

WEAPONS PERSPECTIVE

Air Combat Command Weapons Safety

“The Safety of People and Assets is the Highest Law”



The Weapons Safety office (HQ ACC/SEW) publishes the *ACC Weapons Safety Perspective*. The contents of this publication are informational and are not to be construed as directive in nature. The *ACC Weapons Safety Perspective* is published on a quarterly basis. Inputs may be e-mailed or mailed to:



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Mr. Michael K. Lawhorne

Chief, Weapons Safety

In this edition I want to bring everyone up to date on several issues near and dear to our hearts. First, let me say that in our opinion, the ACC Safety Conference was a huge success. The support of all the attendees was a big reason for the success and we thank you. I would like to ask if anyone who attended has any ideas that would enhance our future conferences, please contact us and let us know.

Next, let me update you on some personal changes that have or will occur in the near future in ACC. June 8th, my office will have MSG Odom from Barksdale and he'll help review site plans, so a lot of you will get to

know him quickly. Also, our office gained MSG Rick Daley, an AMMO troop who will work as an Action Officer and help perform PME's etc. Additionally, TSG Little is leaving in Nov. and we've hired MSG Joe Lowery to replace him as our Dyess Weapons Safety Course Instructor. TSG Little has an article in this edition of the *Perspective* that will provide you more detail on this change.

The rewrite of the AFMAN is proceeding and should be complete in the next several months. At that time the final coordination process will begin. The AFSC has hosted several conferences where specific chapters have been reviewed by MAJCOM representatives and concerns/issues addressed. The biggest change you'll notice is format and organization. Information has been consolidated and chapters realigned to better mirror DoD 6055.9. It will take some time to get use to it, but I truly believe it will be much improved over the current version. I won't go into detail on the many issues we discussed or all the criteria changes because nothing is final yet. In an effort to help you focus your attention we'll provide you with the big changes once the coordination process is complete.

I wanted to take the time to let all of you know that 12th AF received the first ever "Outstanding" rating on a PME. For other NAFs, the programs 12th AF have developed are the command standard and are worthy of review. Congratulations to MSG Haight and TSG Regin for their dedication and professionalism.

Lastly, let me discuss some of the issues brought up at the recent Explosive Safety Council. MSG Russell provided a brief on the proposed Explosive Siting Center of Excellence (ESCOE). The proposed office would consist of 6 individuals to include a superintendent, a structural engineer, contractors and enlisted site planners. The details of how they will operate have not been developed. In general terms, this office would act as an additional site planning tool to the WSMs. For example, if you came across an especially complex site plan, you would request (through the MAJCOM) for ESCOE support. Your request would be

prioritized and when it came to the top of the pile, ESCOE personnel would develop that particular site plan for you. They may do that by visiting your location or over the phone with your assistance. All this at no cost to the unit or MAJCOM. More to come as the proposal is funded and subsequently matures.

We found out that Lea Ann Cotton, AFSC/SEW is leaving to work with the DDESB. She will be missed and we wish her the best of luck. Her replacement has not been identified yet.

Many of the other topics we discussed, you are already aware of through other e-mails. Thanks again for all you do everyday in support of weapons safety.



MSgt Rob Bunce Superintendent, Weapons Safety Is New Better?

As I write this, I am opening hoards of e-mails with questions on the **new** AFI 91-204. As you know, 91-204 hit the streets before the AFMAN 91-221 did, creating some issues with reporting. After a few phone calls and e-mails this is what the end result is as of NOW! You will use the **new** 91-204 and use the draft version of AFMAN 91-221 that is located on the AFSC web site.

One of the **new** changes to the AFI is the hierarchy. Paragraph 1.6 lays out the mishap categories and sub-categories to show how a

mishap is classified. Until SAS comes out for weapons, this could get a little tricky. Here is a practice scenario. Let's say you have a load crew prepping a trailer of Mk-82's that are going on the A/C for the next flight and one crew member pinches his fingers between the bombs and breaks a finger. This mishap will be classified as Aviation, Aircraft Ground Operations, Ground and Industrial, Industrial Weapons. Too easy? Let's try one more. If you have the same crew loading missiles on that A/C and the crew dropped the missile and one of the members gets injured, you have an Aviation, Aircraft Ground Operations, Guided Missile, Ground and Industrial, Industrial Weapons. If you didn't get that, you're not alone. This will be trial and error (era) until we get on-line with SAS. So in the meantime, don't have any mishaps. Ha Ha! As with any **new** procedure comes a learning curve and this is no exception. I urge all of you to become familiar with the two **new** manuals and try not to get wrapped around the axles. Each mishap will generate a barrage of **new** questions. Please send those questions or problems to us, we will not sleep until we get you an answer. Right now, **new** may not seem better, but in the end it just might be!

I attended the AFSAS conf at Kirtland and Weapons SAS is still a little ways out. Hopefully before the end of the year we should have something. The big thing is that you know that 91-204 and 91-221 were designed to work with SAS.

“You are always one decision away from a mishap.”



MSgt Tim “Curley” Imel Command Manager Explosives “The (Curly) Initiative”

How goes it folks? I hope everyone is having a prosperous Weapons Safety day, month and year. I want to start by saying that it was good to see all of you that made it to our Safety Conference in March. I wish I could have met all of you but it was definitely good to put a face to a name with those of you that I did meet. Now you know why they call me Curly! I ended my last article with this statement, “I hope to use this newsletter as an avenue to bring out those new ideas and to express our concerns and then make recommendations on improvements for all of our safety customers.” This is where I would like to begin with this article.

I have finally settled into a routine here at ACC. I've been through some staff training and have been given some helpful hints and tips from the rest of our staff here. I've been able to peruse through our site plan database, make some adjustments and clear it up a little. I've also had a chance to interact with almost the entire Air Force Safety Center site planning staff and most of you. A lot is happening with site planning and the DDESB initiative to get them completed. I would like to share with you some early learning curves and tips to aid in site plan review and processing.

Explanation is the key. I will refer to this word again and again. Oftentimes unit transmittal letters meet the minimum requirements but don't fulfill some much needed clarification. Make it a point to explain situations like public traffic routes, electrical service lines, and lightning protection issues. The **biggy** here would be explaining that this new site plan replaces a previous DDESB approved site plan. This saves a lot of time on AF Safety Center review and explanation. It will also save time on us requesting information from you. Nothing is worse than not knowing, -- been there, done that!

Lightning Protection Systems are always an important part of a site plan

especially when it involves storage. I know that some facilities out there are as old as dirt and no drawings exist. Have you ever heard the phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words,” well this holds true in site planning. Sometimes a picture can show the reviewer a better description of the LPS, thereby speeding up the process. A little additional explanation, like flightline LPS for instance, wouldn’t go amiss either. Also, if you’re out taking photos, that means your out of your office and hitting the streets. Spot inspection anyone?

Maps are the ties that bind the whole site plan. They show the reviewer exactly what they need to see and help the AF Form 943 make sense. Maps shouldn’t be cluttered with extraneous items like unused dirt tracks, fences, unused concrete or asphalt patches ect. You can eliminate even more confusion by turning off those non-applicable layers. If you don’t want to, then your transmittal letter needs to explain them away. Clearing up the clutter will not beg any unnecessary requests for more information from you, hence speeding up the review process once again.

DDESB Survey discrepancies may also affect site plans. If a survey finding can be corrected with a site plan, then the transmittal letter should identify this fact. This is crucial to closing out all open DDESB findings.

Finally, I would like to add some personal comments. I consider site planning, now more than ever, a learning process. I don’t claim to be an expert but I’m always looking for ways to work smarter not harder. Site planning can be simplified by just following the AFMAN and explain, explain, explain!



TSgt Martin Jackson

Command Nuclear Surety Manager
“Nuke Guy”

How Time Flies

It is hard to believe, but I have been here for 15 months now. I have visited all of our nuke bases during the NSSAVs to see how you guys are running your programs. I am fairly impressed with most of them. For some it is hard to find time or the people (with all the deployments to the AOR) to put as much emphasis on the programs as you would like. I have seen everything from some of the prettiest databases to track inspections, to people opening their notebooks with a bunch of chicken scratch (I won’t mention any names BT!) about numerous inspections they have performed but have not had the time to sit down at their desk to load them into the database. While this does not concern me, I just want to know that you guys are out there looking at all the required areas and ensuring we are doing things as safe and effective as possible. The paperwork is pretty, but I would rather you be out and about than sitting at your computer making something look good. I can say the requirements of AFI 91-101 and ACC Sup 1 are being met with very few exceptions. ACC, as a whole, is strongly maintaining a very stringent Nuclear Surety Program.

The following are areas that were identified during the past year’s visits.

- **PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.** Strong program management involvement is evident across the command. Weapon Safety Managers (WSMs) must ensure all AFIs, checklists, etc. are on hand and current. Additional WSMs and Additional Duty WSMs (ADWSMs) attention is needed to ensure minimum requirements are met to include ensuring required offices attend Nuclear Surety Council meetings and accompanying

wing PRP monitors during local staff assistance visits. The Wing Weapons Safety Manager must perform periodic nuclear certification status reviews of equipment and software being used in support of nuclear operations ensuring they are nuclear certified prior to use.

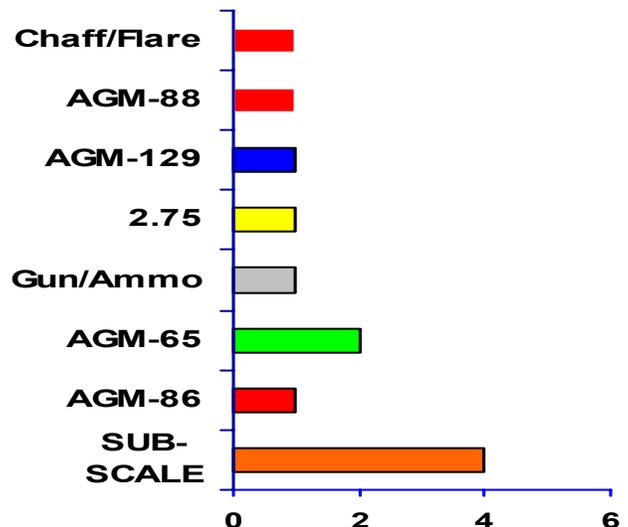
- **INSPECTION PROGRAM.** Chiefs of Safety and WSMs must evaluate the adequacy and completeness of corrective actions for nuclear surety problems found during DTRA, NSIs and local administered WSM inspections and SAVs. Local WSM annual inspection reports need to include all NSI areas listed in AFI 90-201. Additionally, spot inspections must be performed at the frequency and quantities designated by the unit commander and inspection logs contain the minimum required documentation.
- **NUCLEAR SURETY TRAINING.** WSMs must ensure all required personnel attend initial and recurring Nuclear Surety Training. When individuals are overdue training, proper actions must be taken, (i.e., suspended from performing PRP related duties). Local Nuclear Surety testing procedures also require attention. WSMs must randomly administer a locally developed Nuclear Surety Test. All unit testing and training materials must be current and reviewed at least annually. During annual review, at least 25% of test questions must be changed.
- **MISCELLANEOUS.** WSMs must ensure that SAFE HAVEN Plans meet all requirements set forth in AFI 91-101/ACC Sup 1 and AFJMAN 32-3004. WSMs must review Radio Frequency Transmitters annually.

The NSSAV schedule is about to start up again and I would like to take NSMs with me as augmentees to show how other units are

operating. (M)Sgt Jones (Barksdale) and I will be traveling to the great North to visit Minot the first part of May to kick it all off. If you are interested in going with me to augment the ACC NSSAV team, please let me know and I will see what we can do.

FY 04 Mishaps as of 30 Apr 04

We have had 12 mishaps since the start of FY 04. While this seems low, this year has the potential to exceed the last 2 years. Sub-scale drones were our biggest contributor with four Class B mishaps. Two AGM-65s were damaged during this period. One was not tied down properly and fell off of a 40-ft trailer. The other missile had a dust cap left in the umbilical crushing the pins when engaged. Power was applied later and damaged the missile. Nineteen Chaff/Flare mods were dumped from the back of a munitions trailer (Not tied down!). An AGM-88 slid off of the rail due to the retaining pin not being installed properly (Injury to personnel). Small, expensive damage occurred to an AGM-129 fin and an AGM-86 wing. There was a bad lot number of ammo and a dropped crate of 2.75 rockets. Total cost for these mishaps is \$1.7M of damage to AF property. Use your tech data!!!





TSgt Lyn Little
Instructor ACC WSPMC

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

It's that time again for my family and I to say goodbye. I have been here at the 436TS teaching the ACC Weapons Safety Program Management Course for the past 3 years and have loved every minute of it. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as the instructor here and will miss the job and this place (honestly, I WILL) after we leave.

I would like to tell you a little about my replacement. His name is MSgt Joey Lowery and he has spent a lot of time in the Weapons Safety Arena both stateside and deployed. He served as the WSM at Dyess from Feb 00 until Aug 02. He was also the Chief of Weapons Safety at Kunsan, Korea, from Aug 02 until Aug 03. As you can see, MSgt Lowery comes with some pretty good experience in weapons safety. He has been to the Lackland, MINA, and ASHS courses during his tenure as a WSM. I know you will welcome him into the weapons safety family again. Now that I have told you a little about my replacement, let's talk about why the ACC Weapons Safety Program Management Course exists.

The course was designed to give the "Wing" Weapons Safety Manager (WSM) the tools to have a productive Weapons Safety Program. It was not designed to give the WSM all the answers of Weapons Safety (that would take a

lot more than a week). The course here at Dyess AFB is designed to ensure everyone who attends (mandatory for wing WSM) has a firm grasp of ACC's position on weapons safety. This course is highly recommended for unit level WSMs also known as the Additional Duty WSM to give them the tools they need to have a productive Weapons Safety Program at their unit. It will also enable them to see how they fit into the overall program and make the wing a success.

I wish the very best for each and every one of you and am looking forward to working with you in the future. I hope in my tenure no student has left this course with an unanswered question.

It has been a pleasure to meet every student that has come through this course in the last 3 years and I hope that each student left with a little better understanding of Weapons Safety than what you came here with. If there is anything I can ever do for any of you, I am only a phone call away.

Good Luck to each and every one of you and please keep up the outstanding work.



Burning Questions Worth Repeating

A regular section devoted to questions we've received or asked that have crossfeed value.

Q: Does an A/C need to be placard for HC/D 1.3 and 1.4?

A: Yes. IAW 91-201, Para 2.25.7.2, you must placard any non-nuclear munitions at the ECP or an aircraft area with the highest HC/D. This includes some models of BDUs. It is imperative that the FACC knows where these munitions are and what each A/C has installed on it.

Q: Does compatibility matter in a license location?

A: Yes. AFMAN 91-201, para 2.42.

Q: The HC/D of the JASSM was 1.2.3J. Is this HC/D for in or out of the container?

A: The JASSM was tested out of the container. The HC/D is 1.2.3J in or out of the container.

Q: Is any one using the Munitions Explosive Safety Program CBT as part of your lesson plan for explosive safety?

A: A few wings currently are. Please notify ACC/SEW if you are using this program as your lesson plan/test for explosive safety.

AUTHORS WANTED: THE COMBAT EDGE is looking for weapons articles each and every month. Write your story and send it in.

Do not forget the Monthly and Quarterly Awards. Reward deserving people!

