

WEAPONS SAFETY MESSAGE 10-02



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HEADQUARTERS, US FORCES-AFGHANISTAN
NEW KABUL COMPOUND, KABUL, AFGHANISTAN
APO AE 09356

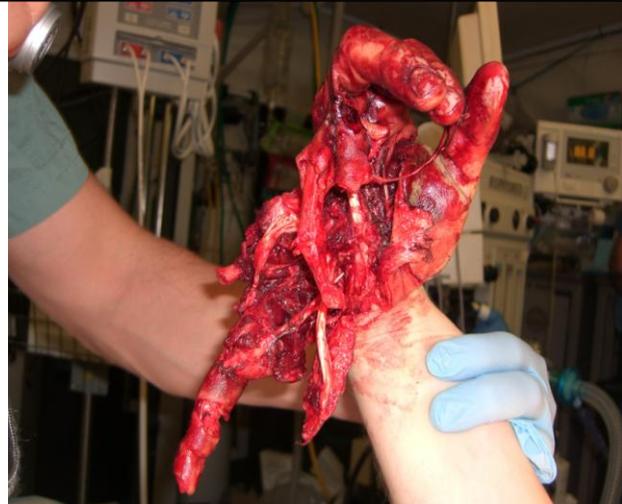
USFOR-A-SAFETY

10 MAY 2010

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

RECENT M2 .50 CALIBER MACHINE GUN RELATED ACCIDENTS HAVE RESULTED IN PERMANENT DISABILITIES DUE TO IMPROPER PROCEDURES FOR MOUNTING AND OPERATION OF THE M2 MACHINE GUN. REVIEW OF INITIAL CAUSAL FACTORS INDICATES THESE ACCIDENTS OFTEN RESULT FROM INATTENTION TO DETAIL, LACK OF SUPERVISION, AND FAILURE TO FOLLOW EXISTING SOPs, TTPs, AND FAILURE OF LEADERS TO ENFORCE SAFETY STANDARDS/POLICIES.

WHILE MOUNTING THE M2 MACHINE GUN ONTO THE TURRET SYSTEM OF HIS MATV DURING PRE-COMBAT CHECKS, THIS SOLDIER EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY INSERTING THE LOCKING PIN ON THE MOD 93 MACHINE GUN MOUNT. THE SOLDIER THEN ATTEMPTED TO FORCE THE LOCKING PIN INTO PLACE WITH A ROCK. AFTER THIS FAILED, HE THEN SECURED A LOOSE .50 CAL ROUND, USING IT TO HAMMER AT THE LOCKING PIN, ATTEMPTING TO FORCE THE LOCKING PIN INTO PLACE. AFTER SEVERAL HITS WITH THE .50 CAL ROUND, THE PRIMER ACTIVATED, SETTING THE ROUND OFF IN THE SOLDIER'S HAND. THE INJURIES SUFFERED TO HIS RIGHT HAND, MIDDLE, RING AND PINKIE FINGERS ON HIS RIGHT HAND ARE SHOWN BELOW TO THE RIGHT.



ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

“SAFETY IS INTEGRAL TO THE WARRIOR”

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WEAPONS SAFETY MESSAGE 10-02

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