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Sharing Ammunition Best Practice in the International Community

Fulmination 2023, Nottingham

18th – 20th April 2023

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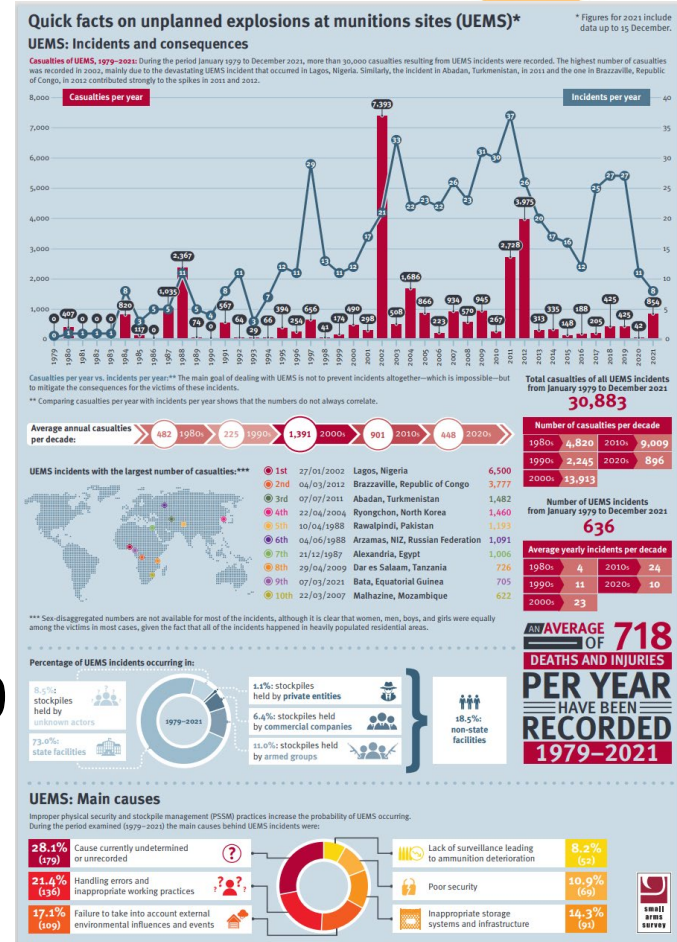


Introduction

- The Issue
 - Case Studies and Causes
- The International Community
- The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines
- Some Projects
- Conclusions

Ammunition and Explosives Accidents

- Lagos, Nigeria – Jan 2002
- Brazzaville, Congo – Mar 2012
- Abadan, Turkmenistan – Jul 2011
- Ryongchon, N. Korea – Apr 2004
- Rawalpindi, Pakistan – Apr 1988
- Arzamas, Russia – Jun 1988
- Alexandria, Egypt – Dec 1987
- Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania – Apr 2009
- Bata, Equatorial Guinea – Mar 2021
- Malhazine, Mozambique – Mar 2007



Source: Small Arms Survey (January 2022)

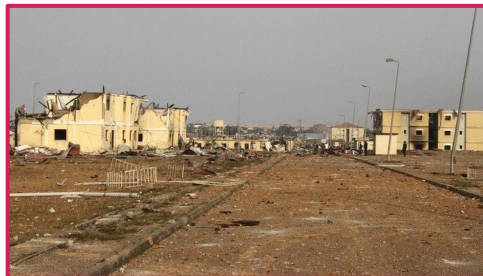
Lagos, Nigeria – January 2002

- Catastrophic explosions at the Ikeja ammunition depot in the centre of Lagos
- More than 1,100 deaths, including 600 people drowned in a canal as they fled during the night; over 5,000 injured
- 20,000 people displaced and much of the northern part of Lagos destroyed
- Cause – fire in a market which spread to the ammunition depot
- Poor condition of munitions stored



Bata, Equatorial Guinea – March 2021

- Details still unclear
- Indications include:
 - Poor management of ammunition storage
 - Possible burning of scrubland that went out of control
 - Over the years, encroachment of civilian settlement around military camp
- At least 105 killed and 615 injured



Likely Causes of Accidental Explosions

- Handling Errors and Inappropriate Work Practices
- Failure to take into account External Environmental Influences and Events
- Lack of Surveillance leading to Deterioration of Ammunition – especially propellant degradation
- Poor Security
- Inappropriate Storage Systems and Infrastructure

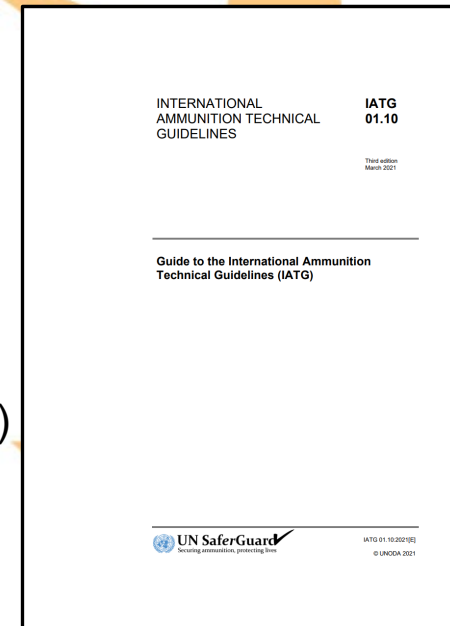
The International Community

- United Nations
 - UNMAS, UNDP etc.
 - UN ODA
 - UN SaferGuard
- GICHD/AMAT
- ICRC
- OSCE
- NATO/NSPA
- NGOs/Charities
 - e.g. HALO Trust, MAG, FSD etc.
- Commercial Providers



The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG)

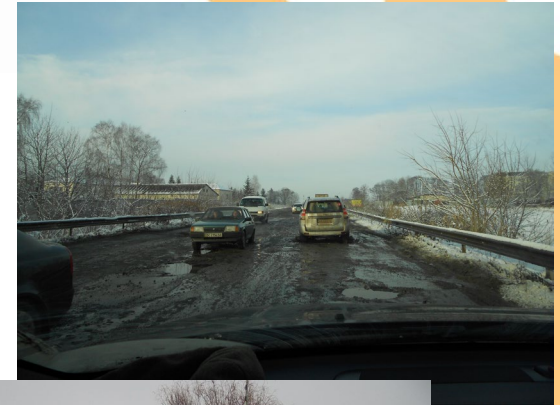
- Third edition released March 2021
 - Available in Arabic, English & French
- 11 Series
 - Introduction and Principles of Ammunition Management
 - Risk Management
 - Ammunition Accounting
 - Explosives Facilities (Storage) (Temporary Conditions)
 - Explosives Facilities (Storage) (Infrastructure and Equipment)
 - Explosives Facilities (Storage) (Operations)
 - Ammunition Surveillance
 - Transport of Ammunition
 - Security of Ammunition
 - Ammunition Demilitarization and Destruction
 - Ammunition Accidents, Reporting and Investigation
 - Small Unit Ammunition Storage



Examples of Projects



- NATO (including NSPA)
 - Counter-IED Capability Review (Jordan)
 - EOD Capability Review (Ukraine)
 - Environmental Review and SOP (Jordan)



Examples of Projects



- UN
 - Ammunition Technical Assessment (Croatia) – UNDP
 - Demilitarisation Procedure for SA-8 “Gecko”/9M33M OSA surface-to-air missile system (Libya) – UNMAS/UNSMIL
 - UN SaferGuard roster for Ammunition Management
 - UN WAM & DDR roster of experts



Examples of Projects



GICHD

AMAT - AN INITIATIVE OF THE GICHD AND UN SAFERGUARD

- GICHD AMAT

- Drafting of UN SOP for Weapons & Ammunition Management in a Disarmament, Demobilisation & Reintegration Processes
- IATG Comprehensive Training Package
- IATG Digitization Tool
- Senior Leadership Policy seminar and workshop
- Ammunition Inventory Management System



Examples of Projects



- FSD
 - Technical Assessment of FSD Ammunition Management in Tajikistan
 - Refresher training on International Best Practice for Ammunition Management
 - SOP for Physical Security & Stockpile Management (Weapons & Ammunition Disposal)



Conclusions

- UK training, qualifications and experience are valued in the international community
 - But ... understand the local issues, cultures and sensitivities
 - Learn from others – there is no monopoly of good ideas
- Opportunities for “Hands-on” and Policy level roles
- Rewarding and valuable new experiences
- Network, Network, Network!
- Have plenty of clear pages in your passport!



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Any Questions?

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London Marathon 2023

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