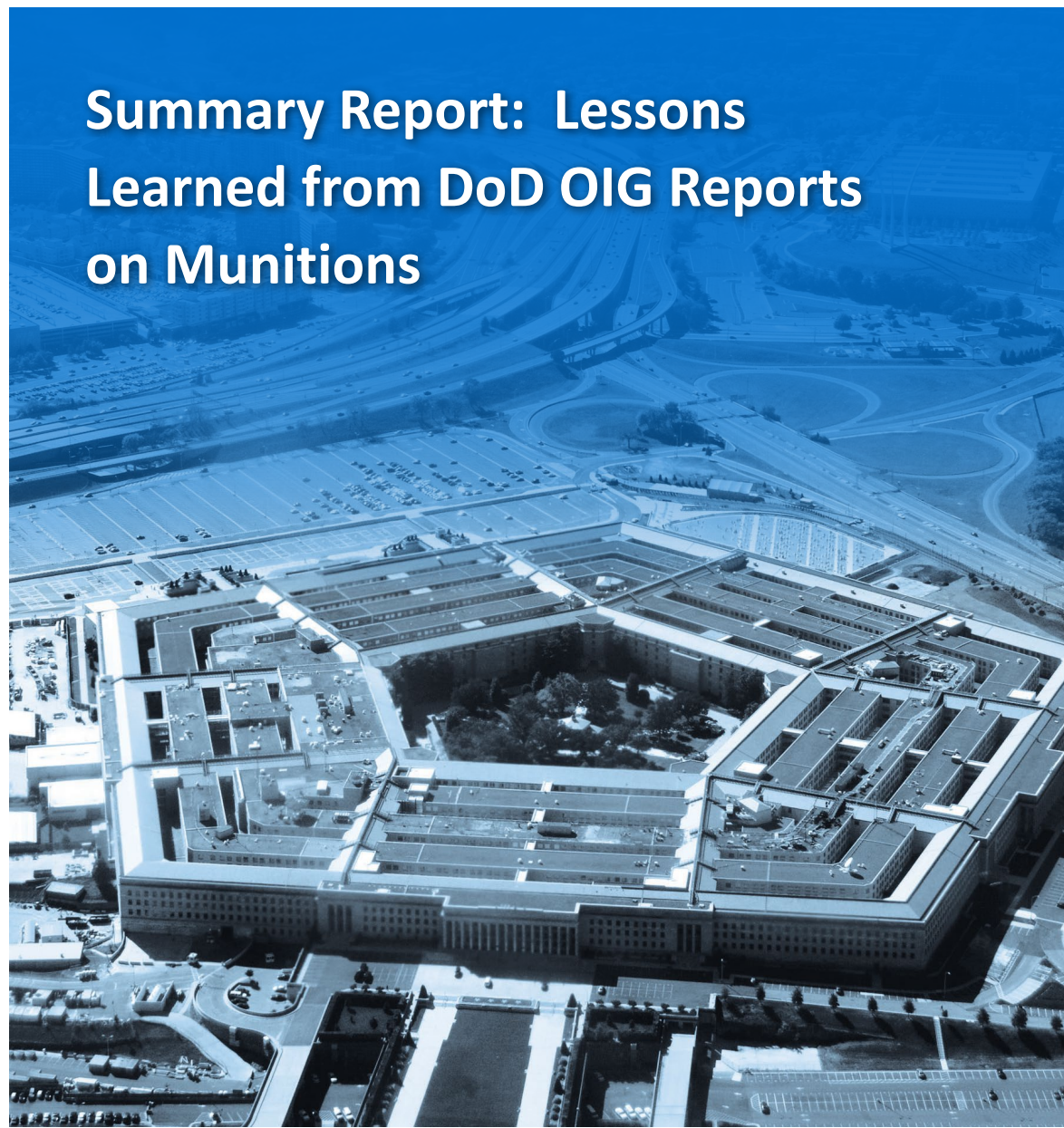




# INSPECTOR GENERAL

*U.S. Department of Defense*

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025



## Summary Report: Lessons Learned from DoD OIG Reports on Munitions

INDEPENDENCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ EXCELLENCE ★ TRANSPARENCY





**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE  
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September 5, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION AND SUSTAINMENT  
UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS  
AUDITOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
AUDITOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
AUDITOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Summary Report: Lessons Learned from DoD OIG Reports on Munitions  
(Report No. DODIG-2025-153)

This summary report is one in a series of reports that summarizes key themes and lessons learned from our body of oversight work in several key areas. We offer these summaries to provide helpful and timely information relevant to DoD priorities. DoD munitions are a vital component of military readiness and ensuring the U.S. military remains the strongest and most lethal force in the world.

We reviewed DoD OIG audit and evaluation reports from the previous 5 years to identify recurring issues for munitions. We identified lessons learned in 19 DoD OIG reports issued on or before August 7, 2025, related to munitions safety, security, and accountability. These lessons learned may help the DoD to avoid or mitigate issues similar to those we identified in our prior reporting.

The DoD OIG conducts regular oversight of munitions and reports oversight results in an agile fashion to enable timely action by the DoD. We are providing this report for information and use. We did not make any recommendations; therefore, no management comments are required.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [REDACTED].

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard B. Vasquez".

Richard B. Vasquez  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Readiness and Global Operations



# Introduction

DoD munitions are a vital component of military readiness and ensuring the U.S. military remains the strongest and most lethal force in the world. Military munitions consist of ammunition products and components produced for or used by the Armed Forces for national defense and security, including bulk explosives, rockets, guided and ballistic missiles, bombs, mortar rounds, artillery and small arms ammunitions, mines, and torpedoes.

Maintaining a ready, reliable, and lethal stockpile of munitions is necessary to rapidly respond to armed conflict, support combatant commanders, and sustain global readiness. Additionally, proper handling and storage management of munitions minimizes the risk of serious injury or loss of life of Service members and damage to DoD property, and it mitigates the risk of lost, stolen, or misplaced munitions. The below figure shows military personnel handling munitions.



Figure. A munitions squadron inspector marks weapons for stocking at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam (left), and U.S. Airmen remove bracing used to prevent munitions from moving around during transport at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska (right)

Source: The Defense Visual Information Distribution Service.

We prepared this summary report based on common recurring challenges reported in previous DoD OIG reports to highlight lessons learned related to munitions. Responsible DoD officials should consider and implement the lessons learned to increase readiness, enhance operational effectiveness, and minimize risk to military personnel and property.

## Lessons Learned from Past DoD OIG Reports

We reviewed DoD OIG audit and evaluation reports from the previous 5 years to identify recurring challenges related to munitions. We identified lessons learned in 19 DoD OIG reports issued on or before August 7, 2025, related to the safety, security, and accountability

of munitions.<sup>1</sup> The 16 publicly available reports included 93 recommendations of which 57 are closed and 36 are resolved and open.<sup>2</sup> See the Appendix for reports reviewed and lessons learned identified by report.

Proper storage and handling of munitions, including the implementation of safety, security, and accountability controls, is critical to ensure that munitions are available for immediate use, to mitigate the risk of injuries and property damage, and to deter theft. Previous DoD OIG reports identified recurring challenges. For example, in one recent report, we determined that Air Force officials did not manage munitions storage in accordance with approved net explosive weight limits for some munitions storage structures, increasing the risk of serious injury, loss of life, damage to property and reducing the ability to fully use munitions storage structures.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, the DoD OIG recommended that officials verify, at least quarterly, that the net explosive weight totals in all munitions structures comply with net explosive weight limits. The recommendation remains resolved and open as of the date of this report.

As identified in prior DoD OIG reports, to ensure munitions safety, security, and accountability, DoD officials should revisit and apply the following lessons learned.<sup>4</sup>

- **Establish or Update Procedures.** DoD officials should develop or update procedures to require verification of net explosive weights, assign responsibilities for oversight of inventory procedures, maintain complete and accurate documentation, and require a review of physical security plans.
- **Implement Munitions Safety Requirements.** DoD officials should, at least quarterly, verify net explosive weight totals in munitions storage structures to ensure munitions are stored in compliance with weight limits, ensure safety site plans are current, enforce in-transit security standards, and conduct required emergency evacuation drills.
- **Strengthen Munitions Security.** DoD officials should improve security for munitions storage, review physical security plans, post signs for restricted areas, and enforce in-transit security standards.
- **Strengthen Accountability Controls.** DoD officials should maintain accurate inventory records, emphasize the highest levels of materiel accountability and asset visibility, and update oversight responsibilities for inventory accuracy.
- **Manage Contractor Oversight.** DoD officials should ensure contractor personnel track and report net explosive weight of munitions, develop quality assurance surveillance plans for munitions contracts, and ensure that contracting officials are assessing past performance of contractors related to munitions and explosives when awarding contracts.

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<sup>1</sup> The recurring challenges and lessons learned in this report were limited to the reports and DoD Components we reviewed.

<sup>2</sup> Three reports were not publicly released because they contained classified information. Not all 93 recommendations directly relate to the lessons learned in this report. Resolved and open recommendations are recommendations that management has agreed to implement, but for which corrective actions have not been completed.

<sup>3</sup> Report No. DODIG-2024-063, "Audit of Munitions Storage in Jordan," March 19, 2024. Net explosive weight is the maximum weight of munitions in pounds of explosive material.

<sup>4</sup> See Table 2 in the Appendix for a list of reports that identified the following lessons learned.

## Conclusion

DoD munitions are a critical component of military readiness. Improper implementation of munitions safety requirements, security measures, and accountability controls could result in serious injury, property damage, theft, and the inability to assess readiness. DoD officials should consider these lessons learned and take actions so that stockpiles are ready, reliable, and lethal.

# Appendix

## Reports Reviewed and Lessons Learned

We reviewed DoD OIG audit and evaluation reports from the previous 5 years to identify recurring challenges related to munitions. Table 1 lists the DoD OIG reports we reviewed to prepare this summary report, and Table 2 lists the reports we reviewed and associated lessons learned. We are providing the tables as a resource for DoD management. The reports listed in each table contain additional details related to the lessons learned and past challenges the DoD OIG identified. Unrestricted DoD OIG reports can be accessed at <http://www.dodig.mil/reports.html/>.

*Table 1. Comprehensive List of DoD OIG Reports Reviewed*

Report No.	Title	Issue Date
<a href="#">DODIG-2025-134</a>	Audit of the DoD's Accountability Controls over War Reserve Stock for Allies-Israel Inventory	August 7, 2025
<a href="#">DODIG-2025-119*</a>	Audit of Munitions Storage on Guam	June 30, 2025
<a href="#">DODIG-2025-113</a>	Evaluation of the Movement of Ukraine-and Israel-Bound Equipment Through Aerial Ports of Embarkation in the Continental United States	June 12, 2025
<a href="#">DODIG-2025-055*</a>	Audit of Munitions Storage in Alaska, Hawaii, and Japan	December 18, 2024
<a href="#">DODIG-2025-019</a>	Evaluation of Security and Accountability Controls for Defense Items Transferred to Ukraine Through Romania	November 12, 2024
<a href="#">DODIG-2024-126</a>	Audit of Munitions Storage in Jordan	September 4, 2024
<a href="#">DODIG-2024-125</a>	Audit of Munitions Storage in Bahrain	September 4, 2024
<a href="#">DODIG-2024-064</a>	Audit of Munitions Storage at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait	March 19, 2024
<a href="#">DODIG-2024-063</a>	Audit of Munitions Storage at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar	March 19, 2024
<a href="#">DODIG-2023-115</a>	Evaluation of Land-Based Security Controls for Equipment Being Transferred by Rail to Ukraine	September 6, 2023
<a href="#">DODIG-2023-099*</a>	Evaluation of DoD Replenishment Plans for Equipment and Munitions Provided to the Government of Ukraine	September 11, 2023
<a href="#">DODIG-2023-092</a>	Management Advisory: DoD's Transportation of Ammunition in Support of Ukraine	July 5, 2023
<a href="#">DODIG-2022-013</a>	Evaluation of Department of Defense Compliance at Sites Conducting Open Burning or Open Detonation of Waste Military Munitions in the United States	November 4, 2021
<a href="#">DODIG-2021-099</a>	Audit of Physical Security Conditions at the U.S. Transportation Command Military Ocean Terminals	July 8, 2021
<a href="#">DODIG-2021-093</a>	Audit of the Department of Defense's Sea Transportation and Storage of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives	June 11, 2021
<a href="#">DODIG-2021-090*</a>	Audit of Munitions Storage in the U.S. European Command	June 10, 2021

*Table 1. Comprehensive List of DoD OIG Reports Reviewed (cont'd)*

Report No.	Title	Issue Date
<a href="#">DODIG-2020-093</a>	Audit of the Department of Defense's Processes to Identify and Clear Munitions and Explosives of Concern During Construction on Guam	June 16, 2020
<a href="#">DODIG-2020-071</a>	Audit of the Department of Defense's Ground Transportation and Secure Hold of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives in the United States	March 23, 2020
<a href="#">DODIG-2020-054</a> *	Audit of Munitions Distribution to the Joint Forces Throughout the Republic of Korea	January 28, 2020

\* We reviewed the unclassified summary of Report Nos. DODIG-2025-119 and DODIG-2025-055. Additionally, we identified but did not include the results of Report Nos. DODIG-2023-099, DODIG-2021-090, and DODIG-2020-054 because they contained classified information that is not releasable to the public.

Source: The DoD OIG.

*Table 2. Lessons Learned*

Lessons Learned					
Report No.	Establish or Update Procedures	Implement Munitions Safety Requirements	Improve Munitions Security	Strengthen Accountability Controls	Manage Contractor Oversight
DODIG-2025-134	X			X	
DODIG-2025-113	X			X	
DODIG-2025-019	X			X	
DODIG-2024-126	X	X			
DODIG-2024-125	X		X	X	
DODIG-2024-064	X	X			X
DODIG-2024-063	X	X			X
DODIG-2023-115	X		X		
DODIG-2023-092	X				
DODIG-2022-013	X				X
DODIG-2021-099	X		X		
DODIG-2021-093	X			X	
DODIG-2020-093	X	X			X
DODIG-2020-071	X		X	X	

Note: In preparing this summary report, we also reviewed the unclassified summary of Report Nos. DODIG-2025-119 and DODIG-2025-055; however, we did not include lessons learned from those reports in this table because the DoD identified the findings and recommendations as Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and classified information that is not releasable to the public. CUI and classified information requires safeguarding and controlled dissemination in accordance with laws, regulations, or Government-wide policies.

Source: The DoD OIG.



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## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

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