

# Deadly Duds

By SSG Edward L. Woodford

**M**any soldiers died or suffered injuries needlessly during Desert Storm for lack of training in Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) recognition. An Army-wide UXO training program—aimed at rectifying this deficiency—is currently being fielded. It starts with a safety video, "Danger UXO," (#709919), which is available at all Audiovisual Support Centers. This 13-minute video educates soldiers about the UXO hazard, shows what various types of ordnance can look like and stresses the importance of leaving it alone.

It tells soldiers to report any suspected UXO to their supervisor. The new soldiers manual of common tasks, (STP 21-24-SMCT) has three tasks regarding UXO, (093-403-5010, *Recognize Military Explosive Ordnance*; 093-403-5020, *Take Immediate Action for an Explosive Hazard* and 093-403-5030, *Report an Explosive Hazard*.) Recognizing military ordnance will be tested in FY 93 common task testing. A UXO training aids package is available at a number of TASC's. The package contains everything from aircraft bombs, to land mines, handgrenades, rockets and small submunitions.

There is also a 40-minute video, "The UXO Hazard," which will be fielded to help explain the common tasks. Very few soldiers actually have any

experience with ordnance items, so the film, along with the common task manual, is designed to enhance training and retention of information.

Soldiers can use a graphic training aid (GTA 9-12-1), designed to be used like a leadership card, to recognize, report and protect against UXO hazards. Drawings of ordnance items on the reverse side of the card aid in the recognition of different ordnance types.

An Army-wide UXO reporting system, starting with the UXO Spot Report, has been developed. It's in the supplemental support information of all SOI's and is on the GTA. It's a nine-line report sent by the fastest means by the individual that first encounters the hazard. The report alerts commanders to potential mobility problems on that area of the battlefield and lets commanders know that the requesting unit requires help to continue with their mission.

A task included in the updated Common Collective Task manual for AR-TEPs requires units to react to a UXO hazard by reporting and taking immediate action.

FM 21-16, *Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Procedures*, currently under development at OMMCS, Redstone Arsenal, explains the concept behind UXO recognition, reporting and immediate action. It will also contain numerous pictures of ordnance items that soldiers can expect to encounter on the battlefield.

While UXO was a battlefield deficiency, it can be encountered wherever soldiers train. It can be ordnance items, or simulators, such as the M115 artillery simulator. All items are just as dangerous. Through education and training, an urgent safety issue can be addressed.

*Woodford is UXO project officer at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.*

