

# NPS Explosive Safety Brief



## 1 INTRODUCTION

Goal: (1) Increase the awareness regarding the potential hazards associated with ordnance and explosive devices found in or around the home and work place. (2) How to identify the device as an INERT item by its markings. (3) Who to contact with any concerns.

Throughout the Navy, there have been accidents involving explosive devices which were thought to be inert or non-explosive items. On occasion, ordnance items displayed as souvenirs or decorative item have been discovered, to in fact be LIVE items, which presented unnecessary exposure to the civilian and/or military communities. These devices could be in homes, schools and work places as souvenirs, displays or even training items.

Real Life Example: A Naval Aviation Weapons Station, conducted a "BASE WIDE CERTIFICATION" of Inert Ordnance Displays. This required the support of all to identify office memorabilia and souvenirs. About 1000 items were identified. 15 items were identified as LIVE. Most were 20MM rounds, however one item was a LIVE mortar round from either the Korean War or Vietnam War era (too deteriorated to tell). Some ordnance had been on display for 20 years!

## 2 CONDUCT AN INSPECTION

All personnel are encouraged to use this discussion as an opportunity to inspect their office spaces, desks, filing cabinets, store rooms and lockers for objects that may look like or resemble ordnance items. Many of these objects may be displayed as souvenirs or decorative items.

## 3 WHAT TO DO IF EXPLOSIVES ARE FOUND IN THE WORK PLACE

If you find an item that is unfamiliar or suspicious, immediately evacuate the area, dial 911, and report your finding. If the item is familiar and/or is being used as a display item, the first thing you can do is check if it is "INERT" or a non-explosive item.

### How can I check if an object is inert?

First, check if the item was properly marked "INERT." All "INERT" items are required to be marked as such. If the item was properly marked, you can check with the Explosives Safety Officer to verify it is in the Inert Log Book maintained in the Safety Office.

### If an item is not marked "INERT" what do I do and who do I contact?

If an item is not marked "INERT", inform your Supervisor and **contact the NPS safety office at: [safety@nps.edu](mailto:safety@nps.edu)**. They will contact EOD to have the item removed and /or certified inert. Please do not HIDE or TAKE HOME ordnance related items that are not properly inspected and certified as INERT.

You can also contact:

- NPS Explosive Safety Officer, Steven Schnur: 831-656-1972
- NSAM Explosives Safety Officer, Doug Harold: 562-626-7937
- NSAM Security Dispatch: 656-2555

## 4 CLOSING

The Navy's policy on inert ordnance displays is specific in that all items that are displayed as souvenirs or decorative items must be verified and certified inert by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel. It is also important to remember that sometimes people who have served in the military or who have worked on or visited a military installation may have taken munitions home as souvenirs. These items, which may be found anywhere, can be dangerous. Although we do not want to take these away, we do want to ensure that they are safe for your family to keep. If an item is in your home and not marked "INERT", you can contact Security Dispatch, who will notify EOD to verify the item and have the item removed if necessary.

**If there's any doubt, have it checked out!**

