

Safety Advisory

Update - Defective Frangible Ammunition

2010-01

January 2010

PURPOSE

This Safety Advisory is issued to withdraw the suspension of frangible ammunition provided by MAST technology, Inc. with the exception of 5.56 mm ammunition (see Safety Advisory 2009-03).

BACKGROUND

During live fire training activities at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), Wackenhut Services, Inc., (WSI-NV) training ranges, the brass casing on 5.56 mm frangible ammunition, supplied by MAST Technology, was breaking in the middle of the cartridge and the bullets were breaking off at the front (mouth) of the rifle case during loading or firing activity. Weapons and equipment inspections indicated the problem was not caused by weapon or magazine failure. The ammunition was determined to be defective.

FOLLOW-UP

In April 2007, due to the inability to procure component parts, MAST Technology issued a purchase order to Precision Cartridge, Inc. to manufacture 20,000 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition out of new Winchester brass. However, it is believed at this time that remanufactured brass was used to fill the order for NTS.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Sites are free to use frangible ammunition provided by MAST Technology in calibers other than 5.56 mm, which do not use remanufactured brass.



Questions regarding this Safety Advisory can be directed to Glenn Searfoss, HS-32 at 301-903-8085 or glenn.searfoss@hq.doe.gov

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