

//UNCLASSIFIED//
191511Z Oct 15
FROM CDR USAJMC ROCK ISL IL//AMSJM-QAS//
740(A)

SUBJECT: AMMUNITION INFORMATION NOTICE (AIN 004-16) UNIT LEVEL DELINKING/LINKING OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION (SAA) OR MEDIUM CALIBER AMMUNITION (MCA)

1. AIN 003-16 WAS TRANSMITTED ON 071708Z Oct 15

2. THIS AIN SUPERSEDES AIN 060-15.

3. DODICS: AA01, AA02, AA04, AA05, AA06, AA07, AA08, AA34, AA35, AA37, AA39, AA44, AA50, AA58, AA85, AB03, AB04, AB30, AB35, AZ33, AZ34, AZ35, AZ36, AZ41, A062, A064, A073, A075, A111, A127, A128, A131, A143, A146, A147, A151, A152, A163, A164, A165, A168, A255, A257, A258, A516, A517, A518, A519, A520, A523, A526, A527, A528, A530, A533, A534, A539, A540, A543, A544, A545, A546, A547, A549, A550, A551, A553, A554, A555, A557, A559, A564, A572, A573, A576, A577, A581, A583, A584, A585, A586, A589, A590, A592, A593, A595, A596, A598, A599, A601, A602, A603, A605, A607, A608

4. REFERENCES:

A. AR 385-63, RANGE SAFETY, DATED 30 JANUARY 2012

B. DA PAM 385-63, RANGE SAFETY, DATED 16 APRIL 2015

5. REQUEST THIS INFORMATION BE PASSED TO ALL UNITS/PERSONNEL HANDLING AND USING LINKED SMALL ARMS OR MEDIUM CALIBER AMMUNITION (MCA). UNIT COMMANDERS, SENIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND RANGE PERSONNEL SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE CONCERNS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 11 BELOW.

6. BLUF:

A. UNITS ARE AUTHORIZED TO DELINK/LINK A SINGLE DODIC OF SAA OR MCA FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE BELT LENGTH.

B. UNITS ARE PROHIBITED FROM DELINKING A SINGLE DODIC OF SAA OR MCA TO ALTER THE DODICS ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION, SUCH AS REMOVING TRACER ROUNDS FROM A BALL AND TRACER DODIC, OR REMOVAL OF INDIVIDUAL ROUNDS FOR USE IN SINGLE FIRE WEAPONS, SUCH AS IN SNIPER RIFLES.

C. UNITS ARE PROHIBITED FROM DELINKING/LINKING TWO OR MORE DODICS OF SAA OR MCA INTO A NONSTANDARD AMMUNITION CONFIGURATION.

7. DEFINITION:

A. NONSTANDARD: A NONSTANDARD ITEM OF EXPLOSIVE OR AMMUNITION RELATES TO AN ITEM THAT IS A STANDARD ITEM OF DEMOLITION OR MUNITIONS THAT HAS BEEN ALTERED FROM WHICH IT WAS

MANUFACTURED AND THEN STILL USED AS INITIALLY INTENDED, (SEE ABOVE REFERENCES 4 A, PARA 2-3B AND 4 B, PAGE 233, SECTION II TERMS FOR COMPLETE DEFINITION.).

B. SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION: ALL AMMUNITION THROUGH .50 CALIBER.

C. MEDIUM CALIBER AMMUNITION: INCLUDES 20MM, 25MM, 30MM, 40MM.

8. EXAMPLES AND RESULTS OF ALTERING SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION: DELINKING AND RELINKING SAA INTO A NONSTANDARD AMMUNITION CONFIGURATION INCLUDE:

A. LINKING 7.62MM AMMUNITION FROM DODIC A131 (4 BALL M80/1 TRACER M62 IN M13 LINKS) WITH DODIC AA04 (4 M993 AP/1 TRACER M62 IN M13 LINKS). THIS UNAUTHORIZED CONFIGURATION CREATES TWO SERIOUS SITUATIONS: FIRST, THE LOSS OF LOT IDENTITY MAKES THE AMMUNITION UNSERVICEABLE AND UN-ISSUABLE. SECOND, ATTEMPTS TO USE SUCH AN AMMUNITION CONFIGURATION IN AN EXTERNALLY POWERED WEAPON SYSTEM I.E., M134 MINIGUN MAY CREATE A HAZARD TO PERSONNEL AND/OR MAJOR DAMAGE TO WEAPON SYSTEMS. BOTH DODICS A131 AND AA04 MAY NOT HAVE BEEN TESTED IN THE MINIGUN TO ENSURE PROPER 'ACTION TIME'. LONG ACTION TIME OR HANGFIRE IS KNOWN TO CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE MINIGUN AND INJURY TO PERSONNEL.

B. THE MOST FREQUENT REASON SAA HAS BEEN IMPROPERLY DELINKED AND RELINKED IS TO REMOVE TRACER ROUNDS DURING TIMES OF HIGH FIRE HAZARD. REQUESTING UNITS SHOULD PLAN PROPERLY FOR SITUATIONS SUCH AS SEASONAL FIRE HAZARDS, AND COORDINATE WITH APPROPRIATE G3 TRAINING AMMUNITION SECTION FOR ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS. ACROSS THE ARMY, THIS PRACTICE ALONE GENERATES TENS OF THOUSANDS OF UNSERVICEABLE ROUNDS OF SAA WHICH REQUIRE ADDITIONAL INSPECTION, HANDLING, AND STORAGE TO PROCESS UNTIL DEMIL.

9. EXAMPLES AND RESULTS OF ALTERING MEDIUM CALIBER AMMUNITION: DELINKING AND RELINKING MCA INTO A NONSTANDARD AMMUNITION CONFIGURATION INCLUDE:

A. LINKING MULTIPLE BELTS OF DODIC B542 (40MM HEDP LINKED) INTO A DOUBLE OR TRIPLE LENGTH BELT THAT CREATES A WEIGHT HAZARD FOR THE WEAPON AND THE USER. A RECENT INCIDENT OCCURRED WHEN A MULTI-LINKED BELT WAS TOO HEAVY FOR THE USER TO CARRY AND WHEN IT WAS DROPPED, ONE ROUND STRUCK ITS PRIMER AND FIRED. FOR VEHICLES SUCH AS THE STRYKER, CROWS, OR OTHERS USING UP-GUN STATIONS, IT IS RECOMMENDED TO LINK AN ADDITIONAL BELT WHILE A BELT IS ALREADY IN THE FEED CHUTE.

B. UNITS MUST ENSURE THAT DELINKED ROUNDS AREN'T MISTAKEN FOR ROUNDS ACTUALLY CYCLED IN THE WEAPON. LIVE ROUNDS THAT HAVE BEEN CYCLED THROUGH THE WEAPON ARE PROHIBITED FROM BEING RE-LINKED OR RECHAMBERED IN AN ATTEMPT TO FIRE PER MK19 MOD 3 TECHNICAL MANUAL.

10. EXAMPLES OF PERMISSIBLE DELINKING/LINKING OPERATIONS: UNITS ARE PERMITTED TO DELINK/LINK A SINGLE DODIC OF SAA OR MCA FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF THE BELT LENGTH IN SUPPORT OF TRAINING/QUALIFICATION OR MISSION SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING:

A. DELINKING DODIC A131 (CTG 7.62MM 4 BALL / 1 TRACER) FROM 100 RND BELTS TO 25 RND BELTS FOR TRAINING AS LONG AS THE ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION (4:1 BALL: TRACER) IS MAINTAINED.

B. LINKING 2 BELTS OF A131 TOGETHER FOR PATROL MISSIONS.

11. ASSURANCE OF THE OPERATIONAL RELIABILITY OF THE WEAPON SYSTEM IS MAINTAINED THROUGH USE OF STANDARD AMMUNITION CONFIGURATIONS. UNIT COMMANDERS, SENIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND RANGE PERSONNEL MUST ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS REGARDING THE UNIT'S SAA OR MCA MISSION:

A. LACK OF EXPLOSIVE SAFETY PROCEDURES, RISK ASSESSMENTS, AND STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR DELINK/RELINK MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS.

B. IMPROPER TOOLS OR PROCESSES TO DELINK/RELINK BELTS.

C. LOSS OF LOT INTEGRITY/IDENTITY.

D. LOSS OF ACCOUNTABILITY OF SERVICEABLE ROUNDS DELINKED FROM BALL/TRACER RATIO PACKS.

E. DIFFICULTY TRACKING THE SERVICEABILITY OF DELINKED/RELINKED AMMUNITION.

F. WASTE OF TRACER ASSETS. TRACER ROUNDS TURNED IN AFTER DELINKING CANNOT BE REISSUED IF LOT INTEGRITY IS NOT MAINTAINED.

G. DELINKING AND RELINKING COMPROMISES FUNCTIONAL PROPERTIES OF LINKS, I.E. M27 LINKS USED WITH 7.62MM AMMUNITION, LOSE APPROXIMATELY 2 IN-LBS IN TORQUE STRENGTH AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO DISASSEMBLY AND REASSEMBLY.

12. TECHNICAL POC FOR THIS AIN: ROBERT WEISSMAN, DSN: 880-3056, EMAIL: ROBERT.WEISSMAN@US.ARMY.MIL, RDAR-EIL-LA. POINT OF CONTACT FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS AIN IS CATHY JOHNSON, DSN 793-5092, AMSJM-QAS, EMAIL: CATHY.D.JOHNSON16.CIV@MAIL.MIL.

13. THIS AIN EXPIRES 31 OCT 16 UNLESS OTHERWISE RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.

//SIGNED//

JEAN-MICHEL W. SERRA

CHIEF, AMMUNITION SURVEILLANCE DIVISION