

# Packaging Matters

## A Call for Papers

By

Ira J. Smith & John A. Schmuff

# The Objective

- Our objective is to tell real world stories that have caused waste, failure, & even loss of life caused by inadequate packaging to make people aware that packaging does matter, especially to a War Fighter in the field.
- Over the last two decades *Standard Commercial Packaging* has become a common contract requirement. This is a term that gets misinterpreted to reduce costs but often insufficient for overseas or combat environments.
- NIPHLE is calling all Packaging Professionals to submit historical stories to report on how poor packaging caused a failure or better packaging saved the day.
- It is a Legacy for all those dedicated military packers who's work has been overlooked & forgotten over time. This effort intends to collect as many short stories as possible and organize them into a published book titled ***Packaging Matters.***

# Ammunition That Swelled or Corroded in Transit

During conflicts such as World War II and later in Vietnam, poorly sealed ammunition packaging allowed moisture to enter. In tropical environments, rounds corroded, swelled, or misfired.



Root cause:

- Inadequate moisture barriers
- Poor sealing materials
- Lack of desiccants

**Impact:**

- Weapon malfunctions
- Dangerous misfires
- Reduced combat readiness

# The Process

- Papers can be any length and may include photographs, drawings, or tables. Remember, the book is envisioned to be a collection of short stories.
- Authors will be required to sign a release allowing NIPHLE to publish their work with an understanding that no compensation will be paid.
- The short stories will be reviewed by an editorial committee for professional content.
- Submittal does not guarantee acceptance into the book. NIPHLE will make every attempt to include quality works in the book.

# Troops in Afghanistan reported issues with batteries for night vision, radios, and optics.

## Packaging/marketing failure:

- Different battery types:
    - Same size
    - Similar packaging
  - Markings too small or not visible in low light
- Impact:**
- Equipment failures during operations
  - Loss of communications or visibility



If two items can be confused, they will be—especially at night.

# The Details

- Ira J. Smith from Action-Pak is sponsoring this effort to collect stories from the past to make others aware that a small amount of added value can save enormous amount of money, improve readiness & in some cases prevent catastrophic events.
- All paper submitters will receive an acknowledgement in the book, including a brief biography of each author.
- If an author would prefer to remain anonymous, we will honor that request or not publish.
- Proceeds from the book will be donated to the NIPHLE charity in support of veterans.

# Batteries That Self-Drained in Storage



# How to Participate

- Stories should be submitted to the NIPHLE Executive Director, Mary Keane, at email [mkeane@niphle.org](mailto:mkeane@niphle.org).
- ***This is your chance to be part of history.*** Deadline for submittal is Oct 1, 2026. For questions regarding this project, please contact:

Ira J. Smith at email [ira@actionpakinc.com](mailto:ira@actionpakinc.com)

or

John A. Schmuff at email [johnschmuff54@gmail.com](mailto:johnschmuff54@gmail.com).

