

**Summary Report for Individual Task  
061-266-4019  
Control Ammunition Handling and Storage Procedures  
Status: Approved**

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DISTRIBUTION RESTRICTION: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

DESTRUCTION NOTICE: None

**Condition:** Given a battery setting up an ammunition resupply point, Battery personnel, and munitions. Some iterations of this task should be performed in MOPP.

**Standard:** Control Ammunition Handling and Storage Procedures so ammunition is stored at a safe distance from weapon systems, accurate counts are submitted to the FDC, and munitions are serviceable for use IAW the technical guidance listed in FM 6-50.

**Special Condition:** None

**Special Standards:** None

**Special Equipment:**

**Safety Level:** Low

**MOPP:** Sometimes

<b>Task Statements</b>
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**Cue:** Upon arrival at a position.

<b>DANGER</b>
None

<b>WARNING</b>
None

<b>CAUTION</b>
None

**Remarks:** None

**Notes:** None

## Performance Steps

### 1. Ensure safe handling of ammunition.

#### a. Ensure personnel follows safe handling procedures.

(1) Never tumble, drag, throw, or drop individual projectiles or boxes of projectiles.

(2) Do not allow smoking, open flames, or other fire hazards around ammunition storage.

(3) Inspect each round before it is loaded for firing. Dirty ammunition can damage the weapon, cause the breech not to close, or affect the accuracy of the round.

(4) Keep the ammunition dry and cool.

(5) Never make unauthorized alterations or mix components of one lot with those of another.

(6) If a round has been rammed and then must be extracted, return it to the battalion ammunition section. The rotating band or the fuze may be damaged, and the round should not be fired.

(7) Leave the eyebolt lifting plug or closing plug screwed into the fuze well until the round is to be fired.

b. Care and handling of projectiles, fuzes, propelling charges, flash reducers, primers, and cartridge cases are discussed in Field Manual (FM) 6-50.

### 2. Direct ammunition storage.

#### a. Ensure secure storage of ammunition.

(1) Stack ammunition by type, lot number, and weight zone.

(2) If ammunition is being stored on the ground, use good strong dunnage at least 6 inches high under each stack.

(3) Keep the ammunition dry and out of direct sunlight by storing it in a vehicle or covering it with a tarpaulin. Be sure adequate ventilation is provided.

(4) Provide ammunition, if off-loaded, as much protection from enemy indirect fires as time and available materials allow. If sandbags are used for protection, keep the walls at least 6 inches from the stacks and the roof at least 18 inches from the stacks to ensure proper ventilation.

b. Particular attention must be paid to ammunition temperature. Most ammunition components can be stored at temperatures as low as -80 degrees Fahrenheit (F) for periods of not more than 3 days and or high as +160 degrees F for periods of not more than 4 hours per day. An increase in malfunctions may be experienced with some variable time (VT) fuzes when the temperature is below 0 degrees or above 120 degrees F. Powder temperature affects the muzzle velocity of a fired round and is of concern to the fire direction center (FDC). At least two howitzer sections should be designated to keep track of the powder temperature. A powder thermometer is inserted into the top powder increment in the canister, and care must be taken to ensure the thermometer does not touch metal.

#### c. Only ammunition to meet current needs should be prepared for firing.

d. In self-propelled (SP) units, the M548 cargo ammunition carrier or the M992 combat ammunition transport (CAT) is the companion vehicle to the howitzer. It serves as an area from which to service the weapon and a storage area for ammunition. This vehicle should be positioned with its howitzer and replenished in the battery area by the ammunition section. Ammunition should be left on pallets until needed for use.

Note: Note. Be sure pallets are adequately cribbed and secured to keep them from shifting during movement.

e. To increase the ammunition-carrying capability of cannon batteries, additional M332 ammunition trailers are authorized in the tables of organization and equipment (TOEs). These trailers can be towed by the M548, M992, and 2 1/2-ton and 5-ton trucks. The 1 1/2-ton trailers can:

- (1) Increase organic hauling capability.
- (2) Facilitate resupply and backhaul operations.
- (3) Permit ammunition component segregation (to reduce the battery vulnerability to counterfire).

f. In a unit with towed howitzers, the prime mover loaded with ammunition should be positioned near the howitzer. Ammunition should be left loaded until it is prepared for firing. Other ammunition is stored on the battery ammunition vehicles or at a battery ammunition dump. The establishment of a battery ammunition dump is a matter of command decision, because it seriously impairs the mobility of the battery.

g. FM 6-50 provides load plans for the M548 in the M109-family and for the M925 5-ton truck in M198 units.

### 3. Direct ammunition transporting.

a. Ammunition will be transported and handled only under the direct supervision of personnel who are thoroughly familiar with safety regulations listed in Army Regulation (AR) 385-62, Technical Manual (TM) 9-1300-206, FM 5-25, and in TMs for specific weapons. Dunnage, blocking, and tie-down straps will be used IAW all safety regulations.

b. Ammunition will be secured in such a way as to prevent any movement.

c. Vehicles transporting or loaded with explosives will meet the requirements listed below.

(1) Carry signs marked EXPLOSIVES on the front, rear, and each side. Signs will be covered or removed when vehicles are not carrying explosives.

(2) Meet regulatory requirements in AR 385-62, TM 9-1300-206, and in specific weapon TM.

(3) Be equipped with two working 10 BC-rated fire extinguishers. This requirement is satisfied by portable fire extinguishers on wheeled vehicles or one portable extinguisher on tracked vehicles, provided the tracked vehicle is equipped with an operational integral fire extinguishing system.

d. Ammunition will be drawn from the ammunition supply point (ASP) and transported to the field staging area. Field staging areas will be located outside the cantonment area at least 400 meters from post and cantonment area boundaries and public traffic routes. Field staging areas may also be set up on established firing positions.

e. Ammunition may be distributed to tactical vehicles IAW the TM for that vehicle. Propellants and projectiles may be carried on firing vehicles designed for that purpose. Projectiles will not be transported while fuze, except when issued as a fuze round.

Note: Note. Noncompatible components will be separated as much as possible.

f. Combat configuration is defined as the transportation of explosives and their components that are not of a compatible nature as listed in TM 9-1300-206.

g. While in combat configuration, follow the requirements listed below.

(1) The unit commander may authorize a vehicle to transport ammunition if that vehicle has been designated for that ammunition (for example, an M109 howitzer).

(2) The unit command is responsible for adequate control of the convoy and posting of road guards.

(3) Units should try to avoid routes involving troops, dependent housing, and heavily traveled roads.

(4) An ammunition safety briefing before ammunition is issued will cover, as a minimum, the following:

- (a) Dangers of ammunition tampering.
- (b) Handling and firing ammunition.
- (c) Proper storage.
- (d) Steps to take if an ammunition mishap occurs.

4. Verify receipt, accountability, and distribution of ammunition.

a. Ammunition will be issued on a Department of the Army (DA) Form 581 (Request for Issue and Turn-in of Ammunition) from the ASP.

(1) Block 1 will be marked for issue.

(2) Block 8 REQUEST FROM will have address and the unit identification code (UIC) of the unit drawing the ammunition.

(3) Block 9 will have the date that the material is required.

(4) Block 15 will list the item number.

(5) Block 16 gives the Department of Defense Identification Code (DODIC) number for the ammunition.

(6) Block 17 gives the national stock number (NSN) for the ammunition.

(7) Block 18 will list the nomenclature of the ammunition. After the last entry, the words "last item" will be entered.

(8) Block 19 will have the unit of issue for the ammunition.

(9) Block 20 will have the quantity of ammunition requested.

(10) Block 21 will have the training event code.

(11) Block 22 will have the action code for the reason the ammunition is issued (for example, required to replenish basic load).

(12) Block 28 will have remarks pertaining to the ammunition (for example, required to replenish basic load).

(13) All items must match those on the DA Form 581.

(14) After verifying the ammunition issued is the same as that listed on the DA Form 581, the person accepting the ammunition will sign for it in block 31b and put the date in block 31c.

b. Ammunition will then be issued to the guns in the amount needed to bring each howitzer to its basic load IAW the mission and unit SOP.

c. After the ammunition from the ASP is signed for, the unit SOP will dictate how the ammunition will be signed for within the unit.

d. The gun crews will keep a record of ammunition on hand and rounds expended on a DA Form 4513.

(Asterisks indicates a leader performance step.)

**Evaluation Preparation:** Setup: Ensure that a training area, equipment and personnel are available. Brief the soldier: Tell him he has a requirement to supervise the setup and operation of R3SP activities.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	GO	NO-GO	N/A
1. Ensured safe handling of ammunition.			
2. Directed ammunition storage.			
3. Directed ammunition transporting.			
4. Verified receipt, accountability, and distribution of ammunition.			

**Supporting Reference(s):**

Step Number	Reference ID	Reference Name	Required	Primary
	FM 6-50	Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures for the Field Artillery Cannon Battery	No	No

**Environment:** Environmental protection is not just the law but also the right thing to do. It is a continual process and starts with deliberate planning. Always be alert to ways to protect our environment during training and missions. In doing so, you will contribute to the sustainment of our training resources while protecting people and the environment from harmful effects.

**Safety:** In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with FM 5-19, Composite Risk Management. Leaders will complete a DA Form 7566 COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). Note: During MOPP training, leaders must ensure personnel are monitored for potential heat injury. Local policies and procedures must be followed during times of increased heat category in order to avoid heat related injury. Consider the MOPP work/rest cycles and water replacement guidelines IAW FM 3-11.4, NBC Protection, FM 3-11.5, CBRN Decontamination. May involve personal exposure to hazardous substances.

**Prerequisite Individual Tasks :** None

**Supporting Individual Tasks :** None

**Supported Individual Tasks :** None

**Supported Collective Tasks :**

Task Number	Title	Proponent	Status
06-4-6027	Transport Ammunition (Firing Battery)	06 - Field Artillery (Collective)	Approved
06-1-6005	Report Ammunition Information	06 - Field Artillery (Collective)	Approved
06-4-6032	Provide Battalion Ammunition Support	06 - Field Artillery (Collective)	Approved
06-1-6001	Coordinate Battalion Ammunition Resupply	06 - Field Artillery (Collective)	Approved
06-4-6028	Transport Ammunition (Battalion Ammo Platoon/Section)	06 - Field Artillery (Collective)	Approved
06-4-6026	Provide Ammunition Support (Cannon)	06 - Field Artillery (Collective)	Approved