this process will allow the community to recognize these Marines for their outstanding performances that earned them their nominations. I will add that this year’s nominations were extremely competitive. I am certain that our community is being refreshed with the best and brightest that this nation has to offer! Semper Fidelis, Ammo!

Editor’s Note: LtCol William Lanham, the Deputy Program Manager for Ammunition (DPM Ammo), has an extensive background in the ammunition field. He began his Marine Corps career at Paris Island in 1990, where he later served as a drill instructor. His assignments include serving as an ammunition technician to 3d MARDIV and 12th Marines in Hawaii; Storage NCO at 3rd FSSG, Camp Fuji, Japan; and Liaison and Security NCO at Yokosuka, Japan. He was commissioned as Warrant Officer in 2000. He served as: Marine Liaison Officer and the Lightweight Torpedo Storage and Issue Division Officer at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Virginia; Executive Officer, Operations Officer and, as a Captain in 2006, he was the Company Commander for Ammunition Company 1st MLG, Camp Pendleton, California; Liaison Officer at Joint Munitions Command, Rock Island, Illinois; III MEF Ammunition Officer in Okinawa, Japan; Ammunition Branch Head at Training and Education Command, and finally; DPM Ammo, MCSC as of July 2015. He made deployments supporting operations Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. LtCol Lanham has a Master’s Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Management Degree. He meets the requirements of Defense Acquisition University for Level I in both Program Management and Life Cycle Logistics.

The 2015 United States Marine Corps Ammunition Awards Program (MCAAP)

The Marine Corps Ammunition Awards Program (MCAAP) board was convened on March 2, 2016 to review nominations from throughout the Marine Corps and select award recipients. All of the nominated Marines are deserving of congratulations and special recognition. The Commandant of the Marine Corps congratulates the following individuals for being selected as the recipients of the 2015 United States MCAAP for the categories indicated:

- Ammunition Officer of the Year: Captain Francisco D. Amaya, 3d MARDIV, III MEF
- Ammunition Staff Non-Commissioned Officer (SNCO) of the Year: Gunnery Sergeant Nelson A. Rodriguez, CLR 15, 1st MLG
- Ammunition Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year: Sergeant Kyle A. Arnold, CLR 25, 2d MLG
- Ammunition Technician of the Year: Corporal Austin S. Allison, 2d BN 10th MAR, 2d MARDIV, II MEF

MARINES NOMINATED FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2015 UNITED STATES MCAAP (BY CATEGORY):

Nominations for the Ammunition Officer Category:

- Capt Francisco D. Amaya, 3d MAR DIV
- CWO2 Nicholas S. Jacobs, 5th MEB
- CWO4 Jeramy D. Parham, 1st MLG
- CWO2 Richard L. Raines, 3d MLG
- CWO2 Michael L. Reynolds, 3d MLG

Nominations for the Ammunition SNCO Category:

- GySgt Nelson A. Rodriguez, 1st MLG
- SSgt Erik R. Myers, 3d MAR DIV

Nominations for the Ammunition NCO Category:

- Sgt Kyle A. Arnold, 2d MLG
- Sgt Adam C. Bailey, 3d MLG
- Cpl Amanda M. Banks, 3d MLG
- Cpl Cory N. Drenko, 2d MARDIV
- Sgt David J. Dubose, 1st MLG
- Cpl Norma G. Gavilanes, 1st MLG
- Sgt Steven Maya, 3d MAW
- Sgt Jordan P. Mehall, 2d MARDIV
- Sgt Nicole M. Moss, SOI West Training Command
- Cpl Zayra N. Ramirez, MCRD San Diego
- Sgt Javier Reyes, MCRD San Diego
- Cpl Austin L. Smith, 2d MLG
- Cpl Arron L. Stanley, MCAGTE, MCAGCC
- Sgt Wesley H. Wright, MARFORCOM
- Sgt Stephanie M. Zirkle, DPC/RSU East

Nominations for the Ammunition Technician Category:

- Cpl Austin S. Allison, 2d MARDIV
- Cpl Morgan N. Barnes, 3d MLG
- LCpl Celeste A. Rios, MCAGTE, MCAGCC

This list contains the names of the Marines who participated in the selection board proceedings during the selection for the 2015 United States MCAAP:

- Project Officer CWO2 Kelly Dayton MCSC
- Project Officer GySgt Israel Gonzales MCSC
- Board President LtCol William Lanham MCSC
- Board Member Maj Allen Lewis MCCDC
- Board Member Capt Brandon Carroll MCSC
- Board Member Capt Daniel Flick MCSC
- Board Member Capt Michael Smith TECOM
- Board Member CWO5 Adam Price Ammo School
- Board Member CWO5 Mark Salmons PP&O
- Board Member CWO4 Robert Ximenez MCSC
- Board Member CWO3 William Rulli MCB Quantico
- Board Member MGySgt Eduardo Espinal MMEA
- Board Member MGySgt Toby Hurdle Ammo School
- Board Member MGySgt Rodney Smith MARFORCOM
- Board Member MSgt Darrell Ford TECOM
- Board Recorder GySgt Israel Gonzalez MCSC

Cradle to Grave – Collecting, Displaying and Analyzing Transactional Data

By CWO2 Mike Reynolds, ASP Operations Officer, Ammunition Company, 3d Supply Battalion, Combat Logistic Regiment-35

SharePoint 2013 introduces a new concept of information sharing. The Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) in Okinawa, Japan took this as an opportunity to collect and present metrics associated with ammunition transactions in order to follow supported units inside the activity from “cradle to grave.”

Similar products have been developed and used frequently in other supporting activities to great success. This daily operational snapshot, also known as an Electronic Daily Unit Report (eDUR), is unique in the fact that anybody who can connect to the SharePoint portal can view the information posted. For example, if 3d Marine Division wants to see specifically where in the issue process one of their units is, they can simply log onto the SharePoint portal and view their unit’s place in the transactional pipeline.

This eDUR provides “real time” updates, collaboratively. The day prior to the RDD, the Records Section exports information pertaining to e581 from TAMIS for the specified RDD. That information is imported to the SharePoint portal in preparation for the next day’s transactions. The Records Section then indicates if the e581 is for the purpose of a direct issue, a pre-stage or in preparation of shipment. On the date of the RDD, when the supported unit arrives at the ASP’s Access Control Point (ACP), the supporting unit’s information is updated to

reflect their “on-deck time.” The entry of the on-deck time triggers truck checkers to begin their vehicle and initial safety inspection process. Vehicle inspection results and times are recorded. If the supported unit fails the inspection, a Discrepancy Report (DisRep) is generated and a brief description of the DisRep is noted. The supported unit is then placed in queue and awaits the issue process and the time is recorded. Upon completion of the issue process and subsequent issue/release inspection, the transaction from the supported unit perspective is considered completed and the time is recorded. When the supported unit departs the ASP through ACP, ACP personnel input the “off-deck time.” Finally, once all documents are returned to the Records Section and the transactions are posted in Ordnance Information System (OIS), the request is considered complete. The Records Section will check the box correlating with the documents posted, and the eDUR will automatically group transactions into completed or not completed statuses.

If a supported unit arrives at the ASP in order to conduct a field return, a similar process occurs. The main difference is the transaction is initiated by the ACP when they record the on-deck time and purpose of the transaction as a receipt-field return. Similarly, this triggers the Issues and Segregation Section to initiate receipt inspection procedures. Much

like the issue process, times at each step of the process are recorded.

MSgt Jason Stravers, the 3d Marine Division Ammunition Chief, stated, “This tool allows me to have better visibility over my units and their interaction with the ASP. It allows me to hold my units to the standard, and also allows me to hold the ASP to a standard for combat service support. In addition to tracking the process for issue or receipt, I can see the workload the ASP is experiencing and better gauge coordination efforts. I can see when my units receive a discrepancy report, and view the discrepancy report almost immediately. Communication is an essential part of any success and this helps to overcome many of the challenges we experience in Okinawa.”

Though some may argue that the future of OIS may contain similar features, OIS can only be accessed by those who have been granted access. Supported units are unable to log onto OIS and see where their units are in the issue or receipt process. By publicizing this information, the supporting activity may further analyze this data to indicate areas for attention and implement continual process improvement, thus providing better combat service support to the warfighter.

For questions, comments, concerns or recommendations, please feel free to contact CWO2 Reynolds at michael.reynolds@usmc.mil.

M888 60mm Mortar B643

By Marc A. Krauss, Senior Program Analyst -
Marine Corps Liaison Office Picatinny Arsenal, NJ

Yuma Proving Grounds (YPG), Yuma, AZ - Marc Krauss, Senior Program Analyst within the Picatinny Marine Corps Liaison Office, recently traveled to YPG to observe the Ballistic Lot Acceptance Test (BLAT) in support of M888 60mm Mortar production at American Ordnance (AO) at Iowa Army Ammunition Plant.



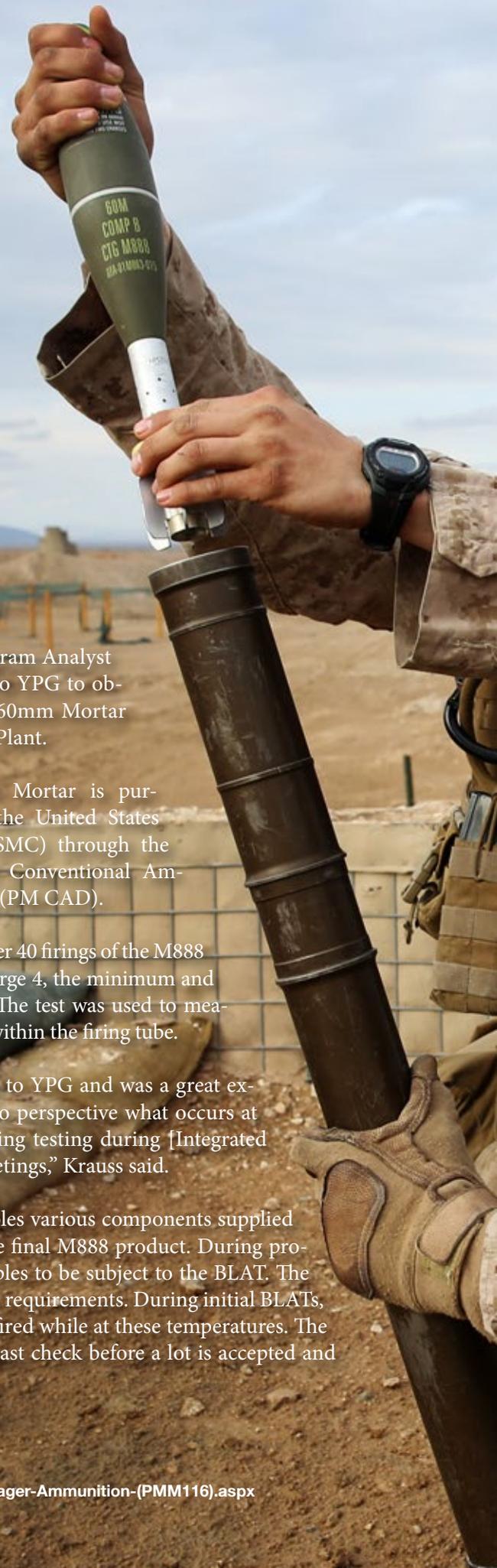
Marc Krauss at KOFA Range, YPG, AZ prior to the BLAT performed on 11 September 2015 in support of the M888 60mm Mortar production at AO at Iowa Army Ammunition Plant. (Marc Krauss, Senior Program Analyst, USMC Liaison Office)

The M888 60mm Mortar is purchased solely by the United States Marine Corps (USMC) through the Program Manager Conventional Ammunition Division (PM CAD).

Krauss observed over 40 firings of the M888 at charge 0 and charge 4, the minimum and maximum ranges. The test was used to measure the pressures within the firing tube.

“It was my first trip to YPG and was a great experience to put into perspective what occurs at YPG when discussing testing during [Integrated Product Team] meetings,” Krauss said.

AO in Iowa assembles various components supplied by other United States Government (USG) contractors to complete the final M888 product. During production of each lot of ammunition, AO in Iowa randomly selects samples to be subject to the BLAT. The BLAT is to ensure that a specific lot of M888 meets all USG specification requirements. During initial BLATs, the lots are subjected to extreme hot and extreme cold conditions and fired while at these temperatures. The BLAT also serves as a final system verification for the M888; it is the last check before a lot is accepted and delivered to the USMC for use.





“The BLAT also serves as a final system verification for the M888; it is the last check before a lot is accepted and delivered to the USMC for use.”

Photo by Cpl Corey Dabney

Maintenance Project Pays Dividends McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP), McAlester, OK Linear Demolition Charge, M913



MCAAP M913 (MILIC) Team (days) Ashland Depot, McAlester, Oklahoma 28 August 2015

McAlester Army Ammunition Plant (MCAAP), McAlester, OK

The project was a 24 hour operation; two shifts, 12 hours per shift. The project ran from Aug. 25 – Aug. 29. The Crane Support Team supported both shifts (18 hour days in some instances). MCAAP personnel were cooperative, quality-oriented, courteous and a pleasure to work with. The local PM Ammo Liaison Officer, GySgt Greg Simpson, arranged a meeting with McAlester's Commanding Officer. This meeting provided the opportunity to discuss the project's objectives and compliment McAlester's support. Col Sean M. Herron accepted Crane's recommendation to recognize the crews for their support, and he personally presented Letters of Appreciation to each crew member. In addition, he presented MCAAP Commanding Officer coins to four production personnel that performed 'Above and Beyond' during the project.

The project was extremely successful; 98% of the assets inducted were returned to a serviceable Condition Code (CC). Corrections and adjustments were necessary on approximately 45% of the assets worked. The corrections incorporated were to improve the detonation performance reliability of the charge after its deployment. The charges that were sentenced to CC 'B' were generally charges that had been deployed to the first Gulf War (had a Y interfix in the lot number) and had an appearance that was not conducive to performance confidence. The charges that were downgraded to CC 'F' typically had defective arresting cables or had a perforated charge container. Both groups of charges in CCs 'B' and 'F' should be considered candidates for reclaiming C-4 when the need is identified.

*By William C. Barnes, Crane Division,
Naval Surface Warfare Center,
Special Warfare and Expeditionary Department,
Specialized Munitions Division MICLIC ISEA,
Linear Demolition Charges*



MCAAP M913 (MICLIC) Team (nights) Ashland Depot, McAlester, Oklahoma 28 August 2015

Boxes to repack the 'old' fuze and replacement skids (charge container runners) were sent to MCAAP after the Maintenance Team returned Crane. The need for replacement skids highlights the need to process available stocks of M913 skids to be compliant to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication No. 15 requirements, and so they will be available for future maintenance projects. Another maintenance component that was needed, but was not available at MCAAP, was replacement container lids. Approximately 20 charges were returned to a serviceable condition with locally repaired (not reconditioned) lids. Crane has an inventory of approximately 70 reconditioned lids that could have been used if the In-Service Engineering Agent had execution latitude or funding to provide these maintenance components, as was proposed when the project was proposed.

Scope of work involved three major categories:

- a) Train McAlester's ordnance workers to perform the required adjustments and repairs, and to recognize characteristics that would make M913s unserviceable
- b) Upgrade older CC 'N' and 'F' M913 assets, without taggant, to the preferred configuration and replace the existing fuze with a M1134A4 fuze from fuze lots
- c) Recommend CC sentencing for assets being returned to inventory

Total Quantity: 467 assets

PROJECT RESULTS:

- a) 434 assets were upgraded to CC 'A'
- b) 25 assets were upgraded to CC 'B'
- c) 8 assets were downgraded to CC 'F'

2015 Marine Week in Phoenix, Arizona: PM Ammo, MARCORSYSCOM

*By CWO2 Michael P. Ruegger, Project Officer, Small Arms & Non-Lethal
Ammunition, Program Manager for Ammunition*

On Sept. 8, 2015, the Program Manager for Ammunition (PM Ammo) team arrived in Phoenix, Arizona to showcase the structure, tasks, projects and ground ammunition for the United States Marine Corps (USMC). The Commander's intent was clear:

Purpose: Enhance USMC community relations and highlight USMC warfighting capabilities. Demonstrate service, sacrifice and give back to the community.

Method: Marines will engage in a spectrum of activities, ranging from static displays, community relations projects and Marine Air-Ground Task Force demonstrations. Individual Marine interaction with local populace is critical.

End-State: Residents of the greater Phoenix area will be left with an improved and favorable understanding of Marine Corps capabilities and character. 2015 Marine Week Phoenix was completed professionally and safely. With over \$6 million in media value, over 15 million people were exposed to the event this year. The location for this event was at the Civic Space Park in downtown Phoenix. This year's team included Maj Steven DeVost, CWO2 Michael Ruegger, MGySgt Larry Freetage, MSgt Christopher McNally, GySgt Michael Spiegler and Mr. Tom Frush. Members of the 2015 Marine Week PM Ammo team provided experience in ac-

quisitions, operations, analysis and evaluation and liaison support from the Joint Munition Command.

A wide variety of inert ammunition and explosives displays were set up for the public and included everything from tank rounds to small arms ammunition. The team managed the PM Ammo display daily while participating in community events, fundraisers and outreach programs. Many civilians viewed the displays with no knowledge of what we do, how we support the Marine Corps or how we meet the Warfighters' demands through acquisition and procurement. For ammunition professionals, it was a humbling experience to provide an overview of Class V(W) ground ammunition to someone with little to no knowledge about it.

Many veterans and retired Marines were surprised to see how ammunition and explosive items have evolved through the years since they last used them. The team explained how changes have occurred throughout the years via testing and product improvement initiatives. Additionally, the public was able to see how their support and tax dollars directly contribute to keeping up with today's modern force. For example, civilians had the opportunity to view an inert version of the Projectile, 155mm Excalibur Increment 1-B with its internal components exposed (GPS fuze, explosive warhead, fill, etc.). This item, along with many others,

generated a healthy and informative dialogue that met the intent and spirit of interacting with the community. The public was able to touch and feel ammunition items, which helped them put our technical information into perspective. Other program departments (such as PM Infantry Weapons Systems) showcased their modern equipment and infantry weapons. Their display was co-located with PM Ammo, which helped show what ammunition items were used with a particular weapon system.

This event marked the sixth time PM Ammo, Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORSYSCOM) has participated in Marine Week, and it was a huge success. Thousands of citizens gained a better understanding of the ground ammunition their Marine Corps is currently using to win today's battles, as well as seeing the diverse equipment and hardware integrated to support the Warfighter. The event was also humbling for over 900 Marines who participated in the event because they were able to represent the USMC and "show why we are America's 911 force." Most people have a general idea of what U.S. Marines are; however, they do not always understand what we do on a daily basis, how we support our country and how we operate as America's premier force in readiness. 2016 Marine Week is scheduled to be conducted in Nashville, TN and PM Ammo, MARCORSYSCOM will be there in support.



Maj Steven DeVost and MSgt Christopher McNally explain 120mm rifled mortar ammunition to a civilian.



Over 50 years of Marine Corps experience in the Ammunition Community waiting for curious citizens.



2015 Marine Week Ammunition display.

Ammunition Technicians of Bangor, Washington

By GySgt Jason J. St. Pierre



I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to experience the many roles and responsibilities an Ammunition Technician in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) may be asked to perform. From operating as a using unit Ammo Tech to an Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) Ammo Tech, I have gained experience in both roles while supporting combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here, at Naval Base Kitsap (NBK), Bangor, Washington, our role is supporting security operations for some of our nation's strategic assets on a 24/7 basis, 365 days a year. Bangor is the third largest Navy base in the U.S.

Throughout the Marine Corps, Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for an ASP are built around the same fundamentals. Procedures are structured to best fit the environment in which the ASP is located, but the fundamentals remain the same. Many environments differ from one to the next, operationally and geographically, from combat to garrison, and from CONUS to OCONUS. Here in Bangor, Washington, away from traditional ASPs, is the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion (MCSFBN)—a Marine battalion on a Naval installation that blends an array of both Navy and USMC regulations covering every aspect of our daily operations on both the records-side of business

and the issuance, transportation and storage end. In addition to real-world security operations, we support the training and sustainment of qualifications required for providing security for weapons and assets for both Navy and Marines. With only three Ammo Tech 2311s and a handful of civilians, we run the ammunition operations for both Navy and Marine ammunition accounts.

Of the many unique challenges being an Ammo Tech at Bangor presents, most notably is balancing the requirements of both the ammunition support and using unit aspects of our MOS at the same time. The upside is you gain an in-depth understanding and appreciation for both. The downside is that you are always shorthanded due to the fact the personnel working in each section can never cross-pollinate responsibilities. To counter this, we have additional Marines from other sections, from the S4 to the Arms, Ammunition and Explosives program, who assist when an Ammo Tech 2311 is out of pocket. To keep the integrity of the program, we have one Records Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), one Storage NCO and the Ammo Chief, who also acts as the Logistics Chief, to supervise the overall processes and procedures.

Overall, being an Ammo Tech at Bangor can only be thoroughly un-

derstood through the experience itself. If you are a Marine who enjoys being challenged, supporting a vitally important national-level mission set and consistently being held to the highest standard by numerous outside inspecting agencies, MCSFBN-Bangor is for you. The personal pride and learned professionalism that come from being part of the nation's "Gold Standard" unit for Weapons Security is well worth the additional time and stress that accompany the dynamic environment. Adaptability is paramount here, which makes it an outstanding place for a hungry, young NCO. Overall, being an Ammo Tech at Bangor is a unique and rewarding experience. The memories made here can surely be complemented by the beauty of the natural scenery of the great Pacific Northwest. With the Olympic Mountains one hour to the west and the Cascade Mountain range, home of the notoriously elusive "Bigfoot," to the east, you will find a plethora of options to fill your weekends and holidays throughout the seasons. Also, if the city atmosphere is more your style, Seattle is only a short 30 minute ferry-ride away. If you are a Marine who makes it a point to grow through challenges and creating your own experiences, make it a point to get here.

Unique Bangor Background

We are detached from any major USMC base and support ourselves. We are our own ASP and users, half Navy and half USMC, and we have ammo allocations to support each service's own training.

In addition to our normal USMC operations, we also support weapons security.

We are stationed in the most beautiful and wet corner of America. We have stood 6 – 7 inspections and rocked them all.

Our largest training operation took place late last year, in which we simulated an incident and worked jointly with federal (FBI) and naval forces (Navy Region Northwest) to conduct the training and coordinate the responses.

The Ammo Tech experience is a bit different than the normal ASP or Fleet tour.



Moving Mountains at the 29 Palms FASP

By Cpl Jeffrey A. Wagner, Ammunition NCO

In early January, an all-volunteer group of Ammunition Technicians from Ammo Company, 1st Supply Battalion (BN) aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA, detached from its normal duties at the Las Pulgas Ammunition Supply Point (ASP) and pushed out to the Gypsum Ridge Field Ammunition Supply Point (FASP) at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, where it would conduct ammo operations in support of ITX 2-16 for the next 6 – 7 weeks. Despite the almost routine nature of the ITX, developing an efficient operating procedure for the FASP has proven to be a difficult task for past evolutions. However, Warrant Officer (WO) David L. Lawson and his team of Marines have worked hard to set the bar high for future Ammo Detachments by using an innovative, comprehensive system that not only guarantees 100% accountability of Class V(W) assets but also gives FASP Marines hands-on experience with operating a large-scale FASP or Ammunition Holding Area

(AHA) as a using unit tech in an expeditionary environment.

The FASP supports ITX training both through the Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group (TTECG) and white space training for units that have gaps between ITX events. Supported units include two separate Ground Combat Elements from 2nd BN, 7th Marines and 3rd BN, 3rd Marines; artillery batteries from 1st BN, 12th Marines; a Logistics Combat Element from Combat Logistics Battalion (CLB) 5; an Air Combat Element from MWSS-373 and VMM-363; and coyotes from TTECG who evaluate each of the units on their performance on the range. The ammunition requirements for ITX totaled over 600 pallets, equaling 380.83 short tons with 270,483.0362 lbs net explosive weight.

The new issue/receipt process was developed in order to keep effective accountability of each unit's ITX ammunition in holding, while efficiently

conducting issue and receipt procedures to ensure that ammo was on target and on time.

TTECG submitted separate e-581 requests via Total Ammunition Management Information System (TAMIS) for each unit's allocation. Using those requests, the FASP set up a Field Storage Unit (FSU) for each battalion and FASP Marines were broken up into teams for each FSU. The unit Ammo Techs conducted a joint inventory of their FSU with FASP personnel and subsequently signed for their entire allocation of ammo up front.

The Records section generated an internal TTECG allocation request form along with "D7A Issue" and "D6A Receipt" forms to take the place of TAMIS requests and Ordnance Information System (OIS)-generated 1348-1a documents. By taking the paperwork offline, the units were able to rollover ammunition from previous ranges and submit rapid



requests to top their stock off for the next event. Had the FASP used TAMIS and OIS for every transaction as past ITX evolutions had, ammunition rollover from one event to the next would not have been possible. Allowing units to rollover ensured that timelines were met while at the same time limiting Grade III and excessively broken out munitions.

White space ammunition was kept in its own FSU and accounted for via OIS and TAMIS due to the slow-paced nature of the white space training timeline. The familiarity of this process provided a constant for FASP Marines to compare with the new TTECG process. Throughout the training cycle, FASP Marines were reminded of the similarities of the two approaches of accounting for ammunition and how that relates to being a using unit tech.

Sgt Michael Goldsby, Receipt, Storage, Segregation, Issue Chief of the FASP and prior using unit

tech, said, “I think what we are doing out here closely resembles what a unit tech would set up. The process gives the Marines a look into what it is like to run an AHA in an expeditionary environment.”

That was the intent of FASP Officer in Charge (OIC), WO Lawson, who was a unit tech for the majority of his 15+ year career. WO Lawson is no stranger to the FASP. He has been there several times before as a BN Ammo Chief, but this was his first time running the FASP as the OIC. I asked WO Lawson what the biggest differences from his perspective have been, and he answered, “It is the enlisted Marines’ responsibility to track receipts, issues and expenditures of ammunition in an effort to ensure that your unit is only expending the ammunition that is designated for each event...The ammunition OIC is not only responsible for the proper storage, accountability and safety of ammunition stored at the FASP,

but he also serves as the senior advisor for all ammunition matters.”

Throughout ITX, WO Lawson provided recommendations on how the unit tech should be conducting their ammunition transactions in a field environment. His guidance helped the units reduce the amount of excessively broken out and Grade III ammunition, as well as assisted the unit to accurately request ammunition for their next event.

ITX 2-16 was a huge step forward for the ammunition community. WO Lawson and his Marines’ success have impacted the way future ITX ammo detachments will conduct operations at the FASP. A procedures handbook based on ITX 2-16 was written up at I MEF Ammo in an attempt to standardize FASP operations in 29 Palms, which will help Marines who come out to the FASP in the future. Through their hard work and innovation, the Marines with ITX 2-16 have effectively set up future ammo detachments for success.



Photo by Cpl Tyler Viglione

Foreign Military Sales

By CWO2 Richard Raines



Selling weapons to foreign militaries has many aspects, and many of us come at it from different perspectives and experiences. I was exposed to an aspect of Foreign Military Sales (FMS)—as it relates to a tactical level set of tasks—in my capacity as an Ammunition Officer in the Middle East. This article will attempt to define the program, provide some background on its origins and then highlight my tactical-level interface with it to help shed more light on the program from that perspective.

What is FMS?

FMS is used by the United States as means to achieve strategic security cooperation with foreign nations. One of those nations is Iraq, where the United States uses FMS programs as a diplomatic and military instrument of national power to influence political-military action and train the forces within the borders, to include Iraqi Security Forces and Peshmerga Kurds. The Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq runs the FMS program under U.S. Chief of Mission-Baghdad authority with the oversight and advice from personnel in Washington, D.C., including the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Defense and the Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

The U.S. FMS program originated from the Arms Control and Disarmament Act (ACDA) and U.S. Foreign Assistance Act (USFAA) of 1961. The purpose of the ACDA is to control and reduce the worldwide population of destructive armaments, including nuclear weapons, and prevent another world war. On the other end of the spectrum is the USFAA, which was created to promote foreign

policy, security and welfare of the U.S. by aiding foreign nations in developing economically and socially, coupled with developing external security assistance. If you have seen the U.S. Agency for International Development logo, then you have seen USFAA, because they are the governing agency. The main focus of FMS in Iraq is to support the counter-terrorism fight.

Who are we providing FMS to?

We currently provide FMS to many countries throughout the world, including both the Iraqi Security Forces and



the Peshmerga. The focus of this article will surround a trip to Erbil, Iraq in support of the Peshmerga and briefly touch on the experiences I encountered relative to FMS and my role in it. The Peshmerga, whose name translates as “those who face death,” are the Kurdish fighters that number around 190,000. These fighters have their roots in groups of loosely organized tribal border guards dating back to the late 1800s, but were formally structured as the national fighting force of the Kurdish people after the Ottoman Empire fell in the wake of World War I.

Why this is Important to Me?

As the Kuwait Ammunition Liaison, an opportunity arose to build partner

capacity alongside the Peshmerga. The team was assembled from the Ammunition billets around Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, and comprised of persons from within the Army and Marine Corps. When we landed in Erbil, it was a small base on the outskirts of a commercial airport. Escorted by the Army Liaison on the ground, we moved to a Peshmerga Logistics Base on the outskirts of Erbil. The photos in this article show the attentiveness with which the Peshmerga take care of their assets. A factor in deciding how much FMS goes to certain groups is their ability to store and manage capacity limits.

We also had the opportunity to plan for an ammunition supply point that would house the majority of the assets used for Special Operations Forces and Coalition partners in the fight against terrorism. The Peshmerga were extremely welcoming and had recently received the first shipment of FMS.

Teaching about compatibility and storage procedures through the interpreter proved to be challenging. There were a plethora of different weapon systems sent from around the world used in their fight. We addressed multiple problems pertaining to weapon systems with the wrong ammunition, or weapons without the proper SL-3 associated with it.

In the end, the FMS was delivered and analysis of potential force multipliers (specific rounds needed to put multiple weapon systems in the fight) was socialized with the logistics planners collecting the data.

WARRANT OFFICER: TO APPLY OR NOT APPLY

By CWO4 J.J. Scholten, NMC Sasebo LNO

Just as the Marine Corps needs good Master Gunnery Sergeants, Sergeants Major, and Second Lieutenants, we also need good Warrant Officers. There are many ways to positively increase our restricted officer applicants over the next few years, and this article is written in an effort to alleviate common hesitations.

I do not know if I have the necessary technical proficiency to be considered a “technical expert.”

Every Marine is a technical expert. Battalion Commanders expect unrestricted officers to have technical competence. The Warrant Officer Program reviews qualified applicants' submissions and selection is based on their performance and leadership potential. The Warrant Officer Promotion Board is the same as any other promotion board. You will be selected based on your performance and leadership capability. Have no doubts, the Marine Corps promotes leaders and performers, not Marines who are really good at doing one job.

I have never worked at an Ammunition Supply Point (ASP).

Your end-user experience as a unit technician may set you up even better for success. After years of being subjected to local ASP policies and procedures, you will quickly find yourself as a valuable asset to affect change; improving our ability to support the Warfighter. Overly concerned? The NAVSEA OP 5 and applicable Orders are free downloads. Spend time reading them; you will be required to as an Officer.

I have tattoos.

You will need to familiarize yourself with applicable Orders pertaining to tattoos. However, like many others, there are waivers.

I do not have the EL score.

Is your Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score greater than 90? If so, then you are in there with a waiver. Still do not meet those scores? You may take or use ACT and SAT scores in lieu of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test; life is all about options.

I heard The Basic School (TBS) is demanding.

Marines love challenges: combat is challenging, physical training is challenging. We should always continue to challenge ourselves, and this may be your opportunity. You will be pushed outside of your comfort zone to prepare you for success as a leader. Leaders are comfortable in uncomfortable situations; Warrant Officer Basic Course

(WOBC) will validate this. You will be selected based on your demonstrated leadership potential. It is likely performing at WOBC will be a natural experience for you.

I want to be a Company Commander.

Although there are additional commissioning programs available, if you want to be an Ammunition Company Commander, you must first be a Warrant Officer.

I want to be a Master Gunnery Sergeant/Sergeant Major.

You should not apply for Warrant Officer if you wish to be one of our Senior Enlisted Leaders.

I am not an Ammo Tech, so I cannot put 2340 down as a Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) preference.

The MOS manual states you must have been qualified as a 2311 to be eligible. The variable is an annual update/supplement from our 2340 Occupational Field sponsor is submitted to the promotion board. It is unlikely you will see this. The supplement may or may not include preferences to select from outside the MOS. Short answer: if you strive to be an Ammunition Officer, fire away.

My Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge/Officer in Charge thinks it would be best if I wait a couple years.

Eligibility is eligibility, and the Warrant Officer Program is voluntary. Although the recommendation of your immediate chain of command is valued and may include “not recommended,” it is the endorsements received (enthusiasm, confidence, reservation, or “not recommended”) throughout your operational chain of command that will matter the most. Ultimately, the board will determine if you are ready and it is your responsibility to apply.

I do not know where to start.

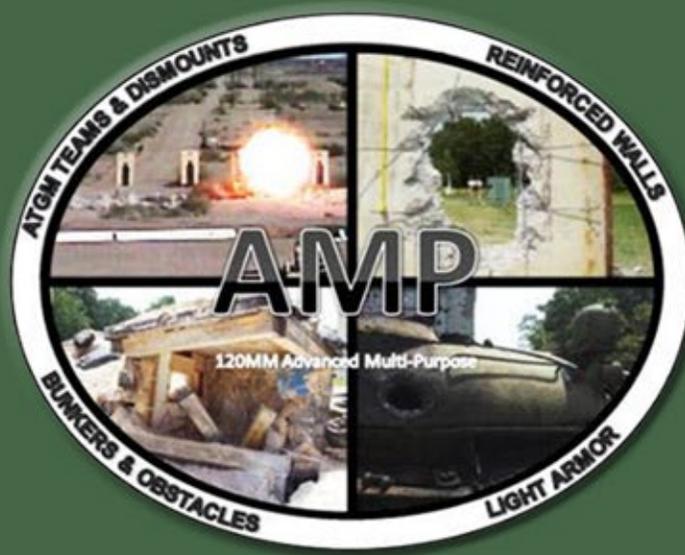
If you can review MARADMINs, then you are in the right place. This year's MARADMIN is Number 621/15, and it is an excellent starting place to begin the application process.

In summary, the Warrant Officer program is a voluntary process that requires a Marine to research references, compile information, complete requirements and prepare a package. Do not be deterred by administrative tasks—especially if you feel you are a candidate for an Officer program. There are many other fallacies associated with the Warrant Officer program. If you have any questions, feel free to contact an Ammunition Officer. Good luck, Marines!

Advanced 120mm Round Gives Tank Crews More Versatility

Article is reprinted with permission from The Picatinny Voice (originally appeared in the January 22, 2016 issue)

By Cassandra Mainiero, Picatinny Arsenal Public Affairs



After awarding two development contracts in July 2015, Picatinny Arsenal's Program Executive of Ammunition Office starts its new year by preparing to improve the Advanced Multi-Purpose (AMP) 120mm round.

The AMP is a single tank round that has different capabilities. It can:

- Serve as a ground and air fuse
- Defeat dismounted infantry
- Reduce obstacles
- Defeat anti-tank guided missile teams at extended ranges
- Breach reinforced walls

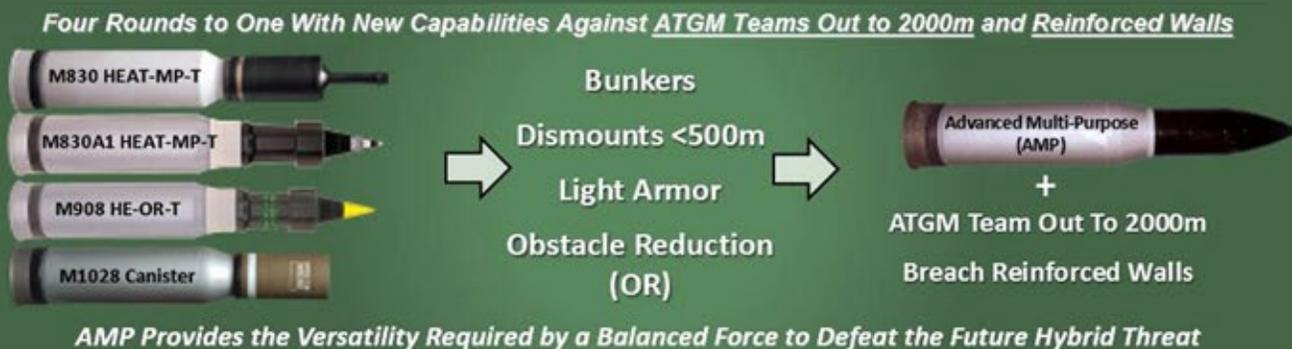
It replaces and combines four stockpile tank munitions (the M830 High Explosive Anti-Tank round, M830A1 Multi-purpose Anti-Tank round, M1028 Canister round and the M908 Obstacle Reduction round). These former rounds are fired from the Abrams tank, one of heaviest battle tanks in the field.

"Having one round for multiple targets saves critical time for Soldiers in combat since they will always have an effective round for whatever target they identify," said LtCol Kyle McFarland, Product Manager of Large Caliber Ammunition.

That organization is part of Project Manager Maneuver Ammunition Systems (PM-MAS).

"Our current inventory does not allow that," LtCol McFarland continued. "Plus, the AMP addresses requirements that emerged from recent conflicts with increased use of tanks in urban environments, and extended range of dismounted anti-tank weapons, which necessitate the tank engaging dismounted troops at greater ranges in addition to attacking enemy vehicles."

The AMP project includes technical support from Picatinny's Armament



Research, Development and Engineering Center.

However, the Picatinny team also works closely with the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command and the Department of Defense Director for Operational Test and Evaluation to provide the product to its customer, the Maneuver Center of Excellence in Fort Benning, Georgia.

AMP entered the engineering and manufacturing development, or EMD, in 2015. PM MAS separated EMD for the AMP into two phases. During Phase One, two contractors (Orbital ATK and General Dynamics – Ordnance and Tactical Systems) will work to develop, build and demonstrate their proposed designs.

Based on the results of that demonstration, PM MAS will then select a single contractor. In Phase Two, the selected contractor will complete its design effort and qualify a single design for production.

REDUCING RISKS AND COSTS

By taking two completed designs into the EMD stage, PM MAS reduces technical risks and overall lifecycle costs.

“If you were to compare the cost of a single AMP round to one of the single rounds it replaces, the AMP is going to cost more,” explained LtCol McFarland. “However, by placing all these different capabilities into one round, we replace four rounds in the current inventory.

“Right now our crews face the dilemma as they go into combat of deciding what rounds to load in the turret and carry in the gun. If they choose wrong, they could have a mismatch between target and ammunition, which will cost them valuable seconds while in enemy contact.

“The AMP not only eliminates that dilemma, it provides two new capabilities that none of our current ammunition provides,” LtCol McFarland continued.

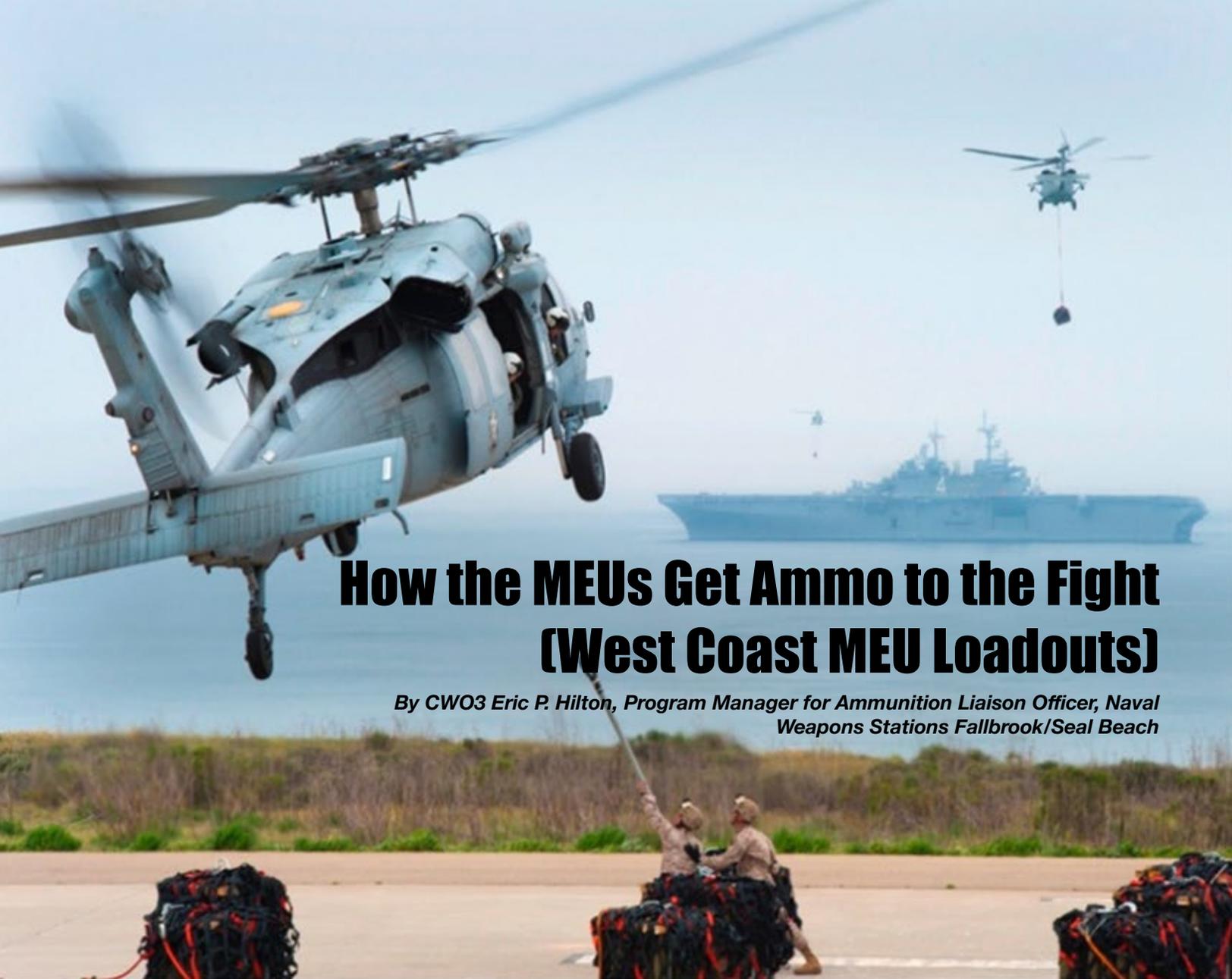
“So AMP offers great value to our Soldiers that a per-round cost comparison can’t cover all that well.”

Upon completion of Phase Two, the AMP will enter into Limited Rate Initial Production followed by full-rate production, and ideally be fielded to Soldiers in 2021.

“AMP provides tank crews with confidence that they will have the right ammunition loaded as they move to contact regardless of the type of target presented,” said LtCol McFarland.

“This ability to shave seconds off the first effective engagement can mean the difference between life and death,” LtCol McFarland added.

“AMP also expands the tanks capabilities to align with the modern battlefield where tanks are expected to do much more than simply fight other tanks and this helps keep the Abrams tank relevant through its expected life cycle of 2050.”



How the MEUs Get Ammo to the Fight (West Coast MEU Loadouts)

By CWO3 Eric P. Hilton, Program Manager for Ammunition Liaison Officer, Naval Weapons Stations Fallbrook/Seal Beach

Marines have been and will always be first to fight. This is a hallmark of who we are and what we do. The first in the fight is the Marine Expeditionary Unit, or MEU. Some of us have even had the pleasure of serving in one of these elite units. We often hear terms like “tip of the spear,” “elite Warfighters” and “best of the best.” However, do we ever stop to ask where and how the MEUs get the ammunition they need to complete their mission? Well, I am glad you asked.

Seal Beach/FallBrook (Landing Zone Viewpoint)

On the West Coast, there are two Naval Weapons Stations (NWS) that support

the Marine Corps ammunition mission in this regard. Those stations are NWS Seal Beach and NWS Fallbrook. Each supports a different aspect of the loading requirements, but they work together perfectly.

MARFORPAC 4080 Requirements

The Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) Command Order 4080 is the publication that delineates requirements for MEU Landing Forces Operations Reserve Material, Marine Training Allowance, non-lethal package and Marines Special Operations Command requirements to be loaded aboard amphibious warfare ships.

Alternate Load Plans

This order gives the standard break-out for each vessel. It gives the Department of Defense Identification Code, quantity and purpose for each item, as well as which ship it is to be loaded on. However, in today’s dynamic environment and the fluid mission requirements of each MEU, the MEU Commander can authorize certain changes to how his ammunition stocks are loaded out. These changes must be validated to ensure there is enough space on the vessel, as magazine space is very tight aboard ship.

Plans/Processing/Rework

Once the NWS receives the load plans,



there is plenty of work to be done and not a whole lot of time to get it done. With combined Marine and Navy Stocks that must go aboard a big deck; LHA/LHD total 1000+ pallets or 400+ pallets for the small decks. The staff not only has to pull, prepare and block and brace the assets for ship board loadout of the NWS but also take care of all logistical requirements of moving the ammunition to and from the vessels. There are some specific requirements for each location.

Pier-Side and VERTREP

Seal Beach does pier-side and explosive anchorage operations.

Fallbrook Annex handles Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP) Operations.

Personnel/Transportation/Coordination (All Agencies)

Pier-side operations are in-house evolutions at Seal Beach; VERTREPs require a lot of coordination, management and supervision. VERTREPs require coordination with the following entities: Seal Beach, I MEF units, AmmoPac, Base Explosive Safety, California Transportation Department and contracting offices for logistical equipment. All of these organizations have a role to fill in the “big picture” that allows Fallbrook Annex to com-

plete its mission of on-loading and off-loading vessels.

Adjusting to Changes

Once ammunition is loaded, Notices of Ammunition Reclassifications (NARs) can still affect deployment stocks aboard vessels. If this is the case, then it falls on the desk of the Fallbrook Marine Corps Liaison Officer to replace those stocks and get disposition for the old stock. This is accomplished in a numbers of ways, but depending on the item, net explosive weight and quantity, it is usually replaced when docked at Bravo Pier aboard North Island Naval Air Station, Coronado, California.

MISSION

In support of the National Strategic Plan and Defense Planning Guidance, 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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