

# TACOM-Rock Island Safety Office

Radiation Safety Information Bulletin

Issue 1-04

April 2004

## 2004 Radiation Safety Workshop July 26<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>

How's RENO, NV for a location?

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Well, we tried!!! But, we couldn't quite get Reno ... So you'll have to settle for Sparks, NV! Now if anyone is disappointed, keep in mind that the area is known as Sparks/Reno, NV. That is ... they are one and the same!!!

That's right folks, we are holding our 5<sup>th</sup> annual workshop in the heart of one of Nevada's MOST beautiful areas! Reno, Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, South Lake Tahoe, camping, water sports, golf ... you name it, it's there!!!

The Workshop will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget, known as 'Reno's Premier DESTINATION RESORT'. We have reserved a

block of 100 rooms, at per-diem rates, for the four nights of the workshop. Registration for the workshop is only \$120.00, which includes: a Monday evening pool-side mixer, for reacquainting with old friends and meeting new people (so bring your swim wear); a Wednesday evening banquet, over-

looking the pool and hot tub area of the "Nugget, our Keynote speaker, Mr. Wayne Cook; a welcome package upon arrival and great door prizes each day of the workshop.

Tuesday evening our vendors are planning yet another poolside mixer ... yet another

opportunity to enjoy the beautiful pool, meet new friends or just relax from the stress of the day.

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*The World is our work place!*

## RAD MATERIAL on the MOVE

With action in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo and other unnamed theaters, our Troops are on the move. And when the troops move ... so also does their equipment.

**As a result we have,  
RAD MATERIAL on the MOVE!**

Are you controlling your Radioac-

tive Materials as it moves across the big pond?!!

When troops are deployed and re-deployed, and equipment moves to and from theaters of action, radioactive materials will change hands,

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### Special points of interest:

- **WORKSHOP** July 26 through 29th, 2004
- **WORKSHOP** Theme, "Rad Materials on the Move"
- *Are Your Souvenirs Radioactive?*
- *Keeping Your Briefs Short!*



## Looking for Losses in all the Wrong Places?

(M43A1 CAD/M88 ACADA)

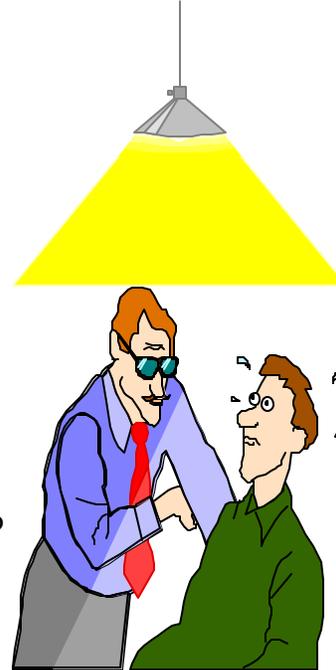


Lost M43A1 Chemical Agent Detectors continue to account for a good percentage of the incidents we report to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission each year. In fact, the numbers have remained fairly constant.

Most of these are lost in training areas where they are set out as doctrine calls for, but are forgotten. Sometimes the losses go undetected for months following a unit's return from the field. Often the failure to recognize a **loss** can be attributed to denial (i.e it must be around here somewhere and we'll find it).

The moment of truth comes when the maintenance unit calls for the unit to

conduct the annual wipe test or when the next change of command inventory is done. Then comes the report of survey and a bad scene all the way around. Someone is going to take a hit in the wallet. Keep in mind that the more time that passes, the less likely it is that you will ever find the lost item.



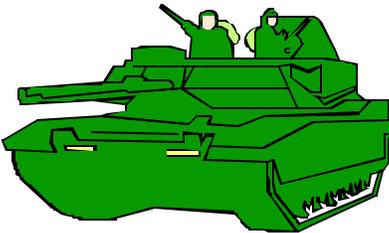
However, worse than the financial loss, is the loss of licensed radioactive material. The loss of radioactive material is a violation of federal law and must be reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. There is

also some concern that if the Americium source fell into the hands of a terrorist group it could be used in the

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## Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW)

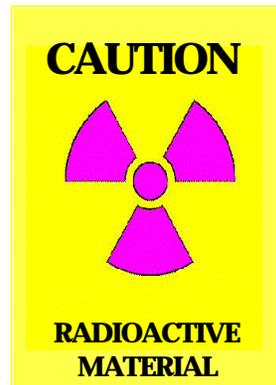
### Turn - In



*Providing what's needed for the troops*

"So! You have a pile of TACOM radioactive commodities you want to get rid of; Where do you start?"

First off, make sure you are keeping an accurate inventory of all commodities held in your LLRW storage site. The inventory



should list the following; description of the item, NSN, quantity, isotope and activity in millicuries. In addition, if you are holding any M43A1, M8A1, CAM/ICAM or M88 detectors, be sure to include serial numbers of the device and the drift tube/cell module with

*(Continued on page 4)*

## *Transportation of War Souvenirs*

### **SPEAKING OF TRANSPORTATION**

**No “personal transportation” of war souvenirs containing radioactive material is allowed.**

Not to bore you with repeat information from previous newsletters, *but* it does deserve yet another chance to *sink in!*

So we’re putting it out here and we’ll put it out at the Sparks/Reno workshop in July. This is stuff the high

speed, low drag Radiation Safety Officers need to prevent any harm or contamination to soldiers and civilians who have or are still serving in South West Asia, better known as SWA, the Big Sand Box, Hell or you know... IRAQ! And let’s not forget our brave soldiers and civilians serving in AFGHANISTAN... they’re the ones looking for OBL (the one with the \$50 mil on his head). This also applies to anyone and everyone serving in foreign theaters, who might

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## *2004 Radiation Safety Workshop continued*

*(Continued from page 1)*

To enhance your time in the Sparks/Reno area, the Nugget offers 8 award winning Restaurants to tickle your palate; top name entertainment to fill your evenings; and an extravagant Casino for your enjoyment (donations) if you are so inclined! There is really NO REASON to spend time in your room (unless that’s your thing!).

If the “Nugget” isn’t enough for your enjoyment, you can find an endless array of other activities in the immediate area. You could take a tour of Lake Tahoe, Golf at one of several spectacular golf courses (40), take an exploring tour (biking, driving, horseback and more) or take in a movie at the multi-plex theater just across from the Hotel. *And, the Reno strip is only a mile or two from your Hotel!*

*By the way, the workshop is there also! So you’ll have from 8:00AM*

*til 4:00PM each day to rest up for your evening enjoyments!*

For further information about the workshop or on the area, check out our web site at <http://tri.army.mil/Safety/Workshop/workshop.htm>. From the ILSC web page click on Safety Office (RI) and then the “2004 Radiation Safety Office Workshop” banner above the emblems.

Between all the things to do, the great people and the abundance of information the workshop will provide, how can you pass this up? We’re looking forward to having the BEST workshop EVER!

Come to Sparks, NV and meet with your fellow safety people... you’ll be better for it!

*And remember,*

**“WHAT HAPPENS HERE  
STAYS HERE!!”**



*Saddam’s Palaces are not souvenir shops for U.S. troops!*





## ***RAD MATERIAL on the MOVE continued***

*(Continued from page 1)*

get left behind or become lost. As materials go through RESET, radioactive materials must be properly noted, handled and controlled. This will become a tedious and overwhelming job if not done routinely and faithfully. We are hearing reports of radioactive materials being transferred to incoming troops and then mistakenly reported as lost to the original owner. Also, reports are coming in that items are lost or accidentally left behind.

One of the intended missions of this year's workshop is to address these issues. We are working to bring you speakers who can inform us about the latest information on transportation. If you are involved with the movement of personnel and/or equipment (especially

radioactive commodities) this workshop is definitely for you!

Deployments, redeployments and RESET issues are on the rise! Do you have the knowledge and experience to properly implement transportation regulations and controls?!! Do you have expertise you can share with others?

Come to the workshop to learn and /or share with us so we can better serve the soldier. Together we can get the job done and save lives in theater!

This year's workshop will provide what you need to get essential equipment to the troops, when they need it!

## ***Looking for Losses in all the Wrong Places? continued***

*(Continued from page 2)*

production of a dirty bomb. Talk about a Federal case!

Is there any way to change these outcomes? YES! Many of the past reports of loss suggest that the root cause was "failure to adequately supervise users of the M43A1 or M88 detectors in the field". For every private "Snuffy" who takes the fall for a missing detec-

tor, there is an NCO or Officer in his or her chain who failed to exercise adequate leadership by failing to ensure the Private had done his or her job. That may sound harsh but if we are honest with one another we know this is true.

You disagree? Come to the RSO workshop in Sparks NV, the week of July 26th for a discussion!

## ***Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW) Turn - In continued***

*(Continued from page 2)*

the inventory. Chemical Agent devices must be removed from your property book records through your property book officer (PBO) or serialization officer (SO). The SO or PBO is responsible for dropping a V transaction (demil) to Unique Item Tracking (UIT) at Redstone Arsenal (DSN 897-2462 or 645-9770).

Secondly, submit a request for disposal along with the inventory to the Army Field Support Command (AFSCOM) located on Rock Island Arsenal. Include your complete mailing address, POC, email, and phone number of the requesting activity. You may contact the AFSCOM by calling 309-782-0338/2976/2068 DSN prefix 793.

## *Transportation of War Souvenirs* continued

(Continued from page 3)

find that one *interesting* pieces of foreign equipment ... “that one item that would look perfect on a mantel or desk!”.

Many units have captured or found, mortars, artillery pieces or air defense pieces, and kept them as “war trophies” to bring back as display pieces. You’ve probably known soldiers who found “other souvenirs” that they’ve kept for themselves. Compasses, chemical detectors, radiac meters, small arms weapons and sights or other unknown items find their way home as that special war souvenir!

There is a danger that some of these items may contain or be contaminated with chemical or radioactive material. Most soldiers may not realize this and would not know what procedures to take to prevent contamination of others or surrounding areas if they did know. This is where the RSO can provide needed information, and the July workshop is the place where that information can best be learned by those who attend!.

A good rule of thumb is that “if it glows in the dark, it probably contains radioactive material”. Many mortar sights, elevation counters, compasses’, dials, gauges and switches in vehicles (tracked or wheeled) contain Tritium (H3), Radium (Ra226) or Promethium (Pm147)). Another rule is that almost all radiac meters and chemical detectors contain radioactive sources such as Cesium (Cs137), Strontium-Yttrium (90-Sr/y90), Americium (Am241) Nickel (Ni63) or Plutonium (Pu239).

So you ask “What can I do?” well lets see here, 1<sup>st</sup> we know that being the Radiation Safety Officer is not your full time job for your unit. It would be fabulous if it was a full time job so that you could track down rumors and actual radiological incidents. But that isn’t reality! So here are some things you can do:

1. Locate the unclassified and classified version of

AST-1500Z-100-93 better known as the “Identification Guide for Radioactive Sources in Foreign Material” and become familiar with those items, even though it’s probably not all inclusive. Inform soldiers and civilians what the Radiation Symbol looks like. There are many different symbols in AST-1500Z-100-93.

2. While performing your daily duties, keep an eye out for War trophies. Check them out and if you suspect there is a radioactive source associated with it, perform a wipe survey and take appropriate action to control the item(s).

3. If your **Unit or Higher Headquarters** allows soldiers to keep small war trophies, ensure they DO NOT contain radioactive material. The radioactive material must be removed and the item decontaminated by a qualified person. Ensure that the radioactive source(s) are properly disposed.

### **Identification of Radioactive Material**

- **Remember**, most radioactive material can be found using the AN/VDR-2 and AN/PDR-77.
- **Remember**, Tritium (H3) cannot be detected with any of our fielded radiac equipment, so if you expect tritium you must conduct a wipe test.
- **Remember**, not all radioactive sources will have a trefoil. If you suspect radioactive material crosscheck with AST-1500Z-100-93 and/or call you’re a licensee for help.
- **Remember**, all sources must be removed from the component by a qualified individual, the item wipe tested to ensure there is no contamination and the source disposed of properly. Only then can the item be returned to its owner, **if authorized**

*If in doubt  
and you cannot prove it is NOT radioactive ... dispose of it as radioactive material!*



Your well being - is our reason for being

Radiation Safety Information Bulletin

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We're on the WEB  
at: <http://tri.army.mil/Safety/rad-safe.htm>

## *How are Your Briefs:* Pointers on sending in your presentation

First and MOST importantly, please use only PowerPoint to prepare your briefings.

Also, ensure that the PowerPoint file size does not exceed 5 megabytes (MB) in size. That is the limit imposed on us for posting to the World Wide Web after the workshop. Large files sizes may also slow down the presentation of the briefings or cause the computer to crash.

If your power point presentation includes pictures, it may exceed the 5 MB size. This is due to using high-resolution photographs. Your High-resolution photographs are not necessary for a good presentation. You can compress the photographs with photo-editing software:

If you have "Microsoft Picture" and your photographs are "JPEG", you can compress the file by clicking on "File" and "Save As". Then check the box for "Compression" and

choose the "Amount" of compression on the slider bar. A higher percentage of compression will result in a smaller file size.

If you are using "Microsoft Photo Editor", click on "File" and "Save As". (You may have to click on "More" to expand the window). Then choose the "JPEG quality factor (1-100)". In this case, a lower percentage means a smaller file size.

We strongly encourage you to submit your briefings to us in advance, via the following e-mail address: [amsta-cs-czr@ria.army.mil](mailto:amsta-cs-czr@ria.army.mil). If you cannot, you may submit your briefing at the workshop, on either a Compact Disk (CD) or Zip Disk (100 MB).

This should ensure that your presentations are ready for the workshop. Please, contact us if you have any problems. Thank you for your support.

### **\*\*\*ONE MORE REMINDER\*\*\***

***Our 5th Annual, RSO Workshop is July 26 through 29th at Sparks NV, John Ascuaga's Nugget!***

***Be sure to visit our web site at <http://tri.army.mil/Safety/Workshop/workshop.htm> to register for the workshop.***

***Registration this year is \$120.00 and 100 rooms are reserved at \$55.00/night .***

***Rooms must be booked NLT 25 June 2004, by calling the hotel number found at our web site.***

***This year's theme is "Radioactive Material on the Move"!***