

Item 3071

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CHEMICAL OFFICER
 Chemical Corps Technical Committee
 Army Chemical Center, Maryland

CMLWH

TSE/25110/imh
14 June 1955

SUBJECT: Obsolescence of GA

TO: Chairman, Chemical Corps Technical Committee

1. References:

- a. CCTC Item 2034 (S), Classification of GA as Limited Standard Type, 18 Nov 1949.
- b. Ltr, CMLRE-CWD-1, R&E Comd, 13 June 1955, Obsolescence of GA (U), to Secy, CCTC.

2. Discussion:

a. Reference a. identifies the action of this Committee which classified the subject G-agent as limited standard type in order to assure that this captured enemy materiel could be retained in the supply program as a desirable War Reserve asset. Approximately 530 tons stored in German 250-Kg Bombs and other munitions were on hand at that time, however, there were no plans for further production since all efforts were concentrated on producing the standard agent of the series, GB. In consonance with this status, GA was not authorized as a filling for any munition pending completion of development work then in progress. The original security classification of this agent was Secret, the same as for GB, however, the recent downgrading action on GB is also applicable to this first member of the G-series and is so noted herein.

b. GA is now known chemically as ethylphosphorodimethylamidocyanidate (formerly cyanodimethylaminoethoxyphosphine oxide) and was called Tabun and identified by the symbol MCE in early wartime reports. Basic data incorporated in reference a. indicate that GA has a boiling point of 246°C compared to 147°C for GB, a volatility of 0.86 mg/l at 30°C compared to 23 mg/l for GB, and detectable concentrations by its slightly fruity odor of 2.2 mg/m³ compared to 9.0 mg/m³ for GB. Toxicity is somewhat less than for GB and with persistency of a degree similar to that of mustard. Physiological effects are the same as for other G-agents which deplete the protein enzyme, cholinesterase, with subsequent respiration and vasomotor failure leading to coma and quick death if taken in lethal proportions.

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c. As noted in reference b., the Cml C R&E Command indicated that there is currently no requirement for using GA in any present or contemplated munition. Consequently, it is felt that, in view of the expense involved in proper maintenance of GA stocks due to the high leakage rate in containers currently in use, it is considered uneconomical to continue carrying this agent in the supply program if no further use can be foreseen. In view of this situation, it was recommended that GA be reclassified to obsolete type and that all stocks be destroyed except a total of 50 tons to be retained in one-ton containers for training and R&D purposes.

d. Pursuant to provisions of paragraph 17., SR 705-5-1, the following information is furnished in connection with this action:

(1) Description - See par. b. above.

(2) Using Agency - Cml C.

(3) Cost - \$1.00 per lb.

(4) Stock Status -

Procured - 530 tons

On Hand - 415 tons

On Contract - 0

(5) Contemplated
Disposition - All stocks to be destroyed except 50 tons to be retained for training and R&D purposes. Consideration will be given to disposal thru MDAP procedures prior to destruction.

(6) Security
Classification - The subject item is Unclassified.
This paper is Confidential because
of stock status noted.

(7) Logistic Data -

Stock No. - 354315

Line Item No. - 11130000

e. The foregoing paragraphs briefly review the status of GA and indicate that there are no current plans for tactical use of this agent in any future operations, consequently, obsolescence should be accomplished as noted below.

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3. Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- a. GA be reclassified from Limited Standard type to Obsolete type.
- b. Stocks of GA on hand be disposed of as indicated in paragraph 2.d. (5).
- c. Stock records, the Book of Standards, and all other publications affected by this action be revised accordingly.

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