



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY TANK - AUTOMOTIVE AND ARMAMENTS COMMAND
ARMAMENT AND CHEMICAL ACQUISITION AND LOGISTICS ACTIVITY
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61299-7630

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

June 5, 1998

20.2201
JLC

Armament and Chemical Acquisition
and Logistics Activity, Safety Office

12-00722-13

Mr. Jamnes Cameron
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Nuclear Safeguards
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

30-21073

Dear Mr. Cameron:

We are providing a thirty-day report on an incident of a M43A1 Chemical Agent Detector (CAD) missing from Fort Riley. The loss was reported on May 13, 1998. We reported it to the NRC operations center the same day.

A unit was packing equipment to go to the Fort Irwin, California National Training Center (NTC). The command required the unit to provide an inventory of radioactive commodities that it would be taking. While preparing the inventory against what the unit was credited for on its hand receipt, the M43A1 CAD could not be accounted for. A search of the unit area has failed to recover the device. It is unknown when the loss actually occurred.

This is the type of loss that we expect to see more of over the next few months. This actually represents a greater degree of seriousness that the Army is applying to these commodities. Fort Irwin has established tighter requirements for units in training to present up to date inventories of radioactive material that they will be bringing to that installation. It was this new inventory requirement that brought this loss to light.

The device was wipe tested in September 1997 and that is apparently when it was last seen. A thorough battalion search of its units and storage areas failed to recover the device. The battalion leadership feels that the device is lost "somewhere within the limits of the Fort Riley Military Reservation" and not in an area where recovery by the general public is likely.

These devices are marked with labels advising any member of the general public to return an M43A1 CAD "to the nearest military installation."

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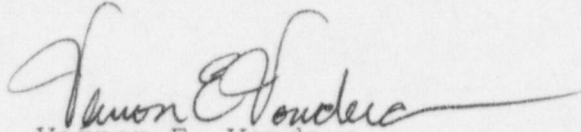
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JUN 08 1998

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The point of contact for this action is Mr. Jeff Havenner. A copy of the Fort Riley report is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vernon E. Vondera", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vernon E. Vondera
Chief, Safety Office

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, FORT RILEY
FORT RILEY, KANSAS 66442-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZN-ES-S (385-11k)

2 June 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command, ATTN: AFPI-SO, Fort McPherson,
GA 30330-6000

Director, Armament and Chemical Acquisition and Logistics Activity, ATTN: AMSTA-AC-SF,
Rock Island, IL 61299-7639

SUBJECT: Radiological Incident Follow-Up (ACALA File No. 98-23)

1. Reference Memorandum, Hq, 4th Bn, 1st Field Artillery, Fort Riley, KS, subject: Missing M43A1 Chemical Detector, dated 21 May 1998.
2. In accordance with 10 CFR 20.2201 and AR 385-11, Fort Riley notified U.S. Army Armament and Chemical Acquisition and Logistic Activity (ACALA) on 13 May 98 about a lost M43A1 Chemical Agent Alarm, and is now responding with a written report on this notification.
3. An investigation report has been prepared by Headquarters, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 1st Armored Division, Fort Riley, KS 66442 (encl). The Fort Riley Radiation Protection Officer has reviewed this report and concurs that it complies with AR 385-11. As part of the evaluation process the Fort Riley Radiation Officer has found the following:
 - a. Description. Lost item is believed to be cell module SN C-25220, containing 250 microcuries of Am-241 (9.25E6 Bq) from an M43A1 Chemical Agent Detector SN D-23835.
 - b. Circumstances. The julian date of last action (DLA) for property book accountability was given as 7084 for the chemical agent alarm in question. A combined property book, TIMMS, and DODRATTS annual reconciliation revealed the alarm was listed with B Battery, 4/1 FA with a last wipe test date of 8 Sep 97.
 - c. Disposition. No additions.
 - d. Exposures. None known.
 - e. Recovery. A comprehensive search has also been made of property book records, direct support unit wipe test records, and the installation DODRATTS database. The wipe test for 8 Sep 97 was verified by Rock Island Arsenal (Mr. Tom Gizicki) and the TIMMS data base at Fort Riley. The combined Jan 98 reconciliation list did show entries for the alarm on the property book, DODRATTS, and the TIMMS database listings. All unit connexes

AFZN-ES-S (385-11k)

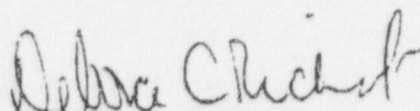
SUBJECT: Radiological Incident Follow-Up (ACALA File No. 98-23)

for B Battery, 4/1 FA were unpacked and searched with negative results prior to deployment to the National Training Center (NTC). Since the unit is still deployed, alarm listings at NTC are being monitored for this alarm. In addition, all on-hand alarms at DOL, Bldg 7920, were also checked with negative results.

e. Prevention. Problem does not appear systemic, see paragraph 2 of basic document. For actions to preclude recurrence, see paragraph 5 of basic document.

4. Point of contact for this report is Darrel G. Wilson, Installation Radiation Protection Officer, DSN 856-8539.

Encl



DEBORA C. RICHERT

Director of Environment and Safety

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery
1st Armored Division
Fort Riley, Kansas 66442

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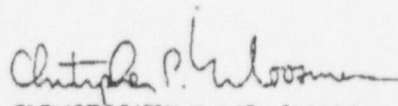
21 May 1998

MEMORANDUM THRU CDR, 3D BRIGADE, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION, FT. RILEY, KANSAS 66442

MEMORANDUM FOR DES-INSTALLATION SAFETY, FT. RILEY, KANSAS 66442

SUBJECT: Missing M43A1 Chemical Detector

1. On 12 May 1998, B/4-1 FA reported missing an M43A1 chemical detector which is the C Cell for an M-8 alarm (serial # D 23835). The chemical detector contains 250 mCi of Americium 241.
2. Circumstances. An investigation of the circumstances involving the incident indicates that improper hand receipt procedures within the battery led to the loss of accountability of the detector. The detector was not properly signed to the section and the section failed to sign it over to the NBC room when the section attempted to turn it in during recovery from field training the week of 6-10 April 1998. The detector was reported missing when the section began loading conex inserts for NTC rotation 98-08 on or about 12 May 98.
3. Disposition of Material. Based on the investigation, I have concluded that the detector is lost somewhere within the limits of the Fort Riley Military Reservation. There has been no radioactive exposure to soldiers from the detector. A wipe test was conducted by 125th FSB on 3 September 1997 and there was no indication of contamination.
4. Actions Taken to Recover Material. B/4-1 FA has conducted a thorough search of its battery area, motorpool, and firing positions it occupied during field training. In addition, the other batteries have verified that the M43A1 in question is not in their respective NBC rooms, conexes, vehicles, or storage areas. We have also searched both the direct support maintenance unit and the calibration facilities to verify the detector was not at either location.
5. Actions to Preclude Recurrence. Commanders will ensure that all NBC equipment is properly hand receipted in order to prevent loss of equipment accountability. Leaders, supply personnel, and NBC personnel will also be trained in the handling, care, safeguarding, and accountability of equipment containing radioactive material.
6. POC for this memorandum is 1LT Mike Borchers at 239-9619.
7. First or Not at All!!


CHRISTOPHER P. MOORMAN
LTC, FA
Commanding

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