



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
31ST FIGHTER WING (USAF)

8 February 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR USAF/LESSONS LEARNED

FROM: 31 SFS/CC

SUBJECT: After Action Report– Negligent Discharge

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SUBJECT**

1. FULL NAME AND GRADE – (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) /E-5
2. MAJCOM OF ASSIGNMENT – USAF
3. UNIT AND INSTALLATION OF ASSIGNMENT – 31 SFS, AVIANO AB, ITALY
4. DATE ASSIGNED PRESENT UNIT – 31 JAN 2017
5. PRIMARY AFSC – 3P0X1

**INCIDENT SUMMARY**

1. DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT – 3 February 2022, approx. 1250 Local Time
2. TYPE OF FIREARM – M-18 Pistol
3. TYPE OF INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE – Clearing Barrel
4. PUBLICITY RECEIVED - None
5. BRIEF SUMMARY OF INCIDENT – AT APPROXIMATELY 1250 HOURS, SSGT (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) WAS ARMING FOR DUTY WHEN HE PROCEEDED TO THE DESIGNATED CLEARING ZONE. AFTER VERIFYING THE WEAPON WAS SAFE AND CLEAR, SSGT (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) INSERTED A MAGAZINE INTO THE MAGAZINE WELL OF THE M-18 PISTOL AND DEPRESSED THE SLIDE RELEASE SENDING THE SLIDE FORWARD. WHEN THE SLIDE MOVED FULLY FORWARD THE WEAPON NEGLIGENTLY DISCHARGED WITHOUT THE TRIGGER HAVING BEEN PULLED REARWARD.

**Operation/Event Name:** Negligent Discharge, SSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), 3 February 2022

**Date/Time:** 3 February 2022/approx. 1250L

**Point of Contact (POC):** Lt Col (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), Commander, 31 Security Forces Squadron

**Title:** (U) Negligent Discharge, SSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), 3 February 2022

**Observation:** (U) At 1250L, 3 Feb 22, in preparation for duty, SSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) received loaded magazines and an M-18 pistol from the armory after verifying it was safe and clear. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) then proceeded to the designated clearing zone and awaited the direction of a competent clearing barrel attendant (SrA (b) (3) (A), (b) (6)). (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) approached the clearing barrel to perform arming procedures after being instructed to move forward beyond the red line. (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) and (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) both verified the weapon was safe and clear. With the safety selector on safe, (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) inserted a

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magazine into the magazine well of the pistol and depressed the slide release sending the slide forward. The weapon fired one round once the slide was fully forward.

**Discussion: (U)** At around 1310L, on 3 February 2022, S2I was notified of a Negligent Weapon Discharge involving a M-18 pistol at the clearing zone located inside of the Security Forces Primary Armory, Bldg. #14231. Investigators (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), and (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) responded to the scene and assumed command and established a crime scene. The investigators enlisted the assistance of on-duty SF to begin taking statements from all witnesses to the incident. A total of 15 statements were taken. The investigators photographed the scene and entry area (20 photographs in total were taken). The M-18, one (1) spent casing, all issued ammunition and magazines, and one (1) clearing barrel were taken into evidence. The M-18 was fumigated for latent finger prints in preparation for submission to USACIL. **NOTE:** No fingerprints were identified on the trigger mechanism. Investigators conducted in-person interviews with (Subject) SSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), (Clearing Barrel Attendant) SrA (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), and (NCOIC, Armory) SSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6).

**Lesson Learned: (U)** At around 1430L, on 4 February 2022, TSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), 31 SFS/Section Chief, Combat Arms and SSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), 31 SFS/Combat Arms Instructor examined M-18 Pistol (Serial Number TC046950) which was involved in a Negligent Discharge (ND) on 3 February 2022. TSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) performed a field strip disassembly of the weapon system and immediately noticed a wear mark on the mechanical disconnect. TSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) and SSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) both conducted a slide function test IAW T.O. TM9-1005-470-23&P. The test resulted in the slide meeting test standards. There were no other wear marks or noticeable damage to the M-18. After the inspection, TSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) and SSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) inspected Combat Arms training M-18 pistol, Serial Number TC043508 for the same wear mark on the mechanical disconnect. Similar wearing of the disconnect was not identified. For comparison, the M-18 involved in the ND has had a total of 155 rounds fired through the weapon (AFTO 105) while the Combat Arms assigned M-18 has had 540 rounds fired (AFTO 105). Although, the Combat Arms M-18 has had more rounds fired, it does not bear the same wear as the ND weapon. **NOTE:** TSgt (b) (3) (A), (b) (6) construes the weapon suffered a mechanical failure involving the mechanical disconnect. The failure allowed the firing pin to move forward striking the primer allowing for 1x 9mm projectile to be fired as the slide fully seated in the forward position.

**Recommended Action: (U)** Negligent discharges are on the rise and Air Force Security Forces Center is aware of incidents with reported possible mechanical malfunctions. Conduct training through a variety of means to reinforce proper weapons safety, loading and unloading procedures. Inform unit personnel of enterprise-wide NDs to ensure weapon safety vigilance/safe weapons handling remains at the forefront of all weapons associated activities.

**OPR Comments: (U)** Weapons safety training was conducted and reinforced among all 31 SFS personnel. SFS/CC completed all appropriate checklist actions outlined in AFI 31-117.

**Date and Time AAR completed:** 8 February 2022 at 1330L.

(b) (3) (A), (b) (6) (b) (3) (A), (b) (6)

(b) (3) (A), (b) (6), Lt Col, USAF  
Commander, 31 Security Forces Squadron