



Insensitive Munitions & Energetic Materials Technology Symposium



PEO-AMMUNITION

PROJECT MANAGER – MANEUVER AMMUNITION SYSTEMS

PA171 IM Packaging Container/Cartridge,
120mm, APFSDS-T, M829E3

Presented by
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AGENDA

- **System Overview (Reference)**
- **IM Technical Approach**
- **Logistical and Tactical LifeCycle**
- **Historical Test Data**
- **Final Container Design**
- **IM Testing & Results**
- **Future Plans / Conclusions**



M829A3 APFSDS-T CARTRIDGE



**4th Generation 120mm
APFSDS-T cartridge**

Fired from Abrams MBT

**New Higher Energy
Propellant (Multiplex
Stick Charge)**

Electric Primer

Metal Can Packaging

IHC - 1.3C





ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING IM TECHNICAL SUPPORT



- **GOVERNMENT**

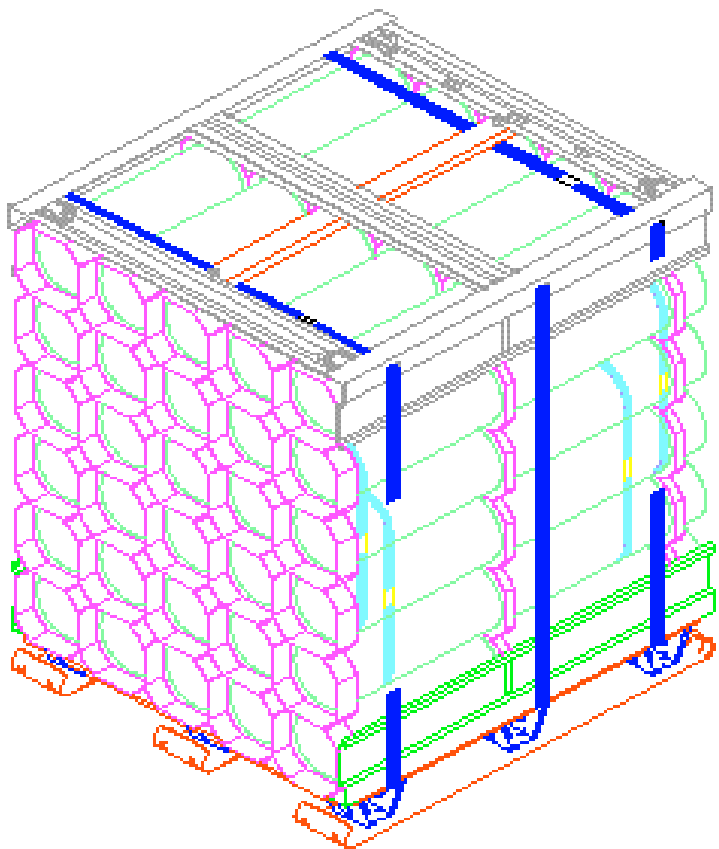
- PEO AMMO/PM-MAS
- CCAC / AMSTA-AR-CCH-A
- WECAC / AMSTA-AR-WEP

- **CONTRACTORS**

- ALLIANT TECH SYSTEMS, INC
- CONCO, INC



LOGISTICS CONFIGURATION



PA116 Container Stores 1
M829A3

- Container Dimensions:
7.75" X 7.75" x 44.5"

- Loaded Container Weight ~72
Lbs.

30 Pa116 Containers / Unit Load

- Metal Pallet W/4 Way Entry
Base and Top Lift Adapter

- 5 PA116s Across X 6 PA116s
High

- Unit Load Weight ~2300
Lbs. (*HEMTT Limit 2,500 Lbs.*)



PLANNED LIFE CYCLE FOR M829A3 CARTRIDGE



➤ Logistical

- **Cartridge Assembly at U.S. Load Plant (Rocket City, WV)**
- **Transport Via Rail, Truck, Ship, & Aircraft**
- **Primary Storage in CONUS**
 - **Bunker, Stradley Magazine, Igloo, Etc. (Protected Environment)**
- **Palletized Ammunition Placed in MILVANS for OCONUS Shipment (30 Pallets Max / MILVAN)**

➤ Tactical

- **Deployed OCONUS on Demand (Preposition / Combat)**
- **Stored at Ammo Supply & Transfer Points in Theater**
- **Moved Via HEMTT & Other MHE**
- **Retrograde Back to CONUS After Deployment Complete**
- **Minimize Upload Time**



DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



VENTS

- Sufficient Venting Area
- Optimal Location (Close as Possible to Energetics)
- Correct Orientation: Downward, Not Skyward; Minimize Interference w/Adjacent Containers

VENT WINDOWS

- Proper Melting and/or Fracture Under Desired Conditions
- Resistance to Damage & Environmental Conditions
- Preserve EMI Shielding (via copper paint)



DESIGN CHRONOLGY



- **CONTAINER VENT CONFIGURATIONS EVALUATED STARTED 1993**
- **PA171 DESIGN CONFIGURATIONS**
 - 2, 3 PANE WINDOW (180°, 44 IN²) - 1996
 - 2, 3 PANE WINDOW (180°, 59 IN²) - 1998
 - 2, 3 PANE WINDOW (180°, 63 IN²) - 1998
 - 4, 3 PANE OPEN WINDOW (90°, 137 IN²) - 1998
- **4, 3 PANE WINDOW (90°, 137 IN²) - 1998**
 - 2, 3 PANE WINDOW (90°, 68 IN²) - 1999
 - 2, 2 PANE WINDOW (90°, 75 IN²) - 1999
 - 2, 1 PANE WINDOW (90°, 79 IN²) - 1999
 - 4, 1 PANE OPEN WINDOW (90°, 159 IN²) - 1998
 - 4, 1 PANE WINDOW (90°, 159 IN²) - 2000



HISTORICAL TEST RESULTS



- **2, 3 PANE WINDOW (180°, 44 IN²)**
 - M829 PASSED FCO (SIMULATED STACK) BARELY
- **2, 3 PANE WINDOW (180°, 59 IN²)**
 - M829E3 PASSED FCO (Single Container)
- **2, 3 PANE WINDOW (180°, 63 IN²)**
 - M829E3 FAILED FCO STACK & SCO
- **4, 3 PANE OPEN WINDOW (90°, 137 IN²)**
 - PASSED SCO
- **4, 3 PANE WINDOW (90°, 137 IN²)**
 - PASSED SCO₂, 3 PANE WINDOW (90°, 68 IN²)
 - M82A2 PASSED FCO, SCO & BI
 - M829E3 PASSED FCO & SCO & BI .50 CAL
 - M829E3 FAILED BI 7.62MM & FI
 - M829A2 FAILED FI (ARMY FRAG BARELY)



HISTORICAL TEST RESULTS (continued)



- **2, 2 PANE WINDOW (90°, 75 IN²)**
 - M829E3 PASSED BI
- **2, 1 PANE WINDOW (90°, 79 IN²) (CURRENT CONFIG.)**
 - M829E3 PASSED FCO, SCO & BI WITH EMI PROTECTION
 - M829E3 PASSED ARMY FI WITH PALLET BARRIER
 - M829E3 FAILED ARMY FI (NO PALLET BARRIER)
- **4, 1 PANE OPEN WINDOW(90°, 159 IN²)**
 - M829E3 FAILED ARMY FI (BODY HAD NO REINFORCEMENT)
- **4, 1 PANE WINDOW (90°, 159 IN²)**
 - M829E3 PASSED ARMY FI



CONTAINERS DESIGNS



PA116

- *2 Single Pane Windows*
- *Fiberglass Reinforced Polyethylene Ionomer*
- *90° Offset (downward orientation in pallet)*
- *79 In² Vent Area*



PA171



IM TEST SYNOPSIS



PROTOTYPE & PRE PRODUCTION CONFIGURATIONS

- ◆ Successfully Completed Slow Cookoff Tests
- ◆ Successfully Completed Fast Cookoff Tests
- ◆ Successfully Completed Bullet Impact Tests
- ◆ Completed Fragment Impact Test
- ◆ Successfully Completed Shaped Charge Jet Impact Test
- ◆ Sympathetic Detonation Test Not Conducted Due To Successful SCJ Results
- ◆ Successfully Completed Sequential Rough Handling



IM TEST SYNOPSIS



Test	M829A1 in PA116	M829A2 in PA116	Passing Criteria	M829A3 in PA171
Fast Cook-Off	Fail (Type III)	Fail (Type III)	Type V (Burn)	Pass Type V
Slow Cook-Off	Fail (Type III)	Fail (Type III)	Type V (Burn)	Pass Type V
Bullet Impact	Fail (Type III)	Fail (Type III)	Type V (Burn)	Pass Type V
Fragment Impact	Fail (Type II)	Fail (Type II)	Type V (Burn)	Fail (Type IV) vastly improved
Shape Charge Jet	Pass (Type II)	Pass (Type II)	No Type I Reaction	Pass (Type III)
Sympathetic Detonation	Pass (Type II)	Pass (Type II)	No Type I Reaction	Pass (Type III)

Test Result Legend

No M829A3 Type I or II Reactions

Type I Detonation	Type II Partial Detonation	Type III Explosion	Type IV Deflagration	Type V Burning
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TEST RESULTS IN PA171



- **Fast / Slow CookOff**
 - Containers Remained Intact
 - No Harmful Fragments Expelled
- **Bullet Impact**
 - Containers Remained Intact
 - No Harmful Fragments Expelled
- **Fragment Impact**
 - Containers Failed Test Criteria but Showed Marked Improvement Over Standard Container
 - CAIV Analysis Conducted for FI Test with 2 Vent Design Container with No Pallet Barrier Fail Test Criteria
- **SCJI / SD**
 - SCJI Testing was successful, Passed test requirements
 - SD not conducted based on SCJI Test Results



ARMY FRAGMENT IMPACT TEST RESULTS



- **SHOT 1 (PA116)**
 - FRAG VELOCITY 6,062 FT/SEC
 - TYPE III REACTION
 - COVER AND CASE BASE THROWN ~ 195' & 180'
 - SLIGHT DAMAGE TO WITNESS PLATE
 - AVERAGE PRESSURE (3 GAGES) 6.71 PSIG
- **SHOT 2 (PA171)**
 - FRAG VELOCITY 6,110 FT/SEC
 - TYPE IV REACTION
 - COVER AND CASE BASE THROWN ~107' & 69'
 - AVERAGE PRESSURE (3 GAGES) 4.71 PSIG



CONCLUSION

- M829A3 in a PA171 Container is the Army's Most IM Compliant 120mm Tactical Tank Ammunition Cartridge
- Early Design Selection Criteria Included IM Performance as a Significant Factor
 - Over \$16 Million Spent on Propellant and Packaging Design Evaluations and Testing
 - 10 Different Propellant Formulations and Numerous Geometric Configurations Evaluated
 - Over \$4 Million Spent Directly on IM Tests
 - Production Costs Will be Increased by \$3.25 Million to Improve IM Performance



CONCLUSION

- The PA171 Container Has Also Been Used in the XM1028 and the XM1002. These Programs are Both Currently in PQT Phase and Have Completed IM Testing
- The US Army IM Board Has Scored the Testing Results for Both Programs and Has Concluded That Both Cartridge Systems to be IM Compliant