

## Defective Frangible Ammunition

2009 – 03

March 2009

### PURPOSE

This Safety Advisory provides information on fragmenting frangible ammunition.

### BACKGROUND

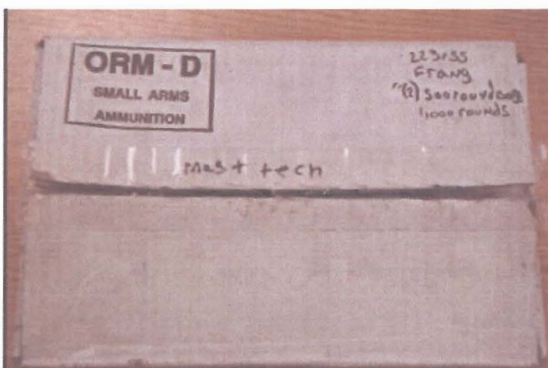
During live fire training activities at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), Wackenhut Services, Inc., (WSI-NV) training ranges, the brass casing on 5.56 mm frangible ammunition, supplied by MAST Technology, was breaking in the middle of the cartridge and the bullets were breaking off at the front (mouth) of the rifle case during loading or firing activity.

### REASON FOR CONCERN

Defective ammunition presents a safety hazard to the user and others. The noted failure occurred several times during training. All rifles were cleaned thoroughly, magazines were changed during training, but the problem persisted. Weapons and equipment inspections indicated the problem was not due to weapon and/or magazine failure. The ammunition was determined to be defective. Also, there is a concern that the ammunition is possibly suspect/counterfeit, due to the fact that it was delivered in clear plastic packaging with no lot numbers.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION

Immediately stop using frangible ammunition provided by MAST Technology



Questions regarding this Safety Advisory can be directed to Mark Petts, HS-23 at 202-586-5486 or [mark.petts@hq.doe.gov](mailto:mark.petts@hq.doe.gov)

*Charles B. Lovell FOR*

William H. Roeger  
Director  
Office of Corporate Safety Analysis