

NEW LWAC[®] AMMUNITION CASE HERALDS REVOLUTION IN MILITARY AMMUNITION RESUPPLY

PPD shows fully tested LWAC ammunition case which reduces weight by 70%

Sep 2015: A recently tested lightweight small arms ammunition case is on display on the PPD stand, S7-261, during DSEI. Utilising composite materials and innovative design, it reduces the weight of a standard NATO ammunition case by 70% and increases the number of rounds that can be carried on a standard NATO pallet by 10%.

The PPD LWAC completed various UN tests in February 2015 and was accepted by the end user in May 2015. The LWAC is now certified for use in non-operational areas such as training, paving the way for initial orders for training ammunition, etc. The operational area tests (STANAG 4423) are underway. So far the LWAC has passed all of those it has faced, including the 'bonfire' and 'being fired at' tests.

The significance of the weight saving is demonstrated by the savings that Denmark would have made during its deployment to Afghanistan in 2012. It would have represented a saving of eight C-130 flights and €1.14m in entry flights, let alone savings on in-theatre transport. The US is striving to achieve a 10% reduction in theatre/combat zone transport. It has been calculated that such a saving would have saved the US seven lives a year in Afghanistan. Shifting ammunition is a very large part of the logistic requirement, so any weight saving has an instant human return, not to mention savings in costs, CO2 emissions and other green issues. For the humble infantryman, the weight saving will reduce future medical costs for damaged knees and backs.

PPD's LWACs can be safely packed and stowed with no requirement for modification to platforms, stowage systems or weapon mounts. Different colours can be incorporated into the composite LWAC to signify the type of ammunition within, e.g. blue for training, green for operational, etc. As the LWACs can be transparent, yet still with the colouring pigment, the number of rounds can be counted without having to open the case, saving time during stock checks. Additionally, an RFID tag can be built in; allowing each case, its content and its movement to be tracked from the moment the LWAC is made to the moment it comes out of service.

"The LWAC has undergone a series of rigorous tests conducted by NAMMO Raufoss and watched by independent observers. LWAC performed exactly as we predicted and wanted," said Jan Engmann, CEO of PPD. "The effort put in by our specialist advisers and experts has been vindicated, and the benefits of using composite in this way are there for all to see. The weight savings we have achieved with the resulting cost reduction make it a simple decision for logisticians."

The LWAC is fully recyclable without any preparation and meets all the EU requirements for 'green gas' emissions up to 2040. Other cases and lightweight pallets are in design.