



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

21 MAY 1998

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Armament and Chemical Acquisition
and Logistics Activity, Safety Office

12-00722-13

Mr. James Cameron
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Division of Nuclear Safeguards
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4351

Dear Mr. Cameron:

We are providing a thirty-day report on an incident of a lost M43A1 Chemical Agent Detector (CAD) from Fort Campbell, KY. This incident was reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Operations Center on May 1, 1998. The initial report provided to us by the Fort Campbell radiation protection office stated that the owning unit had not been able to account for the device since it returned from the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, CA in November 1998. The owning unit did not report the loss up the chain of command until approximately April 28, 1998. It was reported to this office on May 1, 1998.

The M43A1 CAD contains 250 microcuries of Am-241 as a foil disk affixed to silver backing epoxied onto a screen. The source disk is completely encased in a zinc metal box that is the cell module for the device. The cell module has single directional screws to prevent access to the source.

The M43A1 CAD belonging to B/244 ADA Bn was discovered to be missing when it came due for wipe test on April 23, 1998. According to written information submitted, the Battery Commander counted the device as being accounted for in January of 1998 during a 10 percent cyclic inventory because it was hand receipted to an individual in the battery. The Battery Commander never physically saw the item. The individual hand receipted for the M43A1 could not produce the device at the time it was required for wipe test and the CAD was subsequently reported as missing. The actual time or date of loss is difficult to determine as is the location of the loss since the hand receipt dated to the last time the unit was deployed to the NTC at Fort Irwin, CA in October 1997. The root cause appears to be neglect of the basic principles of property accountability. Proper inventories need to be done when units transition in and out of the field. Items such as M43A1 CAD should have been taken back from those hand receipted for them and checked into the

9807010286 980521
PDR ADOCK 03021073
C PDR

MAY 26 1998

1E-72

Reportable
10 CFR 20.2201
JLC

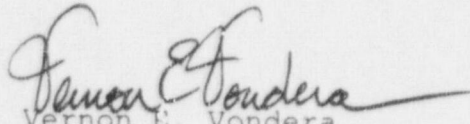
Nuclear Biological Chemical room. In this case only the routine 10 percent cyclic inventory was done months after the unit returned from NTC. At that time a hand receipt was accepted in lieu of physically verifying the presence of the device, again in neglect of established Army requirements. Only when the device had to be physically produced for wipe test did it become impossible to continue in denial.

Corrective steps that are being taken at Fort Campbell include reemphasis of existing property accountability rules and instructions to all commanders.

The report from the installation Radiation Protection Officer is attached.

The point of contact for this action is Mr. Jeff Havenner (309) 782-2965.

Sincerely,


Vernon E. Vondera
Chief, Safety Office

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION (AIR ASSAULT) AND FORT CAMPBELL
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY 42223-5000



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZB-GT-CM (385)

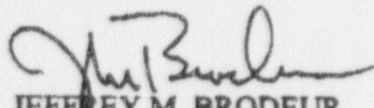
19 May 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Armament and Chemical Acquisition and Logistics
Activity, ATTN: AMSTA-AC-SF (Safety Office, Mr. Havenner,
Rock Island, IL 61299-7630

SUBJECT: Final Report of Missing M8A1 Chemical Agent Alarm (ACALA File Number 98-19)

1. Reference, Memorandum this headquarters, Initial CSIR Information-Missing M8A1 Chemical Agent Alarm, 1 May 1998.
2. The attached is the final report of the lost M8A1 Chemical Agent Alarm.
3. If the M8A1 Chemical Agent Alarm is found, this office will contact ACALA.
4. Point of Contact for this action is SFC Rhoades, Installation Radiation Protection Officer, comm (502) 798-7019, DSN 635-7019.

1 Encl.
as


JEFFREY M. BRODEUR
MAJ, CM
Deputy Division Chemical Officer

AFZB-GT-CM (385)

19 May 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Armament and Chemical Acquisition and Logistics
Activity, ATTN: AMSTA-AC-SF (Safety Office, Mr. Havenner,
Rock Island, IL 61299-7630

SUBJECT: Final Report of Missing M8A1 ACAA (ACALA File Number 98-19)

1. The following is the final report concerning the missing M8A1 Automatic Chemical Agent Alarm (ACAA) for B/2-44th ADA.
2. Date and Time of Incident: At approximately 011140S May 98
3. Type of Incident: Loss of a radioactive item, M8A1 ACAA. Detector Serial# Z03-D-13855, Cell Serial# Z03-C-14942. Cost is \$2,357.00. Isotope, Am241, 250uCi.
4. Location of incident: B/2-44th ADA, Bldg# 6940 at 42nd St. and Colorado, Fort Campbell, Kentucky 42223.
5. The following actions took place:

MAJ Brodeur (Div Chem) notified the 2/44th ADA Battalion Commander, that B/2-44th ADA supposedly lost accountability of an M8A1 ACAA. The Bn Cdr initiated a Cdr's inquiry. The Bn Cdr initiated a lock-down of B/2-44th ADA and directed an extensive search of CONEXS, MILVANS and COMMON areas. The Bn Cdr also directed that all M8A1s that were turned in to Direct Support for maintenance be picked up. The CofS and CG were notified. Bn Cdr directed all batteries to conduct 100% inventory of M8A1s. All were accounted for except the one from B/2-44th ADA. Bn Cdr notified Provost Marshall and requested assistance. CID sent 8 agents @ 1815hrs to conduct interviews. Bn Cdr placed a call to NTC to see if anyone had found an M8A1 ACAA. NTC reported no M8A1s have been found.

Bn Cdr received brief from CID: No gross negligence, theft, or malicious intent. SPC Hodges signed a HR for M8A1 on 16 Oct 97 from the NBC Room to take the M8A1 to NTC. 1750's for the MILVANS are not available for the MILVANS going to, or returning from NTC, therefore, CID can't prove whether the M8A1 went to NTC or if it returned from NTC. Regardless, no proper inventories have been conducted since the unit returned from NTC in NOV 97. This includes a 10% cyclic inventory conducted in Jan 98. The Battery Commander admitted that he only saw the 16 Oct 97 hand receipt and did not physically see the M8A1 ACAA. The Bn Cdr briefed the CofS and the ADC(S) on the findings. ADC(S) authorized the release of the battery.

AFZB-GT-CM (385)

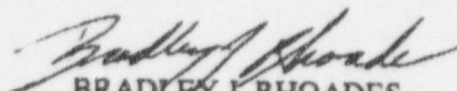
SUBJECT: Final Report of Missing M8A1 ACAA (ACALA File Number 98-19)

6. What actions were taken to fix or avoid future incidents?

The Bn Cdr and CSM talked to the battery, released the soldiers, and had a separate meeting with the Battery leadership concerning property accountability, existing policies and procedures, discipline and physical security. There are controls in place, i.e. regulatory guidance (Supply Update), Bn Cdr policy letter on property accountability, Battalion Leaders Handbook on post exercise operations that sufficiently prevent this from happening. This incident was obviously negligence for several key personnel in the battery in executing published guidance and direction. As stated previously, a Report of Survey will be initiated and conducted by a field grade officer in the Battalion.

7. There was no exposure to personnel involved in this case.

8. Point of Contact for this action is SFC Rhoades, Installation Radiation Protection Officer, DSN 635-7019, COM 502-798-7019.



BRADLEY J RHOADES

SFC, USA

Installation Radiation Protection Officer