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INTERIM REPORT

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EVT 5-88

ENGINEERING TEST OF THE

M2A2 PALLET ADAPTER

AND TOP LIFT FRAME

Prepared for: U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center ATTN: SMCAR-AEP Picatinny Arsenal, NJ 07801-5000

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# U.S. ARMY DEFENSE AMMUNITION CENTER AND SCHOOL Evaluation Division Savanna, IL 61074-9639

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### INTRODUCTION

A. <u>BACKGROUND</u>. The U.S. Army Defense Ammunition Center and School, Evaluation Division, was tasked by the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, SMCAR-AEP, to develop, test, and evaluate a unitized load of M2A2 containers. To achieve this task, a pallet adapter, intermediate frames, and top lift frame were designed and fabricated to fit a standard metal pallet. (See Drawings.) For this first test, the pallet was only loaded with three levels of containers instead of five, and the intermediate frames were not included in the load. The objective of the first test was to locate any structural weaknesses in the pallet adapter and top lift frame before the prototype pallets were manufactured. Evaluation of the test pallet was done using the procedure outlined in MIL-STD-1660, Design Criteria for Ammunition Unit Loads.

B. <u>AUTHORITY</u>. This test was conducted in accordance with mission responsibilities delegated by the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM), Rock Island, IL.

C. <u>OBJECTIVE</u>. The objective of these tests is to assess the capability of the pallet adapter and top lift frame to meet Army functional/operational requirements for MIL-STD-1660, Design Criteria for Ammunition Unit Loads.

# ATTENDEES

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### TEST PROCEDURES

The test procedures outlined in this section were extracted from MIL-STD-1660, Design Criteria for Ammunition Unit Loads, 8 April 1977. This standard identifies nine steps that a unitized load must undergo if it is considered to be acceptable. The five tests that were conducted on the test pallet are synopsized below.

1. <u>STACKING TESTS</u>. The unit load shall be loaded to simulate a stack of identical unit loads stacked 16 feet high, for a period of one hour. This stacking load is simulated by subjecting the unit load to a compression of weight equal to an equivalent 16-foot stacking height. The compression load is calculated in the following manner. The unit load weight is divided by the unit load height in inches and multiplied by 192. The resulting number is the equivalent compressive force of a 16-foot-high load.

2. <u>REPETITIVE SHOCK TEST</u>. The repetitive shock test shall be conducted in accordance with Method 5019, Federal Standard 101. The test procedure is as follows. The test specimen shall be placed on, but not fastened to, the platform. With the specimen in one position, vibrate the platform at 1/2-inch amplitude (1-inch double amplitude) starting at a frequency of about 3 cycles per second. Steadily increase the frequency until the package leaves the platform. The resonant frequency is achieved when a 1/16-inch-thick feeler may be momentarily slid freely between every point on the specimen in contact with

the platform at some instance during the cycle or a platform acceleration achieves one plus or minus zero point one G. Midway into the testing period the specimen shall be rotated 90 degrees and the test continued for the duration. Unless failure occurs, the total time of vibration shall be two hours if the specimen is tested in one position; and, if tested in more than one position, the total time shall be three hours.

3. EDGEWISE DROP TEST. This test shall be conducted by using the procedures of Method 5008, Federal Standard 101. The procedure for the Edgewise Drop (Rotational) Test is as follows: The specimen shall be placed on its bottom with one end of the base of the container supported on a sill nominally 6 inches high. The height of the sill shall be increased if necessary to ensure that there will be no support for the base between the ends of the container when dropping takes place, but should not be high enough to cause the container to slide on the supports when the dropped end is raised for the drops. The unsupported end of the container shall then be raised and allowed to fall freely to the concrete, pavement, or similar underlying surface from a prescribed height. Unless otherwise specified, the height of drop for level A protection shall conform to the following tabulation.

GROSS WEIGHT NOT EXCEEDING	DIMENSIONS ON ANY EDGE <u>NOT EXCEEDING</u>	HEIGHT OF DROP LEVEL <u>A PROTECTION</u>
600 lbs.	72 inches	36 inches
3,000 lbs.	no limit	24 inches
no limit	na limit	12 inches

4. SLING COMPATIBILITY TEST. Unit loads utilizing special design for

nonstandard pallets shall be lifted, slung, lowered, and otherwise handled as necessary using slings of the types normally used for handling the unit loads under consideration. Slings shall be easily attached and removed. Danger of slippage or disengagement when load is suspended shall be cause for rejection of the unit load.

5. IMPACT TEST. This test shall be conducted by using the procedure of Method 5023, Incline-Impact Test of Federal Standard 101. The procedure for the Incline-Impact Test is as follows: The specimen shall be placed on the carriage with the surface or edge which is to be impacted projecting at least 2 inches beyond the front end of the carriage. The carriage shall be brought to a predetermined position on the incline and released. If it is desired to concentrate the impact on any particular position on the container, a 4x4-inch timber may be attached to the bumper in the desired position before the test. No part of the timber shall be struck by the carriage. The position of the container on the carriage and the sequence in which surfaces and edges are subjected to impacts may be at the option of the testing activity and will depend upon the objective of the tests. When the test is to determine satisfactory requirements for a container or pack, and, unless otherwise specified, the specimen shall be subjected to one impact on each surface that has each dimension less than 9.5 feet. Unless otherwise specified, the velocity at time of impact shall be 7 feet per second.

# TEST EQUIPMENT

# 1. TEST SPECIMEN.

	a.	Drawing Number:	AE200000514
	ь.	Width:	37-1/4 inches
	c.	Length:	47-1/2 inch <b>e</b> s
	d.	Height:	28~3/8 inches
	e.	Weight:	1,990 pounds
2.	COM	PRESSION TESTER.	
	<b>a</b> .	Manufacturer:	Ormond Manufacturing
	Ъ.	Platform:	60 inches by 60 inches
	c.	Compression Limit:	50,000 pounds
	d.	Tension Limit:	50,000 pounds
3.	TRA	NSPORTATION SIMULATOR.	
	a.	Manufacturer:	Gaynes Laboratory
	ь.	Capacity:	6,000-pound pallet
	с.	Displacement:	1/2-inch Amplitude
	d.	Speed:	50 to 400 rpm
	e.	Platform:	5 foot by 8 foot
4.	INC	LINED RAMP.	
	a.	Manufacturer:	Conbur Incline
	ь.	Type:	Impact Tester
	с.	Grade:	10 percent Incline
	d.	Length:	12-foot Incline

## TEST RESULTS

### 1. STACKING TEST.

Pallet Weight - 1,990 lbs. Pallet Height - 28-3/8 in. Test Load - 13,500 lbs.

The test pallet was loaded to 13,500 pounds compression for a period of one hour. At the end of the one hour period, the compression load had decreased to 11,300 pounds, but no measurable compression was noted in the load.

# 2. REPETITIVE SHOCK TEST.

The test pallet successfully passed both the longitudinal and lateral transportation simulation. Duration of the test was 90 minutes for each orientation of the pallet. In order to achieve the required 1/16-inch clearance between the pallet and the Transportation Simulator bed, the equipment was operated at 235 rpm for the longitudinal orientation and 215 rpm for the lateral orientation. At the completion of the test, it was noted that three of the hinge pins on the plastic M2A2 cans had vibrated out several inches. (See Photos)

### 3. EDGEWISE DROP TEST.

Each side of the pallet base was placed on a beam displacing it 6 inches above the floor. The opposite side was raised to a height of 24 inches above the floor and then dropped. This process was repeated in a clockwise direction until all four sides of the pallet had been tested. During the first and third

drops, no damage was sustained by the pallet adapter or load, but the outer edge of the skid opposite the displacing beam was bent. On the second and fourth drops, the pallet and pallet adapter were bent along the length of the skids. The bending of the pallet created a gap between the top lift and the center set of containers.

#### 4. SLING TEST.

The sling test consisted of five different lifting configurations using a top lift adapter and a four legged sling. The configurations used for this test consisted of a four corner, three corner, two alternate corners, two adjacent corners, and a single corner lift. No damage was sustained by the pallet or the top lift adapter from the sling test.

### 5. IMPACT TEST.

The incline impact tester was set to allow the pallet to travel 8 feet before impacting the bumper of the impact tester. In between impacts, the pallet was rotated in a clockwise direction until all four sides of the pallet had been impacted. During the first impact, the outer edges of the top lift frame that are perpendicular to the impacting surface were bent outward. On the second and fourth impacts, the containers compressed together towards the impact wall leaving a large gap between the bands and the end containers. Also, the second and fourth impacts caused several of the center cans to rack up and out of position. Finally, the third impact caused no additional damage to the pallet.

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### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. <u>CONCLUSIONS</u>. The test pallet failed to pass all phases of the MIL-STD-1660 criteria for ammunition unit loads. The only major damage sustained during the test was bending in the pallet and pallet adapter during the second and third drops of the edgewise drop test and bending in the top lift frame during the first impact of the incline impact test. The bending of the pallet and top lift frame was severe enough that the containers were allowed to rack out of position and nearly fall from the pallet during the inclined impact test. Also during the test, it was noted that three of the hinge pins of the plastic M2A2 containers had vibrated out several inches during the repetitive shock test.

2. <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>. Since the performance of the test pallet was marginal, it is recommended that further testing be performed to verify the suitability of the pallet adapter and top lift frame for transportation of plastic M2A2 containers. The pallet adapter and top lift frame should be redesigned prior to additional testing to eliminate the bending that occurred during the edgewise drop test and inclined impact. The redesign should include provisions for strengthening of the pallet adapter and top lift frame and also a reduction in the size of the pallet adapter and top lift frame to reduce the racking of the containers.

# PHOTOGRAPHS









































DRAWINGS













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