A FAST COOK OFF ASSESSMENT OF U.S. NAVY LEGACY WEAPONS



Weapons Division

M. K. Rattanapote, A. I. Atwood, S. E. Towne, S. S. Johnson, M. C. Buffum, J. E. Wilson, and V. L. Brady Naval Air Warfare Center, China Lake, Ca.

Insensitive Munitions & Energetic Materials Symposium San Francisco, California
15-17 November 2004

Overview

- Objective
- History
- Approach
- Progress
- Summary
- Conclusions



Objective

- Provide data to update document for shipboard aviation firefighting activities
 - Identify or generate fast cook-off (FCO) data for legacy energetics that are currently found on the aircraft carrier deck
 - Time to reaction
 - Severity of reaction
 - Placement of firefighters





Approach

- Identify ordnance items which might be found on the carrier deck for which there is no FCO data
 - Locate data where it exists
 - Test items where there is no data



Question

- What ordnance items might be found on the carrier deck?
 - Initial list supplied by the office of aviation firefighters
 - 41 items
 - 16 not currently in fleet
 - Several versions not listed
 - Example = TOW missile
 - One on list but 10 versions in fleet
 - Supplemental list provided at NAVAIR WD
 - 201 items with greater than one pound energetic
 - Next step: Prioritize those items of greatest concern



Prioritization

- Consulted with aviation firefighters December 2003
 - Provided list of 37 priority items
- Acquired items through the Non-Combat Expenditure Allowance (NCEA)
 - Six week minimum lead time
 - Some items are not readily available
- Testing is determined by what is available



Progress

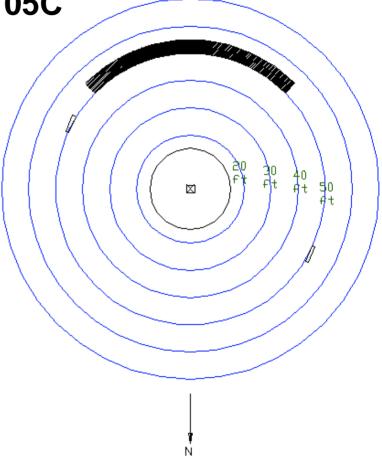
- FCO data located for many items
 - Document with references has been prepared
- Five items tested to date
 - Grenades
 - Various Marine markers
 - Two tests: 2.75-inch smoke warhead (4 per test)



FCO Experiment

Testing as described in MIL-STD-2105C





Note: Where practical, items are being tested as would be found on deck



FCO Experiment

- 29-foot (8.8-m) diameter pool filled with 1500 gallons (5.7 m³) of JP-8 fuel
 - Eight gallons (0.03 m³) of gasoline added as ignition aide
- Bikini gages at two locations, 50 feet (15.2 m) from item
 - 45 degrees from forward and aft end
- Four thermocouples
- Pre and post test digital images
- Four color video cameras
- List of recovered materials
- Post test debris map



Bikini Gages



Pretest

1 in. = 2.54 cm

1 psi = 0.0068948 MPa

Bikini gage hole	Minimum
diameter – in.	pressure to
(cm)	rupture – psi
	(MPa)
10 (25.4)	0.95 (0.007)
4.5	1.9
2.75	2.8
2	3.7
1.5	4.6
15/16	6.9
43/64	9.1
19/64	18.0
11/64 (0.437)	28.0 (0.193)

Pressure Effects

- 1 psi (0.007 MPa): person knocked down
- 5 psi (0.035 MPa): eardrum rupture
- 200-250 psi: nearly 100% lethality

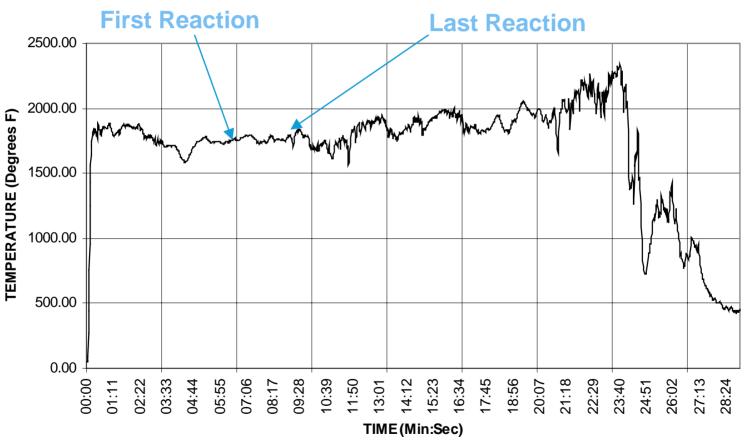




Thermocouple Data

White Smoke Grenades

CT4-2023 (TC # 4)





Crate Items



Crate Items: Test Configuration

- Crate Items
 - Grenades
 - Marine markers
- Configuration
 - Ordnance within container facing barrier
 - Items placed on steel mesh catch table
 - Four thermocouples 4 inches from item

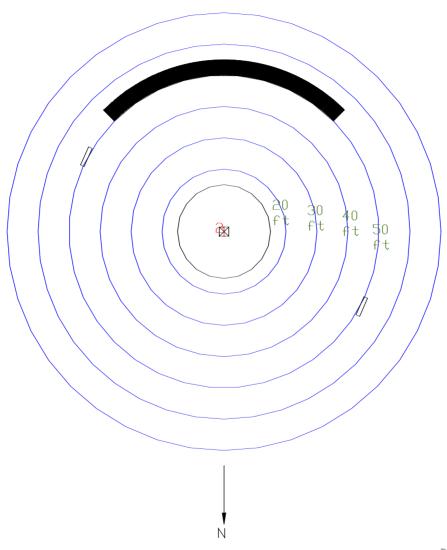


Crate Items: Test Configuration





Crate Items: Debris Map





Crate Items: Post Test Debris

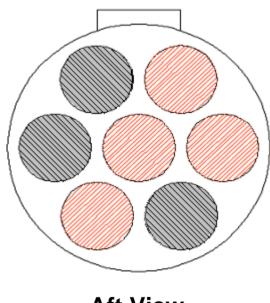


2.75" Rocket Warhead, Smoke

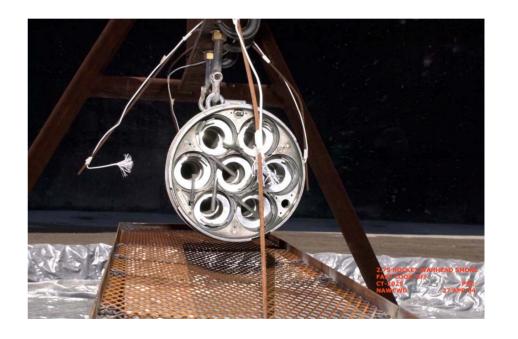


2.75" Smoke Warhead: Test Configuration

2.75" Smoke Warhead
4 live and 3 inert warheads
Mock rocket motors

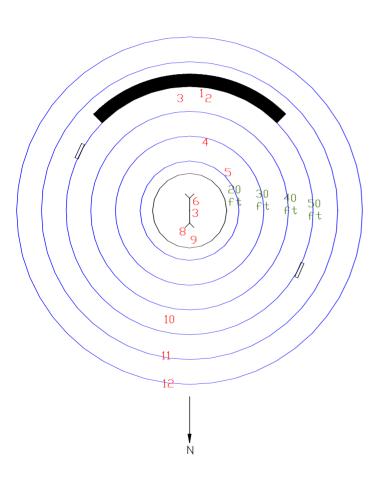


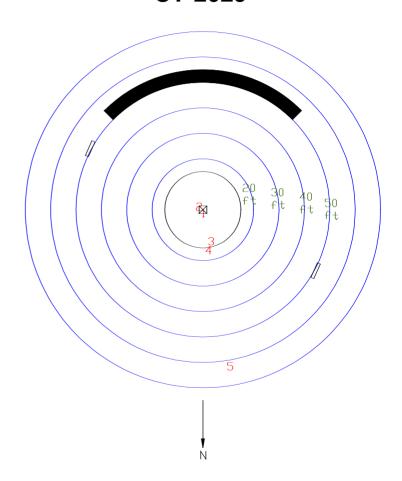
Aft View



2.75" Smoke Warhead: Debris Maps

CT-2022







2.75" Smoke Warheads: Expended



Collected from Test 1



Collected from Test 2



Summary

- ~ 200 legacy ordnance items which can be found on carrier have been identified
 - Initial source from aviation firefighting community
 - Additional source from NAVAIR WD
- FCO data has been located and referenced for ~110 items
 - Data to be reviewed for specific needs
- Testing has been initiated where data cannot be located
 - Priority established by the aviation firefighting community and what is available



Summary (cont'd)

- FCO testing according to MIL-STD-2105C completed for five items
 - No detonations
 - No over pressures observed for items tested to date
 - No fragments recovered outside the test stand for these items – mild burn
 - Grenades
 - Marine markers



Summary (cont'd)

- 2.75" Rocket Warhead, Smoke
 - Fragments thrown > 50 feet
 - Hazardous residue
 - Tests indicate a reaction violence consistent with at least a deflagration reaction with propulsion
 - Relative repeatability observed in behavior, not necessarily time to reaction



Conclusions

- Test data provides preliminary basis for informed decision-making
- Proceed with caution with data implementation
 - Test parameters subject to variability
 - Understanding the limitations of data
 - Lack of statistical representation
- Testing alone is not enough
 - Useful in conjunction with modeling and simulation

