

Technical Manual

No. 750-244-7

HEADQUARTERS,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Washington, D.C., 18 June 1970

**PROCEDURES FOR DESTRUCTION OF EQUIPMENT IN FEDERAL
SUPPLY CLASSIFICATIONS 1000, 1005, 1010, 1015, 1020,
1025, 1030, 1055, 1090, AND 1095,
TO PREVENT ENEMY USE**

	Paragraph	Page
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION		
Section I. General.....	1-1-1-3	3
II. Preliminary considerations	1-4	3
III. Priorities for destruction.....	1-5	3,4
IV. Degree of damage.....	1-6	4
CHAPTER 2. METHODS OF DESTRUCTION		
Section I. General.....	2-1	5
II. Destruction by improper operation	2-2-2-5	5
III. Destruction by burning.....	2-6-2-9	5,6
IV. Destruction by gunfire	2-10-2-13	6
V. Destruction by demolition	2-14-2-17	7,8
VI. Destruction by mechanical means	2-18-2-21	8
VII. Use of natural surrounding	2-22-2-26	8, 9
VIII. Combining methods	2-27-2-28	9
CHAPTER 3. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS		
Section I. General.....	3-1	11
II. Special instructions for various types of equipment	3-2-3-10	11,12
III. Limitations of various methods of destruction	3-11	12
APPENDIX REFERENCES.....	A-1-A-4	13

This copy is a reprint which includes current pages from Change 1

WARNING

To prevent death or injury to personnel while performing dangerous procedures to destroy equipment, observe the safety precautions pertaining to demolitions, flying fragments, flammables, safe distances, etc., that are found in this manual.

Ammunition must never be destroyed by mechanical means.

Change }
No. 1 }

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Washington, D.C., 29 October 1970

**PROCEDURES FOR DESTRUCTION OF EQUIPMENT
IN
FEDERAL SUPPLY CLASSIFICATIONS 1000, 1005,
1010, 1015, 1020, 1025, 1030, 1055, 1090,
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TM 750-244-7, 18 June 1970, is changed as follows:

Page 4, Table 1-1:

Change "Rockets" in Equipment column to read "Rocket Launchers".

Delete "2" in Priority column and "Rocket" in Parts column.

Change "3" in Priority column to read "2".

Page 6, Paragraph 2-8 d:

Add the following warning after data for paragraph 2-8 d.

WARNING

If destruction is to be accomplished by use of welding or cutting torch, caution should be exercised to assure that nitrogen pressures, spring tensions, and hydraulic pressures, have been relieved from such items as recoil mechanisms, equilibrators assemblies and hydraulic components to prevent injury to personnel.

Page 11, Paragraph 3-5:

Change last sentence to read: "Burn remains".

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.

Distribution:

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Section I. GENERAL

1-1. Scope

This manual covers Army policy and technical guidance on the destruction of USAWECOM Material to Prevent Enemy Use.

1-2. Purpose

The purpose of this manual is to guide personnel in quick, effective, and safe means of rendering inoperative and / or destroying equipment which is in imminent danger of capture by an enemy.

1-3. Reporting of Errors

Report of errors, omissions, and recommendations for improving this publication by the individual user is encouraged. Reports should be submitted on DA Form 2028, Recommended Changes to Publications, and forwarded direct to:

Commanding General
U.S. Army Weapons Command
ATTN: AMSWE-SMM-P
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Section II. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

1-4. General

a. *Authorization.* The authority for ordering the destruction of equipment, and the means by which it is to be destroyed, is vested in the divisional and higher commanders, who may delegate authority to subordinate commanders as the situation requires.

b. *Planning.* Standing operating procedures for all units should contain a plan for the destruction of equipment. Such a plan will insure that the maximum and most effective damage is done to materiel and will deny the use of Army equipment to the enemy. This plan should outline the required degree of damage (para 1-6), include priorities of destruction (para 1-5), and methods of destruction for all items issued to the unit. If explosives are to be used, the amounts required should

be indicated. The plan must be flexible enough in its designation of time, equipment, and personnel to meet any situation. In order to make cannibalization by the enemy impossible, each equipment operator must be familiar with the priority sequence in which essential parts, including extra repair parts, are to be destroyed.

c. *Methods of Destruction.* Refer to chapter 2.

d. *Degree of Damage.* Refer to paragraph 1-6.

e. *Priorities of Destruction.* Refer to paragraph 1-5.

f. *Safety Precautions.* All safety precautions will be observed to prevent injury to personnel. Refer to chapter 2 for individual methods for appropriate safety precautions.

Section III. PRIORITIES FOR DESTRUCTION

1-5. Priorities for Destruction

a. General.

(1) Priority must always be given to the destruction of classified equipment and associated documents.

(2) When lack of time and/or stores

prevent complete destruction of equipment, priority is to be given to the destruction of essential parts, and the same parts are to be destroyed on all like equipment.

(3) A guide to priorities for destruction of repair parts for various groups of equipment is contained herein (d, below).

b. *Equipment Installed in Vehicles.* Equipment installed in vehicles should be destroyed in accordance with the priorities for the equipment itself, taking into account the relative importance of the installed equipment and the vehicle itself.

However, if there is not sufficient time, personnel, or materials to destroy vehicle and equipment, priority usually should be given to destruction of the equipment.

c. *Repair Parts.* The same priority for destruction of components of a major item necessary to render that item inoperable must be given to the destruction of similar repair parts in storage areas.

d. *Priorities for Destruction of Parts of Equipment.* Refer to-table 1-1.

e. *Reporting.* The reporting of destruction of equipment is to be done through command channels.

Table 1-1. *Priorities for Destruction of Parts of Equipment*

Equipment	Priority	Parts
Guns (Cannons, howitzers, mortars, etc.	1	Breech, breech mechanism, radar, electronic equipment, and spares.
	2	Recoil mechanism.
	3	Tube.
	4	Sighting and fire control equipment.
	5	Carriage and tires
Small Arms	1	Bolt assembly/breech mechanism.
	2	Barrel.
	3	Sights/sighting equipment (including infrared).
	4	Mounts
Optical Equipment	1	Optical parts
	2	Mechanical component
Rockets	1	Launcher.
	2	Rocket.
	3	Sights and fire control equipment.

Section IV. DEGREE OF DAMAGE

1-6. Degree of Damage

a. *General Methods* of destruction should achieve such damage to equipment and essential spare parts that it will not be possible to restore the equipment to a usable condition in the combat zone either by repair or cannibalization.

b. *Classified Equipment.* Classified equipment must be destroyed to such a degree as to prevent

duplication by, or revealing means of operation or function to the enemy.

c. *Associated Classified Documents.* Any classified documents, notes, instructions, or other written material pertaining to function, operation, maintenance, or employment, including drawings or parts lists, must be destroyed in a manner to render them useless to the enemy.

CHAPTER 2

METHODS OF DESTRUCTION

Section I. GENERAL

2-1. Choosing Methods of Destruction

a. In general, mechanical destruction of priority parts, followed by demolition or burning with intense heat will usually render the equipment useless to the enemy. However, selection of the particular method or combination of methods requires imagination and resourcefulness in the utilization of the facilities at hand under existing conditions. Time is usually critical.

b. For combining methods, refer to paragraphs 2-27 and 2-28.

c. For special instructions concerning certain groups of end items, refer to paragraphs 3-1 thru 3-10.

d. For limitations of certain methods, refer to paragraph 3-11.

Section II. DESTRUCTION BY IMPROPER OPERATION

2-2. General

Much damage can be done to equipment by deliberate improper operation. If hasty action becomes necessary, and equipment is left in a state of improper operation, abusive treatment will continue even after abandonment. However, destruction by improper operation is not usually as effective or efficient as mechanical means or demolition (explosives).

2-3. Required Materials

Materials required for destruction by improper operation are common tools such as wrenches and screwdrivers, and special materials such as sand, dirt, acids, etc.

2-4. Procedures

a. *General* The procedures listed below are only examples of destruction by improper operation.

b. *Weapons*. Rifles, machine guns, etc., may be destroyed by lodging dirt or a hard object in bore and

then firing weapon from a safe distance by using a 30-foot lanyard. (See paragraph 2-5a for applicable safety precaution.)

c. *Engines*. Engines may be left running at full RPM with no load by removing governor or rendering it ineffective. To hasten destruction, either remove oil from crankcase, or add foreign matter such as sand, dirt, or harmful acids. Elapsed time: 2-10 minutes.

2-5. Safety Precautions

a. When destroying weapons as suggested in paragraph 2-4b above, be sure to maintain sufficient distance from items to be destroyed.

Insure that area is evacuated by all personnel.

b. When destroying engines as suggested in paragraph 2-4c above, protect personnel from possible flying fragments from engine blow-up.

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Section III. DESTRUCTION BY BURNING

2-6. General

a. Destruction by burning requires the use of flammables to aid in burning. The issue of these and related materials, and the conditions under which

equipment will be burned, are command decisions in each case, according to the tactical situation.

b. An explosion may prematurely put out a fire. Proper concentration of equipment to be burned will provide a hotter, more destructive fire. Fires

should be lit last; mechanical destruction should be completed first. Fires can be built to produce more heat or more smoke. For destruction, heat is desired but smoke may be useful.

2-7. Required Materials

Materials required are gasoline (or equivalent) and oil, wood or a similar combustible material to get fire started and to insure sufficient heat. Incendiary grenades are helpful in starting fire. Thermite grenades and / or a welding or cutting torch can be used to burn through critical parts.

2-8. Procedures

- a. Smash vital elements as bolts, barrels and sights of small weapons, blades of bayonets, etc.
- b. Place equipment to be burned in a pile or in a hole and over other materials more easily burned (wood, packing, etc.). Pour gasoline and oil over entire pile of equipment and material underneath. The gasoline will ignite easily and burn hot; but is soon consumed. The oil will continue to burn for a longer time. Be sure to use sufficient fuel to complete destruction.
- c. Ignite by means of an incendiary grenade fired from a safe distance, by a burst from a flame thrower, by a combustible train of suitable length, or other appropriate means.

Warning. Take cover immediately. Due consideration will be given to the highly flammable nature of gasoline and its vapor. Carelessness in its use may result in painful burns.

d. If a welding or cutting torch is available, burn through the more critical parts (See priorities, para 1-5.)

e. When only a few rifles, machine guns, etc., are to be destroyed, use a thermite grenade placed on the receiver over the bolt. On machine guns allow cover to rest on grenade. Fire grenade.

Destroy barrels and sights by most expedient means.

f. On guns, howitzers, etc., thermite grenade can be placed in elevated tube to destroy tube and breech mechanism at the same time. Smash sights/sighting equipment. Destroy mount, if any, by most expedient means. Elapsed time: 1-10 minutes.

2-9. Safety Precautions

- a. Care should be exercised to prevent injury to personnel from the intense heat of destroying equipment by burning.
- b. When destroying equipment by burning, be sure fire is far enough away from equipment which is to be salvaged and evacuated.

Section IV. DESTRUCTION BY GUNFIRE

2-10. General

While this method may not usually be as desirable or as effective as others, it may at times be considered useful.

2-11. Required Materials

Destruction of equipment by gunfire requires artillery, machine guns, rifle grenades, launchers using antitank rockets, etc.

2-12. Procedures

- a. Destroy critical areas such as bolts, barrels, and sighting equipment of rifles and machine guns, blades of bayonets, etc.
- b. Destroy the equipment by using tanks, self-propelled guns or howitzers, artillery, machine guns,

rifles using rifle grenades or launchers using antitank rockets.

c. One hit is not usually sufficient to completely destroy the equipment. An intense fire of several hits is usually necessary for complete destruction.

Warning. At ranges of 500 meters or less, artillery, rifle grenades or antitank rockets should be fired from cover. Elapsed time: 5-15 minutes.

2-13. Safety Precautions

- a. Observe warning in paragraph 2-12.
- b. Insure personnel are clear from area before firing upon equipment.

Section V. DESTRUCTION BY DEMOLITION

2-14. GENERAL

a. *General.* The procedures outlined below require the use of explosives which may not normally be authorized. The issue of these and related materials and the conditions under which destruction will be effected are command decisions, in each case, according to the tactical situation.

b. *Planning.* Destruction by demolition calls for careful planning and training to insure complete destruction.

c. Types of Military Demolitions.

(1) *Reserved demolitions.* These are specifically controlled at a command level appropriate to the tactical or strategic plan.

Reserved demolitions are usually in place, "ready and waiting," in the "safe" condition.

(2) *Deliberate demolitions.* Deliberate demolitions are used when enemy interference during preparation is unlikely and there is sufficient time for thorough reconnaissance and careful preparation. Deliberate preparation permits economy in the use of explosives, since time permits accurate calculation and positive charge placement to obtain the effects required.

(3) *Hasty demolitions.* Hasty demolitions are used when time is limited and economy of explosives is secondary to speed. In all cases, common sense and good judgment must be exercised to prevent waste. In the preparation of demolition projects in forward areas where a surprise raid by hostile forces is possible, a priority should be given to each charge. This is necessary to cause maximum damage to the project, even though enemy interference might prevent completion of the job. Each charge is primed as it is placed, for if charges are all placed first and then primed, it is possible that enemy interference prior to the act of priming might stop the work before any damage is done. The use of dual detonating cord ring main lines and branch lines is recommended for all frontline demolition projects. (Refer to FM 5-25.)

d. *Destruction Areas.* Whenever possible, mobile equipment is demolished in places where it most effectively impedes the advance of the enemy. Examples of such places are:

- (1) Approaches to bridges (fills).
- (2) Airfield landing strips.
- (3) Cuts, fills, or hills on roads.
- (4) Sharp bends of roads.
- (5) Roads leading through densely wooded areas.
- (6) Narrow streets in thickly populated or built-up areas.

2-15. Required Materials

Materials required for destruction of material by demolition are suitable explosives and/or ammunition. Explosives can be TNT, hand grenades, etc.

2-16. Procedures

a. Place equipment on ground. If time permits, or if equipment is small, a hole should be dug for equipment.

b. Prepare one or more charges of explosive (such as TNT, 1 lb. or equivalent, together with necessary detonating cord), depending on amount of equipment to be destroyed. Explosives should be placed in receiver of weapons, or appropriate place for other equipment.

Placement of a demolition charge can mean the difference between minor damage or complete destruction.

c. Connect all charges (if more than one) with detonating cord for simultaneous detonation. Provide for dual priming to minimize the possibility of a misfire. For priming, use either a nonelectric blasting cap crimped to at least 5 feet of safety fuze ((1) below) or an electric blasting cap ((2) below) and firing wire.

(1) Safety fuse burns at rate of 1 foot in 30 seconds or less to 45 seconds or more. Each roll must be tested shortly before using. Safety fuse (which contains black powder) and nonelectric blasting caps must be protected from moisture at all times. The safety fuse may be ignited by a fuse lighter or match.

(2) The electric blasting cap requires a blasting machine or equivalent source of electricity.

Caution. Keep the blasting caps, detonating cord, and safety fuse separated from the charges until required for use.

- d. Detonate the charges.
 - (1) If primed with nonelectric blasting cap and safety fuse, ignite and take cover.
 - (2) If primed with electric blasting cap, take cover before firing the charges.
 - (3) Observe safety precautions (para 2-17).
- Elapsed time: 5 to 15 minutes.
- e. Refer to FM 5-25 for complete details on the use of demolition materials and methods of priming and detonating demolition charges.

Section VI. DESTRUCTION BY MECHANICAL MEANS

2-18. General

- a. Selection of mechanical means for destruction of equipment will depend on the situation. Refer to section VIII for combining this method with others. Combining mechanical means with another method is usually more effective than either method alone.
- b. Mechanical means of destroying equipment is effective as long as the same parts are destroyed on all like equipment. (See priorities, para 1-5.)

2-19. Required Materials

Materials required for destruction of equipment by mechanical means are sledge hammers, crowbars, picks, axes, or any other available heavy tools. If more appropriate means are not available, use the barrels from the machine guns to be destroyed.

2-20. Procedures

2-17. Safety Precautions

- a. The danger area is at least 200 and up to 500 meters, depending upon the situation.
- b. Make certain all personnel are clear from area before firing charges to prevent injury from flying fragments.
- c. When using fuses with explosives, insure sufficient length.
- d. When explosives are not in use, observe caution in 2-16c(2), above.

- a. If time prevents destruction of all parts, smash high priority components. (See priorities, para 1-5.) Render these components completely unusable. Complete destruction of critical parts is more important than light damage to all parts.
 - b. After critical parts, other parts should be smashed.
 - c. After smashing weapons and armament, damage cupolas by cutting electrical wires and smashing or breaking off handles, panel knobs, dials, switches, and hydraulic lines.
 - d. Damage mounts by smashing pintles, rear legs, head assemblies and traversing and elevating mechanism assemblies.
- Elapsed time: 2-10 minutes.

2-21. Safety Precautions

Do not use any type of mechanical means for destruction of ammunition.

Section VII. USE OF NATURAL SURROUNDINGS

2-22. General

Disposing of equipment by using natural surroundings is not usually the preferred method, but it does have the advantage of requiring little or no special equipment or tools.

2-23. Required Materials

Few materials are required for disposing of equipment by using natural surroundings. If equipment is to be dumped into a lake, river, stream, marsh, swamp, or pond, the only materials required will be those tools necessary for disassembly. The same is true if material

is to be scattered or hidden on land. If equipment is to be buried, shovels and similar equipment will be required.

2-24. Procedures for Dumping in Water

- a. Disassemble equipment, if time permits, and scatter parts widely in a lake, stream, marsh, river or other body of water. Latrines may also be used.
- b. If time is critical, equipment may be dumped in any body of water which is deep enough to allow equipment to be submerged. If at all possible, disassemble priority components

(para 1-5) and scatter those. For example, the bolt assemblies / breech mechanisms of machine guns should be removed and disassembled. The individual components should then be scattered as they are dumped. Elapsed time: 5-10 minutes.

2-25. Procedures for Scattering

- a. Disassemble equipment.
 - b. Scatter parts widely enough to prevent regathering. Under-brush or deep weeds or grass make suitable areas.
- Elapsed time: 5-15 minutes.

2-26. Procedures for Burying or Hiding

- a. *General.* Burying or hiding is less preferred as it may be possible to regather parts. Burying is usually preferred over hiding.

b. *Burying.*

(1) Bury priority components (para 1-5) separately. For example, bury priority one in a different place than priority two, and so on. Use holes or latrines for burial places.

(2) Leave as little evidence as possible as to place of burial. Cover with leaves, snow, or other material, drive over with vehicles, or any other means to disguise burial place.

c. *Hiding.* Equipment may be hid, but every attempt must be made to make it highly improbable that enemy would find necessary parts to make up end items. Elapsed time: 5-15 minutes, or more, depending on the situation.

Section VIII. COMBINING METHODS

2-27. General

This section is not intended to be exhaustive. Not every possible situation can be covered. Generally, this section will be helpful in determining the best combination of methods. In each case, the method or combination of methods must be determined on the basis of existing factors such as equipment to be destroyed, available materials to use in destruction of equipment, available time and personnel, and area in which destruction is to take place.

2-28. Combining Methods

- a. It is usually very effective to destroy the priority components by mechanical means, then the rest of the equipment by demolition or burning. In any case, if

mechanical means is used, it should be performed before other methods.

b. If equipment is to be buried, hidden, or dumped in water, and time is available, mechanical destruction of priority parts should be done first.

c. When it is desirable to dump equipment into a body of shallow water, small, vital components (like bolt assemblies/breech mechanisms of rifles and machine guns) may be dumped. Components too large for dumping may be buried, destroyed by demolition, burned, or if time is critical, left. However, priority components of any size will not be left undamaged. If equipment is not completely destroyed, be certain that enemy cannot make one or more good end items by cannibalization.

CHAPTER 3 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Section I. GENERAL

3-1. General

a. This chapter gives information concerning destruction of certain groups of end items and limitations of various methods of destruction.

b. For information concerning the individual methods, refer to chapter 2.

c. Lighter equipment (such as rifles and machine guns) is frequently evacuated to use for protection of personnel and in these cases will not be destroyed.

Section II. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF EQUIPMENT

3-2. General

The special instructions in the paragraphs below are suggestions only and are not intended to be exhaustive.

Demolition or burning is usually better. Thermite grenades or demolition charges can be placed in tube at breech end, destroying tube and breech mechanism at same time.

3-3. Rifles, Carbines, Revolvers, Pistols, and Submachine Guns

Mechanical means of destruction is usually most effective. Barrels are easily destroyed by bending. Bolt assemblies/breech mechanisms are small and can be destroyed with a sledge or similar equipment, dumped into a body of water, or buried. Sights are easily smashed.

3-7. Mounts

a. Mounts vary in size from small to very large. Small mounts such as bipod mounts, tripod mounts, ring mounts and pedestal mounts are generally best destroyed by mechanical means.

b. On the larger mounts, such as cupolas, aircraft turrets, and multiple machine gun mounts, it is usually best to use more than one method of destruction. Smash vital elements, electrical wiring, controls, and the like. Smash whatever can be destroyed by this means. Use burning or demolition charges to destroy the parts too large or solid to be damaged by smashing. Improper operation of equipment may be used also.

c. If demolition charges are used, place in strategic areas. These areas include drawbars of trailers, generators, drive gears, engines and the control boxes of cupolas and aircraft weapons.

3-4. Machine Guns and Automatic Guns

Mechanical means is effective and will render the guns useless. However, it may be desirable to combine mechanical means with demolition or burning. Barrels can be bent, sights smashed, and a thermite grenade placed over the receiver and bolt assembly / breech mechanism, destroying both at the same time.

3-8. Grenade

Launchers Small grenade launchers, such as M7A3, are usually best destroyed by mechanical means. Larger launchers can be destroyed by mechanical means, demolition, burning, or any other method or combination of methods most appropriate for the situation.

3-5. Rocket Launchers

Rocket launchers can be destroyed by mechanical means, burning or demolition. Smash launcher, firing mechanism and sights. Burn remains and rockets.

3-6. Guns

Large guns, howitzers and mortars are usually not heavily damaged by mechanical means alone.

3-9. Bayonets

Destroy bayonets by smashing blades and handles, then by burning.

3-10. Ammunition

For destruction of ammunition, refer to TM 9-1300-206.

Section III. LIMITATIONS OF VARIOUS METHODS OF DESTRUCTION

3-11. Limitations

a. Mechanical means is not effective for destroying equipment made of heavy steel such as outer portion of cupolas, shields on M55 Mount, etc.

b. Mechanical means of destruction can never be used for ammunition.

c. Burning heavy steel is not likely to cause severe damage. Insuring that heat is intense enough to destroy equipment will be difficult.

d. Demolition is not effective in destroying small items as equipment tends to scatter, possibly leaving priority items undestroyed.

e. Demolition has the disadvantage of making it necessary to carry explosives. Further, personnel must be trained in the use of explosives in order to use this method effectively.

f. Destruction by gunfire is ineffective for small items, as some may escape damage serious enough to prevent enemy use. Another disadvantage is getting a direct hit. Demolition charges can be much more accurately placed than gunfire charges.

g. Improper operation will often take too long to be a satisfactory method of destruction. For example, this method would be more satisfactory for an engine than a machine gun.

h. Natural surroundings may be limited in effectiveness also. If water is shallow or clear or apt to dry up, equipment dumped into it may be too easily recovered. When burying or hiding equipment, time must be taken to camouflage the place of burial or hiding.

APPENDIX REFERENCES

A-1. Publication Indexes

Consult the following publication indexes frequently for the latest changes or revisions of references and for new publications relating to materiel covered in this manual.

Index of Administrative Publications	DA Pam 310-1
Index of Army Motion Pictures and Related Audio-Visual Aids	DA Pam 108-1
Index of Blank Forms	DA Pam 310-2
Index of Doctrinal, Training, and Organizational Publications	DA Pam 310-3
Index of Supply Catalogs and Supply Manuals (excluding types 7, 8, and 9)	DA Pam 310-6
Index of Technical Manuals, Technical Bulletins, Supply Manuals (types 7, 8, and 9) Supply Bulletins, and Lubrication Orders	DA Pam 310-4

A-2. Forms

Recommended Changes to Publications	DA Form 2028
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A-3. Army Regulations

Accident Reporting and Records	AR 385-40
Authorized Abbreviations and Brevity Codes	AR 310-50
Dictionary of United States Army Terms (Short title AD)	AR 310-25
Malfunctions Involving Ammunition and Explosives	AR 700-1300-8
Responsibilities and Procedures for Explosive Ordnance Disposal	AR 75-15

A-4. Other Publications

The Army Maintenance Management System (TAMMS)	TM 38-750
Care, Handling, Preservation, and Destruction of Ammunition	TM 9-1300-206
Demolition Materials	TM 9-1375-200
Explosives and Demolitions	FM 5-25
Military Explosives	TM 9-1300-214

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

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