

FY10 Conventional Ammunition Overview

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Since the inception of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), now referred to as Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO), the Marine Corps conventional ammunition posture has been able to support the increased and continuing tempo of operations, new organizations such as the US Marines Special Operations Command (USMARSOC), and the demands for new ammunition capabilities. Although FY09 presented challenges in overall ammo support, combat as well as live fire training requirements have been generally met while maintaining adequate levels of support to our war reserve prepositioning needs (MPF, MEU-LFORM, etc) of the forces. Corps wide, we must maintain ammo domain relevancy. The global environment is a product of continuous change, some positive, some not so. These global force changes necessitate a constant review of our collective efforts to ensure we maintain, and retain our ammunition process and procedures to accommodate the future warfighting capabilities of our Marine Forces.

We will continue to see adjustments to the overall War Reserve Requirements on an annual basis as the Marine Corps embraces and matures the Munitions Requirement Process. Marine Corps training usage of live ammunition is nearing \$500M annually. We entered 2010 with a balanced approach in the Program Objective Memoranda (POM) investment for ammunition, while taking some risk in certain categories of ammunition requirements not directly related to combat operations. Throughout FY03-FY10, supplemental funding has allowed the Marine Corps to recoup combat expenditures experienced during OEF/OIF. Clearly, one of the most significant challenges facing Marine Corps ammo is the continuing support for "Grow the Force" numbers, that which raised total USMC end-strength to 202,000 Marines. A well planned, methodical approach was used in developing the 202K ammo build however, with the timeline in reaching 202K two years earlier than anticipated, coupled with continuous and at times significant fiscal reductions, support of this institutional growth comes with challenges.

As we progress in FY10, PM Ammo will continue all efforts to meet the ammo demands of the MARFORS. Ammo is a critical Corps commodity that requires significant fiscal investment just to meet the most crucial (not all) requirements of MCCDC developed Total Munitions Requirement (TMR) and, a commodity that experiences high inventory turnover. Early in FY10, we began receipt of our first deliveries of the precision 155MM GPS guided Excalibur projectile providing a first "precise" capability to Marine Artillery. This will be followed in FY11 with the Precision Guidance Kit (PGK). The PGK (fuze), a low cost precision solution, will enhance the accuracy of 155MM artillery projectiles at mid to max ranges using GPS to provide the location of the round and time during its flight, and an inertial navigation system (INS) to determine and continuously correct its trajectory for increased accuracy. And most recently, we have provided an enhanced small arms cartridge, the MK 318 Mod 0 to our Marine Forces engaged in OEF. In waiting is the U.S. Army developed M855A1 Lead-Free Slug (LFS). While no decision has been made regarding the Corps wide replacement of our basic M855 ball cartridge (A059), these two cartridge provide alternatives for a more consistently performing small arms capability.

As always, it is imperative that we continue to convey, at all levels, the importance of efficient and effective ammunition management and usage. The high cost and length of time to regenerate ammo expenditures and the dynamic environment of OCO requires prudent use of this critical commodity.

