



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND (USAFCENT)
379TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING

10 December 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR AIR FORCE SECURITY FORCES CENTER (AFSFC)

(b) (6)

FROM: 379 ESFS/CC
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

SUBJECT: Peacetime Government Firearms Discharge Report

1. In accordance with AFI 31-117, Arming and Use of Force by Air Force Personnel, para 2.12, Commanders must investigate all peacetime or in-garrison negligent firearm discharges. This report includes all information required per AFI 31-117, Attachment 4.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SUBJECT

1. FULL NAME AND GRADE: (b) (6) / E-4
2. SOCIAL SECURITY #: (b) (6)
3. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: DOB: (b) (6) / POB: (b) (6)
4. MAJOR COMMAND/SOA OF ASSIGNMENT: Air Force Central Command (AFCENT)
5. UNIT AND INSTALLATION OF ASSIGNMENT: 379th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.
6. DATE ASSIGNED PRESENT UNIT: 13 July 2022
7. PRIMARY AIR FORCE SPECIALTY CODE: 3P051

3. INCIDENT SUMMARY

1. DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT: 9 November 2022, 0624L hours
2. TYPE AND SERIAL NUMBER OF FIREARM: Sig Sauer M18 Modular Handgun System. SN: TC059980
3. TYPE OF INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE: No injuries or damages noted/reported
4. PUBLICITY RECEIVED: No publicity / Unit specific
5. BRIEF SUMMARY OF INCIDENT: At 0624L hours on 9 Nov 22, the SUBJECT was arming for duty, and conducted arming procedures for the M18 Sig Saur Handgun at

~~CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION~~

~~THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 AS AMENDED~~

the clearing barrel. After inserting a loaded 17 round magazine and placing the firearm's safety selector lever on "fire", the SUBJECT began to move the handgun to the holster. During the movement and before holstering the handgun, the SUBJECT negligently placed his index finger on the trigger, causing the firearm to discharge a single round into the concrete pad. After the discharge, the SUBJECT dropped the handgun to the ground and no personnel sustained injuries.

4. LESSONS LEARNED

Submitted by: Lt Col (b) (6), AUAB Defense Force Commander

Title: Peacetime Government Firearms Negligent Discharge

Observation: The Investigation revealed SUBJECT was posting for duties for Alpha Flight/Days Shift (0700-1500) when he was clearing and loading his assigned M18. The SUBJECT, while under supervision of the clearing barrel attendant, performed his loading procedures with his non-dominant hand (right-hand). After the M18 was loaded for duty carry with the fire selector lever placed on fire, the SUBJECT transitioned the weapon back to his dominant hand (left-hand) motioning to secure the weapon in his holster. As the weapon was being inserted into the holster, one (1) 9mm hollow point round was discharged striking the concrete surface the SUBJECT was standing on. The single round discharged had only broken the surface of the concrete and did not hit any personnel or other fixed objects. Immediately, the SUBJECT dropped the weapon on the ground and backed away from the clearing barrel. From there, BDOC was notified of the situation, dispatching an on duty patrolman to secure the area. 379 ESFS/S2I was notified and responded to conduct the investigation of the incident. The SUBJECT and the clearing barrel attendant were advised their rights via Article 31 of the UCMJ and both parties acknowledged their rights and agreed to provide a written statement via AF IMT 1168. From their findings, the previous information was corroborated by several other Flight and Armory Airmen via AF IMT 1168. The clearing barrel attendant stated he was "dazed and confused" for a period of time after the discharge. The SUBJECT was asked why he switched hands when arming, where he explained this was his instruction since technical training school. Additionally, The Days Flight Chief conducted a Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) on the SUBJECT showing no signs of impairment. After the investigation was complete, the M18 was secured and turned into CATM for further inspection of the weapon. It was noted that the M18 failed to eject the discharged round causing the weapon to jam, failing to chamber a new round.

Discussion: The SUBJECT has been assigned to Flight since 15 July 2022, was certified on the M18 handgun and trained on clearing barrel procedures. The method of switching hands is not part of the procedure when loading/unloading the M18. This is identified as a residual habit of left-hand dominant Defenders certified on the M9 handgun when unloading the duty pistol. By doing so, the SUBJECT unknowingly placed his finger on the trigger and as he attempted to holster the weapon, his finger pulled the trigger causing the negligent discharge. Additionally, the act of dropping the weapon after the round was discharged shows a lack of confidence and control of the weapon system usually trained during weapons qualification. The clearing barrel attendant's disorientation from the event shows a lack of experience and situational awareness in performing his primary duty at that time. During administrative action, the SUBJECT adamantly denied that he placed his finger on the trigger claiming that the weapon fired on its own. After reviewing the investigative evidence I have determined through that the preponderance of

~~CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION~~

~~THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 AS AMENDED~~

evidence shows that the SUBJECT did in fact manipulate the trigger and negligently discharged the weapon. Based on this determination, Non-Judicial Punishment (NJP) was upheld.

Lessons Learned: The SUBJECT showed complacency and lack of control of his assigned weapon when performing loading procedures. This absence of focus and negligence for safety caused a dangerous situation which could have harmed his fellow Flight members. Additionally, the clearing barrels attendant's complacency to outdated procedures allowed for the SUBJECT to perform the action without any concern. The lack of training with live rounds and experience with firearms shown is a topic of concern for all Defenders. As the career field updates its weapon systems, training and accountability of those weapon systems must consistent at all levels. Remedial training was conducted in the days following this incident which included proper procedures for loading/unloading the M18 handgun and emphasized the importance of maintaining control of weapons at all times.

Recommended Action: No further action requested from HHQ.

5. If there are any questions, please contact Capt (b) (6) /379 ESFS/S3 at DSN: (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Lt Col, USAF
Commander, 379 ESFS

~~CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION~~

~~THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION SUBJECT TO THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 AS AMENDED~~