



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY TANK-AUTOMOTIVE AND ARMAMENTS COMMAND
6501 EAST 11 MILE ROAD
DETROIT ARSENAL, MICHIGAN 48397-5000

September 3, 2026

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region III
2443 Warrenville Road, Suite 210
Lisle, Illinois 60532-4352

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is for NRC License Number 21-32838-01, Docket Number 030-38500.

We reported a licensed item found at a civilian dumpsite near Fort Wainwright, Alaska, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operations Center on August 6, 2026; this incident was assigned event notification (EN) # 58398. The item was returned to Army custody but is presumed to have been lost prior to its recovery, and was therefore reported under Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10, Part 20.2201(a). Enclosure 1 contains the information to meet 30-day reporting requirements in 10 CFR Part 20.2201(b).

If you have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Nathan A. Krzyaniak, Radiation Safety Officer, U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), 520-941-1184 or e-mail: nathan.a.krzyaniak.civ@army.mil.

Sincerely,

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Enclosure

ERIK M. GUSTAFSON
Director, Safety & Occupational Health

Enclosure 1: 30-day report elements required by 10 CFR 20.2201(b)

1. A description of the licensed material involved, including kind, quantity, and chemical and physical form:

The licensed material recovered include one M67 sight unit, including the elbow telescope, described in Sealed Source & Device Registration number NR-0155-D-126-S. One M67 sight unit contains several sealed vials of gaseous tritium totaling 5.79 curies. The recovered M67 sight unit is serial number 2322, and the elbow telescope is serial number E0821.

2. A description of the circumstances under which the loss or theft occurred; and

On 4 August, a civilian employed at Bassett Army Community Hospital, (BACH) discovered the licensed item at the Chena Pump Transfer Site, a garbage collection site, at 2395 Old Chena Ridge Road, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709. He placed the item in the back of his personal truck, and brought the item to BACH the following day, on 5 August, where he began inquiring about the return of Army property and the potential for it to contain radioactive material.

On the afternoon of 5 August, the local Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) at Fort Wainwright was notified by another BACH employee of the recovered material. The local RSO met the individual at BACH to take pictures of the recovered equipment and collect swipe samples to determine if the items were broken and externally contaminated. The items were transferred to military police custody shortly after this.

On 6 August 2026, the local radiation safety officer at Fort Wainwright contacted the license RSO, to notify us of the recovered equipment and seek advice on the next steps. Local military police took custody of the items, and currently have the assets stored in their evidence room, pending disposition instructions.

At the time of this writing, it is unclear how the items initially ended up at the civilian garbage collection site, or which specific Army unit is responsible for the improper disposal and loss of accountability. The investigation thus far has identified several long-standing gaps in the 11th Airborne Division's radiation safety program. It appears as though none of the Army units that possess M67 sight units on Ft Wainwright or JBER are conducting their annual inventories correctly and tracking serial numbers of licensed equipment in their possession, and the chain of command RSO within the 11th Airborne Corps has been unsuccessful in enforcing this requirement for several years. This lack of recordkeeping has made it challenging to determine the root causes or identify specific individuals that require additional training.

Enclosure 1: 30-day report elements required by 10 CFR 20.2201(b)

This event has prompted a response from the 11th Airborne Division's leadership, including a commitment to conducting a 100% physical inventory and correctly documenting serial numbers by March of 2027. A substantial number of personnel from the division are currently involved in an operation on another continent, contributing to delays in the current investigation and impacting the timeline for conducting a thorough physical inventory.

3. A statement of disposition, or probable disposition, of the licensed material involved:

The equipment is currently in the custody of military police at Fort Wainwright, double-bagged and secured in their evidence room. The equipment will be shipped to Anniston Army Depot, Alabama, for disassembly and eventual recycling of the tritium vials through Lawrence Livermore National Lab. The local RSO at Fort Wainwright is trained to ship radioactive materials.

4. Exposures of individuals to radiation, circumstances under which the exposures occurred, and the possible total effective dose equivalent to persons in unrestricted areas:

Swipe samples were collected on both the M67 sight unit and the elbow telescope and analyzed by the US Army nuclear counting laboratory at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. All samples came back below the lab's limit of detection for tritium. The elbow telescope was not illuminating at the time of recovery, but the external surfaces were not contaminated. The M67 sight unit appears intact and undamaged. Based upon these factors, and previously submitted risk assessments for broken tritium commodities, there is no potential exposure or intake to anyone involved in the loss and recovery of these assets.

5. Actions that have been taken, or will be taken, to recover the material:

The material is currently secured by Fort Wainwright military police, pending eventual disposition.

6. Procedures or measures that have been, or will be, adopted to ensure against a recurrence of the loss or theft of licensed material.

Immediate corrective actions:

- a. Assess and brief situation with Division and Brigade safety and leadership, Garrison Safety/RSO, and the licensee chain of command.
- b. Full physical inventory of all licensed tritium commodities at Fort Wainwright and JBER by brigade, results handed to TACOM and Garrison.
- c. Radiation safety user level training for all users of licensed tritium commodities at Fort Wainwright and JBER.
- d. Radiation Safety refresher training for Level 3 RSO at Fort Wainwright.

Enclosure 1: 30-day report elements required by 10 CFR 20.2201(b)

- e. We have received positive confirmation from the 11th Airborne Division's Chief of Staff that they are taking this investigation seriously, and plan to complete a 100% physical inventory by March of 2027.

Future corrective actions:

- a. Schedule an on-site visit in 2027 from the licensee staff to oversee a 100% physical inventory, marking excesses and shortages. Assist with dispositioning excess material. Re-assess all program elements previously assessed in 2023, and utilize chain of command to implement recommendations.
- b. Continue working with Army Material Command (AMC) and Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) to implement lasting policy changes that enhance license RSO authority over units outside the AMC chain of command.
- c. Continue requesting that HQDA resource and re-institute a radiation safety training program within the Army training enterprise.