

Provide information on how M6 and CBI have been moved from location to location in the past. Is data available on the use of immersion?

The two White Papers prepared in response to similar questions regarding the stability of M6 and a proposal to submerged M6 in water will provide additional information in response to the above. These papers are now being reviewed by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health for approval and release. However, with regard the above:

The Army manufactures nitrocellulose at an Army Ammunition Plant and uses it to make propellant. The Army does ship nitrocellulose wet to test organizations, but never ships propellant wet. Stabilizers are added to propellant during the manufacturing process. At that time, the Army assigns an index number to the bulk propellant LOT. The propellant LOT is then tracked by index number throughout its lifecycle. A master surveillance sample is taken from the LOT at the time it is manufactured. The stabilized bulk propellant LOT is then safely shipped dry to a Load, Assembly and Pack (LAP) plant where it is bagged and containerized for use in military munitions (e.g., artillery charges) The Army has very stringent procedures to ensure the propellant LOT's identity and integrity are maintained throughout the LOT's service life. The Army's implementation of a comprehensive munitions surveillance program and a comprehensive propellant monitoring program allow the Army to identify potential issues early while the propellant LOT is still stable. This allows for destruction on site by open burning or open detonation (OB/OD) or, if the material's condition allows, the material's safe transport to a designated location for consolidation with other military munitions for disposal by OB/OD or other approved means.

The Army does not ship or store propellants "under water" as there has been no need to do so, and storage under water might have undesirable effects on the physical and chemical properties of the propellant.