

\*\*\*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED // FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO) \*\*\*\*\*

Subject: TACOM LCMC SOU 18-005, M4A1 - UNINTENDED DISCHARGE  
DTG: 231057Z APR 18  
Precedence: PRIORITY  
DAC: General

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UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY  
Subject: Safety Of Use (SOU) Message, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command,  
(TACOM LCMC) Control No. SOU 18-005, (Technical), M4A1-Unintended Discharge.

Models Affected:  
CARBINE, 5.56MM, M4A1, P/N 12972700 NSN 1005-01-382-0953; M4, P/N  
9390000 NSN 1005-01-231-0973, RIFLE, 5.56MM, M16A2, P/N 9349000 NSN  
1005-01-128-9936; M16A3: NSN 1005-01-357-5112, P/N 12012000; M16A4, P/N  
12973001  
NSN 1005-01-383-2872

Total Density of Equipment Affected is 922422, and Density of Equipment  
affected  
in SWA is 30000.

D XXX D  
A X "WARNING" X A  
N X DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY TO SOLDIERS, OR DAMAGE X N  
G X TO ARMY EQUIPMENT WILL OCCUR IF THE INSTRUCTIONS X G  
E X IN THIS MESSAGE ARE NOT FOLLOWED. X E  
R XXX R

REFERENCES: REFERENCES: TM 9-1005-319-10, WP0005 OPERATION UNDER USUAL  
CONDITIONS TM 9-1005-319-10, WP0007 FUNCTION CHECK TM 9-1005-319-23&P SOUM  
18-004

SYNOPSIS: TACOM Weapons Product Support Integration Directorate  
(PSID) is aware of an unintended discharge incident from an M4A1 Product  
Improvement Program (PIP) converted carbine at Ft Knox. The incident is under  
investigation by the Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering  
Center  
(ARDEC), PM Soldier Weapons, and TACOM. On 29 MAR 2018 SOUM #18-004 alerted  
the  
field of an unintended discharge on an M4A1 PIP'ed weapons that occurred when  
the operator pulled the trigger with the selector switch between the SEMI and  
AUTO detents (outside of detent). The weapon did not fire when the operator  
pulled the trigger and instead fired when the selector was moved further. As  
a  
result of this incident, an on-going investigation determined that there is  
the  
potential for  
all carbines and rifles noted above, to behave in this way. This  
update alerts the field of that possibility and provides an update to the  
Immediate Action procedure in WP0005.

As long as the weapon is utilized IAW the Operator's manual, the weapon will  
perform as intended. The additional functions check is to inform the PM of  
the  
extent of this issue and determine the number of weapons affected.

### 1. Receipt Acknowledgement:

This is a Technical Safety of Use Message. Commanders/Directors of Army Commands (ACOM)/Army Service Component Commands (ASCC)/Direct Reporting Units (DRU), Army National Guard (ARNG), US Army Reserve (USAR) Command, US Navy (USN), US Air Force (USAF), US Marine Corps (USMC) and other Service Commanders and Responsible Offices will retransmit this message to all subordinate Commanders/Activities within 24 hours of receipt and will, within 3 working days, acknowledge receipt for all ground safety and maintenance messages using the Modification Management Information System (MMIS).

### 2. Compliance Reporting:

Commanders/Directors of Army Commands (ACOM)/Army Service Component Commands (ASCC)/Direct Reporting Units (DRU), Army National Guard, US Army reserve Commands and other Responsible Offices, will track unit compliance to the tasks outlined in this message in MMIS until 100% complete. Units shall report compliance not later than 10 Days from the release date of the message. MMIS is Common Access Card (CAC) protected and requires login through the Logistics Information Warehouse (LIW). The URL for LIW is <https://liw.logsa.army.mil/>. Unit representatives can find the MMIS Application is in the LIW App Warehouse and request access as required. Instructions to report compliance are in the MMIS Help function. You may also contact the MMIS Helpdesk at [usarmy.redstone.logsa.mbx.mmis@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.redstone.logsa.mbx.mmis@mail.mil).

### 3. Message Library:

This message will be available on the Safety First web site located on the TACOM-Unique Logistics Support Applications (TULSA) portal within twenty-four hours of transmission. Access to the Safety First web site requires CAC authentication. You must first request access to the Safety First web site. To request access, go to <https://tulsa.tacom.army.mil>. For assistance, email the TULSA Helpdesk at [usarmy.detroit.tacom.mbx.ilsc-tulsa@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.detroit.tacom.mbx.ilsc-tulsa@mail.mil). The Safety First web site also has the capability to email safety messages directly to your inbox. To subscribe to the mailing list, click on E-Mail Subscriptions on the Navigation bar.

### 4. Problem:

a. Summary of Problem: If the trigger is pulled when the selector is between Detent Settings, there is a potential that the weapon will not fire until the selector is moved further into a detent position, possibly resulting in an unintended discharge. Weapons exhibiting the condition pass the standard function check (WP0007). M16 and M4 rifles and carbines noted above are designed to be fired only from the SEMI, BURST, or AUTO Detent Settings, in accordance with procedures outlined in TM 9-1005-319-10.

Under NO circumstances should Soldiers attempt to replicate this condition during live fire or while using live rounds.

Units shall not modify components of weapon in order to remedy issue or for any reason outside of an approved Modified Work Order (MWO).

[NOTE: The weapon(s) selector should be moved fully to the detent position ((SEMI or AUTO) or BURST) to ensure proper function. This condition was a result of the procedures outlined in TM 9-1005-319-10 for operating and firing of the M4A1 not being followed. The weapon(s) selector should be moved fully to the SEMI, BURST, or AUTO position to ensure proper function. The weapon should be considered ready to fire anytime the selector is not set on the SAFE position and a round will fire when the trigger is pulled.]

b. Expected results if failure occurs: Attempting to fire an M16 and M4 series rifle and carbine noted above with the selector anywhere outside of a detent position between SEMI and AUTO (BURST for non M4A1's) may result in a failure to fire.

As long as the weapon is utilized IAW the Operator's manual, the weapon will perform as intended. If the additional function check (outlined in Para. 5.a.3 and 5.a.4) results in a failure, the weapon is still considered fully mission capable (FMC) when operated according to Technical Manual referenced above. Units shall also verify weapon passes normal function check with selector fully seated in a detent position.

NOTE: Unauthorized/unapproved modifications to the weapon may make the weapon non-mission capable (NMC).

c. Any Injuries or Fatalities: No reported injuries or fatalities

#### 5. User Actions:

a. Until a resolution is found, units are required to perform the following additional function check on all M16 and M4 series rifles and carbines. If the unit reported failure data IAW SOUM 18-004, then reporting action for those weapons has been satisfied.

1. Ensure weapon is clear by observing the chamber, the bolt face, and magazine well. The weapon should always be pointed in a safe direction. Do NOT perform this check with live ammunition.

2. Perform standard function check IAW WP0007.

3. Move the selector lever to the SEMI position then move the selector to a position between SEMI and AUTO (BURST for non M4A1's) and squeeze the trigger.

The hammer should drop when trigger is squeezed. If the hammer drops, repeat by

slightly repositioning selector between SEMI and AUTO (or BURST). If the hammer does not drop when the trigger is squeezed, this is a failure. Record this information and continue to the next step.

4. If hammer does not drop, move the selector in either direction. If the hammer drops without squeezing the trigger, this is a failure. Record this information.

5. Gather information recorded from the additional function check. Unit and/or LAR shall fill out attached excel spreadsheet.

This information shall be sent to TACOM Equipment Specialists:  
Kenneth Hiltunen, kenneth.r.hiltunen2.civ@mail.mil and Brian Tremblay, brian.s.tremblay.civ@mail.mil.

The weapon is NOT considered a code-out or dead-lined if weapon fails steps 3 and 4 above.

Please use weapon with caution and follow proper firing procedures (selector in a fully selected firing mode and pointing in a safe direction).

\*If a weapon does not fire when the trigger is pulled, the operator should first Confirm that the selector is set to SEMI, AUTO, or BURST (for non M4A1's)

prior to performing the six steps of Immediate Action Procedures outlined in TM

9-1005-319-10 on page 0005-21 and 0005-22. Immediate Action Procedures are now:

1. Confirm that the selector is set to SEMI, AUTO, or BURST.  
( (NEW) )
  2. Slap upward on magazine to make sure it is properly seated.
  3. Pull the charging handle completely reward and hold.
  4. Observe for ejection of case or cartridge. Ensure cartridge or case is ejected and chamber is clear.
  5. Release charging handle to feed new round.
  6. Tap the forward assist to ensure bolt is closed.
  7. Squeeze trigger. Weapon should fire.
- SPORTS can be modified to C-SPORTS.

b. This is a Field Level Task

c. All M16 and M4 series rifles and carbines should have this additional function check performed within 10 days or prior to live fire, whichever comes first.

- d. M4A1: NSN 1005-01-382-0953, P/N 12972700  
M4: NSN 1005-01-231-0973, P/N 9390000  
M16A2: NSN 1005-01-128-9936, P/N 9349000  
M16A3: NSN 1005-01-357-5112, P/N 12012000  
M16A4: NSN 1005-01-383-2872, P/N 12973001

TM 9-1005-319-10 TM 9-1005-319-23&P

TM 9-1005-319-10, WP0005 OPERATION UNDER USUAL CONDITIONS

TM 9-1005-319-10, WP0007 FUNCTION CHECK

TM 9-1005-319-23&P

SOUM 18-004

Attachment List:

<https://tulsa.tacom.army.mil/Safety/?t=soum&f=FunctionCheck.xlsx>

<https://tulsa.tacom.army.mil/Safety/?t=soum&f=PIPMarkings.pdf>

<https://tulsa.tacom.army.mil/Safety/?t=soum&f=WP0005.pdf>

<https://tulsa.tacom.army.mil/Safety/?t=soum&f=WP0007.pdf>

6. Unit Commanders:

a. Commander shall ensure that all M16 and M4 series rifles and carbines receive the additional function check, findings are reported, and all weapons are operated in accordance with TM 9-1005-319-10, specifically WP0005 (OPERATION UNDER USUAL CONDITIONS) and WP0007 (FUNCTION CHECK).

b. Contact your local TACOM LCMC Logistics Assistance Representative (LAR) or your State Surface Maintenance Manager upon receipt of this message for assistance. For assistance in locating your TACOM LCMC LAR, see paragraph 9c

7. TACOM LCMC/PM actions:

a. Publications: TM 9-1005-319-10: TACOM is developing an update to TM 9-1005-319-10 to add "Confirm that the Selector is set to the AUTO, SEMI, or BURST detent" prior to the other steps of SPORTS Immediate Action Procedures. The intent is to incorporate C-SPORTS to the TM in the next update.

b. Follow-up action(s): 1. ARDEC is currently working a detailed fault tree analysis to find cause.

2. A sample of failed weapons are being disassembled and a dimensional analysis is ongoing.

3. Simulation and modeling of weapon components and tolerances are being conducted.

4. New Procurement contractors are part of team to help determine problem.

5. Units shall follow -10 TM and properly firing weapon with the selector in a

fully selected detent ((SEMI/AUTO) or BURST).

6. To date, no single cause has been identified.

7. All future PIP missions will continue as scheduled.

c. Assistance to the field: Assistance, if any, will be transmitted pending investigation findings.

8. Supply Status:

a. Parts required: N/A

b. Requisitioning instructions: N/A

c. Disposition/Availability: N/A

d. Cost Impact: N/A

e. Who pays: N/A

9. POCs:

a. The originator of this message is Kenneth Hiltunen, kenneth.r.hiltunen2.civ@mail.mil, Commercial (586) 282-1271, DSN 786.1271, AMSTA-LCW-S.

b. The Equip Specialist POC is Brian Tremblay, brian.s.tremblay.civ@mail.mil, Commercial 586-282-1255, DSN 786-1255, AMSTA-LCW.

c. To find your TACOM LCMC LAR, contact the TACOM LCMC Senior Command Representative (SCR) for your area.

(1) CONUS-East Region includes all Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Units in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and FORSCOM. CONUS-East SCR can be reached at DSN 312-236-6921, Commercial 910-396-6921.

(2) CONUS-West Region includes all Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Units in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming. CONUS-West SCR can be reached at DSN 312-737-0263, Commercial 254-287-0263.

(3) Pacific Region includes All Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Units in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, California and New Mexico, the SCR can be reached at DSN 312-347-5172, Commercial 253-966-5172. The Alaska, Hawaii and Guam SCR can be reached at DSN 315-438-4985, Commercial at 808-438-4985.

(4) Europe Region includes all Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Units in Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, Italy, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia. Europe SCR can be reached at DSN 314-483-4090, Commercial 011-49-631-411-4090, in Germany, 0631-411-4090.

(5) Far East Region includes all Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Units in Korea, Okinawa, Kwajalein, and Japan. Far East SCR can be reached at DSN 315-768-7943, Commercial 011-82-(0)10-3473-4012.

(6) SWA - Kuwait includes all Active Duty, National Guard and, Reserve Units in Kuwait. SWA - Kuwait SCR at Camp Arifjan can be reached at DSN 318-430-4189.

(7) SWA OEF Region (Afghanistan) SWA, Region OEF includes all Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Units in Afghanistan. SWA Region 401st AFSB OEF SCR can be reached at DSN 312-864-4814.

(8) For US Special Operations Command contact, Special Operations Forces Support Activity (SOFSA), USSOCOM Logistics Helpdesk, Daryl Ellis Daryl.R.Ellis.ctr@lmco.sofsa.mil at DSN: 745-3114, Commercial 859-566-4198 or Toll Free 1-888-763-7259 or equipmenthelpdesk@sofsa.mil.

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