

ACC WEAPONS SAFETY PERSPECTIVE

“Working without SAFETY is a Dead-End job”

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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Page 1
Chief's Words

Page 2
Standard Operating Procedures

Page 3
Fresh Set of Eyes

Page 3
What's up?

Page 4
Stats

Page 5
Burning Questions Worth Repeating

Mr. Michael K. Lawhorne
Chief, Weapons Safety

This quarter I want to discuss several issues. The first is the huge turn-over my office has experienced over the last several months. We had one of the most experienced weapons safety staffs in the AF, both from a safety and staff work perspective. That has drastically changed. We currently have individuals who do not have a tremendous amount of experience in either weapons safety or staff work. This change will cause our office to do things more deliberately so each issue becomes both a learning and training opportunity. This means getting answers or information back to you may take a bit longer than it has in the past. In addition, we have been one person short for over a year. To add to our challenge, all the site

plans developed by ACC units are now in the HQ ACC/SEW office and require review. That means that every minute we are not working on other issues, site plans are being reviewed. Needless to say, we are very busy and have an extremely busy several months ahead. I don't want this to sound like we're whining, I'm just stating facts. However, I can assure you the individuals currently assigned to the ACC weapons safety office are all professional, and highly motivated. As time passes our staff will become more and more experienced and soon be adept at performing three or four things at once, and we'll dig ourselves out of this backlog as quickly as possible. In the mean time, let me assure you we are dedicated to our number 1 priority, serving the units. I'm asking for your patience and understanding during this transition period. MSgt Bunce will have a few more words on this subject and detail how you can help us in his article.

Secondly, I would like to ask for your support of our 2004 Safety Conference. Take advantage of the opportunity to raise issues near and dear to your heart. Come to the conference ready to participate and determined to make it worthwhile. We'll do our part and just need your support to ensure it's the best ever.

Lastly, our weapons safety instructor position at Dyess is coming open in Nov 04. I plan to run an Equal Plus and request a fill for approximately 15 May 04. Please consider it. It's a great opportunity to have a significant impact on the whole weapons safety community. I'll send an E-mail to all when the ad opens up.

Thanks to each and every one of you for all you do every day. It's a pleasure to be associated with professional, dedicated individuals. Continue your efforts and let's make 04 the best ever with respect to explosive mishaps. Thanks!

MSgt Rob Bunce
Superintendent, Weapons Safety
Standard Operating Procedure

As I write this, our phones are ringing off the hook. The calls range from someone

asking if carts can be transported inside of a vehicle to CE asking about construction in the AOR. All day we get questions throughout ACC and from other MAJCOMs. Most of the questions asked by the WSMs are simple and could be answered with a little reading, but to save time, they call us for a quick answer and then we end up doing the homework for them. We don't want to leave any questions unanswered; but, of course, we can't answer all the questions we are asked in just a few minutes. Some take a considerable amount of homework, while others take mere seconds. I said all that to say this, we (ACC/SEW) are constantly working site plans, mishaps, and all the "Taskers" from everyone and their brother and just do not have the time to field calls coming in from the WSMs that could have been handled by the NAFs. All WSMs have a NAF and should ask them the questions before coming to ACC. The right hand has to know what the left hand is doing. In the past you may have felt that the NAFs did not have the expertise to handle some of your questions, but now I can assure you they do. We are encouraging you to use them to the fullest extent possible. Please do not take this the wrong way. We are still here to serve you; we just want your NAF involved as well. You might call us up and ask a question on Q-D and our answer might not be what your NAF wants as far as location or amount or whatever the case may be. It is vital that your NAF stays in the loop because they will get questions back from ACC or AFSC and will need the information so they can answer the questions. This will also ease the workload burden and allow us to better serve you. Bottom-line, do your homework; and if you need guidance, call your NAF; and if they need help, they will call us.

Each time you get stumped on an issue, take it personally, and challenge yourself to find the answer. You will eventually gain more knowledge and experience each time you do your homework.

"You are always one bad decision away from a mishap."



**MSgt Tim “Curley” Imel
Command Manager Explosives**

FRESH SET OF EYES

Being the “New Guy” or “Green Bean” in any organization can be tough, but you get through and become part of a team. I was asked to come and be a part of a great team of safety professionals here at ACC. After surviving RAF Lakenheath, also known as “Lakengrief,” “LakenNam,” and numerous other unprintable choice words, I figured anything else would be a breeze. I don’t plan to take it easy, but I do plan to bring a fresh set of eyes and a different perspective to ACC.

I was previously stationed at MacDill AFB, RAF Alconbury, RAF Upper Heyford, RAF Lakenheath (times 2), Cannon AFB, and Kunsan AB. I hope to bring a lot of experiences along with me. I’ve also had the privilege of working with some “well-rounded” WSMs with a lot of know-how. Bottom-line, I want to do my very best for the ACC weapons community. Coming from a very active fighter wing, my initial hope is to try and slide right into the groove of things and take a good look at how business is done at the command level.

Finally, I’m excited to be here and ready to get started. I may do things differently than the next guy, but I promise to work hard for each and every one of you everyday. I hope to use this newsletter as an avenue to bring out new ideas and to express our concerns and then make recommendations and improvements. Talk to you soon.

WHAT’S UP!

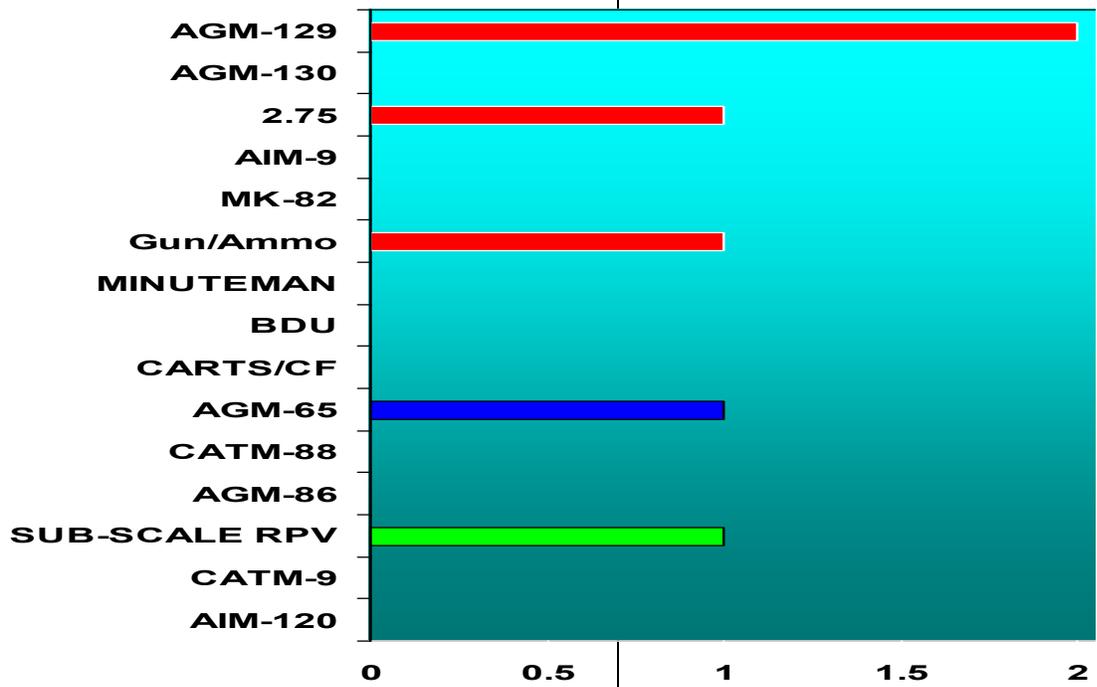
There is a lot going on in the ACC Weapons Safety Office right now. We are getting geared up for the 2004 Safety Conference in March. We hope to see all of the WSMs there and come together to have a very constructive conference. It’s a time when the WSMs from around the command can get together and build allies and learn how other SEWs work issues. It’s also a time to bring your britches, grapes, or compost to the table for us to hash out and resolve. We do not want to just discuss negative issues; we also would like for you to bring anything that you have developed to enhance your productivity to the table. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there. We are planning to have representatives from AFSC, ISA, and maybe DDESB.

In June, Ammo MSgt Charles “Chuck” Odom will be PCSing into the ACC Weapons Safety office. He is coming from Barksdale AFB where he was Chief, Weapons Safety.

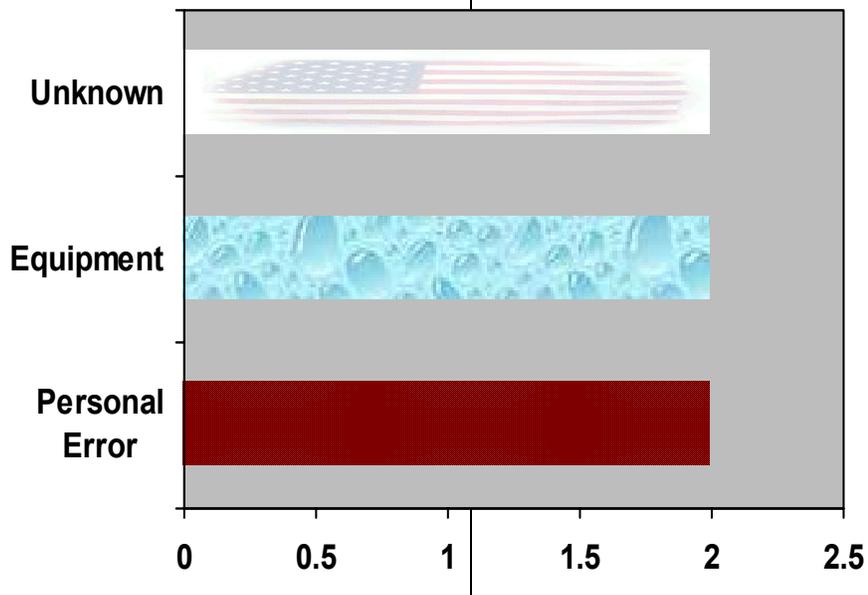
As you know Tommy “TC” Clark has decided that enough is enough and is going to join the ranks of AMMO at RAF Welford in the UK. To say the least, TC will be sorely missed. Very few folks have the passion for explosive safety like TC. Tommy has a niche for site planning and is always looking way down the road when putting any guidance into play. TC has done a tremendous job here at HQ, and we know he will set the UK on their ear! Watch Out!



FY 04 Mishaps as of 31 Jan 04



FY 04 Mishaps by Causal Factor as of 31 Jan 04



Burning Questions Worth Repeating

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

Q: Is the 25 ft rule for HC/D 1.3 from the licensed locations to operations going away?

A: *Yes. The AFMAN rewrite will address the fact that if you are not exceeding the quantities on the license, the 25 foot from the locker to the operation is no longer required.*

Q: *Can the Golan-5 explosive containment system be used for storage of K-9 kits and is it DDESB approved?*

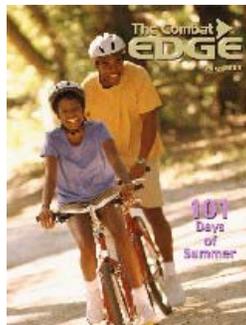
A: *Yes, the Golan-5 can be used with local and MAJCOM approval. DDESB has approved the system with stipulations. See TP-15.*

Q: *If I submitted a site plan in an earlier version, will I be required to resubmit that site plan?*

A: *Yes and no. When we start the review on your site plan and discover that it requires items that were added after the version you initially sent up, we will ask you at that time for an updated 943.*

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 Quarterly Awards.



Reward deserving people!