



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

AR File Number 319



16 June 1998

Identification of Test Kit Canisters at Dunn Field

Background

The contractor installing the Groundwater Pump and Treat System at Dunn Field, OHM Inc., unearthed several small metal canisters, slightly larger than a 35 mm film canister, during the installation of the pipeline system. They were dark green in color and each contained four small glass bottles with a black stopper. The only marking on each canister was a discard date of 1955. They were uncovered on the north end of Dunn Field. The canisters were photographed for the purpose of identification. A representative of the Huntsville Corp of Engineers' Ordinance Group viewed the canisters and concluded that they were not chemical agents.

Purpose

The BCT initiated an action item during the March BCT meeting to identify the canisters using the photographs. The Mobile District Project Manager (PM) was asked to contact the Anniston Army Depot, and the Huntsville PM would contact USACHPPM and Brooke Army Medical Center.

Status

I had the photographs scanned electronically and sent them via e-mail to Brooke AMC and USACHPPM on 29 April 1998. The staff of the Brooke AMC responded on 12 May 1998 that they were not able to identify the canisters. I received a response from USACHPPM on 13 May 1998 that the canisters were identified by Technical Escort Unit (TEU) to be a component of a detector kit for chemical agent. TEU provided two memorandum, and a copy of a Technical Manual from the Chemical Corps, Edgewood Proving Ground, Maryland (1951).

The Tech Manual contained descriptions of an E16 Kit and an M9A1 Kit. The purpose of these kits was to enable the average trained noncommissioned officer to make satisfactory determination relative to presence of chemical agent. Under a battle field situation the kit would tell soldiers whether it was safe to remove their gas masks. The kit itself does not contain chemical agents and does not contain anything that is considered harmful. Chemical agents were not tested at the Defense Depot Memphis. DDMT was designated as a key depot for supply of the kits.

Memorandums

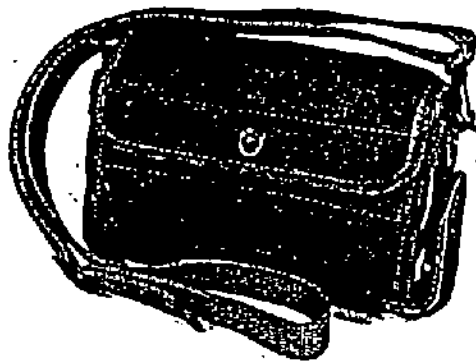
The first memorandum, dated 20 March 1956, Subject: "Kit, Chemical Agent Detector, M9A2", was forwarded to Memphis General Depot, New Cumberland General Depot and Utah General Depot from Headquarters, Chemical Corps Material Command, Baltimore, Maryland. The memo stated that replacement components for the detector kits had been ordered and would be shipped by the manufacturer directly to each Depot. The memo also states that the components "will be stocked as replacement parts at the Memphis General Depot."

The second memorandum, dated 23 June 1965, Subject: "Obsolescence of Detector Kits, Chemical Agent, M9A2 & M18; and Refill Kit, Chemical Agent Detector, C18", was forwarded to Chairman, Army Material Command Technical Committee from Headquarters, US Army Material Command, Washington, D. C., Chemical-Biological Subcommittee. This memo discussed that the M9 kit was being replaced by the M9A2, a newer version of the kit.

Continuing Review

The Army Museum at Fort McClellan, near Anniston, AL has M18 and M9A2 kits on display. I plan to make a trip to Anniston in the near future to view them. I have also asked a Chemical Engineer in CEHNC to review the information on the chemicals contained in the canisters and was told they do not pose a threat of any kind. I have contacted chemists at the Missouri River Division Corps of Engineers and asked them to verify that the chemicals contained in the kit canisters are non-hazardous. I am awaiting their response.

Dorothy Richards
Project Manager
June 16, 1998



E16 Kit



M9A1 kit

EPG T-32

Figure 1. E16 kit as compared to M9A1 kit.

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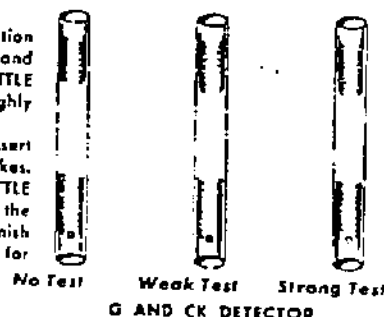


A

TEST FOR G & CK

Prepare fresh reagent solution each day kit is in use. Reagent solution is prepared by placing in GREEN BOTTLE, 1 tablet from WHITE VIAL and 1 tablet from GREEN VIAL, located in GREEN CAN. Fill GREEN BOTTLE with water (chlorinated drinking water may be used) and shake thoroughly until tablets disintegrate. This solution is good for only 24 hours.

Pull off a WHITE DOT TUBE from clip. Tear off wrapper and insert white dot end of tube into pump. Slowly take at least 20 full pump strokes. Remove tube from pump and add 1 drop of solution from GREEN BOTTLE to undotted end of tube. Hold tube flat against white background in the space between No Test and Weak Test pictures on this card. If a greenish blue band appears in 1 minute, G or CK is present. Proceed to test for CK (PAGE 7). If test for CK is negative, G is present. See PAGE 14 for further instructions.



G AND CK DETECTOR

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B

SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR G

If a positive test was obtained for G and CK (PAGE 6), regardless of the outcome of the CK test (PAGE 7), assume G is present and proceed as follows:

1. Continue conducting tests in accordance with instructions on PAGE 6 until tests are negative. Then,

2. Make further tests as prescribed on PAGE 6 using 60 full pump strokes per detector tube, until a negative test is obtained. Then,

3. Allow 2 or 3 men in the squad to unmask for a period of 5 minutes. At the end of this time have them don masks again. Examine these men's eyes in a shaded area 10 minutes later. If there is no pinpointing of the eyeballs, it is safe for the remainder of the squad to unmask. However, frequent examination of one another's eyes, for this pinpointing effect, should be carried out as long as the squad remains in the area. Should any of the members of the squad note any eye effect, the whole squad should re-mask, and further tests be conducted as in par. 2 above.

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C

EPG T-32

Figure 2 Additions to M9A1 kit embodied in E16 kit.

- A. Green reagent bottle, green can containing green vials and white vials, and tablets contained in vials.
- B. Test for G and CK.
- C. Special safety precautions for G.

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