

Subject: Safety Of Use Message (SOUM), TACOM Control No. SOUM 03-008 (Operational), Bradley Fighting Vehicle Inadvertent Weapons Discharge. Vehicles affected: Bradley Fighting Vehicle variants; M2A2, NSN 2350-01-248-7619, LIN F40375; M2A2-ODS, NSN 2350-01-405-9886, LIN F40375; M2A2 ODS-MUA, NSN 2350-01-455-8323, LIN F40375; M2A2 ODS-E, NSN 2350-01-494-9960, LIN Z00025; M3A2, NSN 2350-01-248-7620, LIN F60530; M3A2-ODS, NSN 2350-01-405-9887, LIN F60530; M6 Linebacker, NSN 2350-01-448-0368, LIN C00384 and M7 BFIST, NSN 2350-01-432-1526, LIN F86571. Total Density is 5500.

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D      XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 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      XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX R

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1. Distribution:

A. This is an operational Safety Of Use Message. MACOM Commanders will retransmit this message to all subordinate Commands/Activities within 24 hours of receipt of this message and acknowledge receipt of this message within five working days to: CDR TACOM, Warren MI, AMSTA-LC-CIPWM, DSN 786-6096, Commercial (586) 574-6096 or DDN address: Safetyofuse@Tacom.Army.Mil.

B. MACOM Commanders will also track and report compliance of this message for all subordinate Commands/Activities to: Mr. Don Buksar, SFAE-GCS-BV-L, DSN 786-7847 commercial (586) 574-7847, email: buksard@tacom.army.mil no later than 31 July 2003.

2. Problem:

A. Crew was experiencing turret batteries that wouldn't retain a charge on their Bradley Fighting Vehicle. A crewmember walked to the front of the vehicle and instructed the driver to start the engine so the turret batteries could be charged. When the driver turned on the master power switch, a 25MM round fired from the M242 gun system striking and fatally injuring the crewmember.

B. Non-standard batteries were found in the turret battery box that were acquired by the crew. The batteries were identified as Spiralcell batteries not recommended for deep cycle use. The non-standard batteries are used for high power applications and identified as the same type batteries found in Army style generators. It is not known what (if any) effects these batteries may have had on the vehicle firing system or any of its fire control components.

C. Safety procedures and warnings already in existence would have prevented this accident from occurring. The weapon system was loaded with 25MM AP ammunition. The Arm Safe Reset (ASR) on the Weapon Control Box (WCB) was on electrical safe with high rate of fire selected however the 25MM gun was not placed on manual safe. The turret power and radio systems were on at the time of the accident occurrence. A soldier was standing directly in front of the vehicle while the driver initiated the vehicle starting procedures. Vehicle hatches were opened and the combat override was turned on therefore bypassing safety interlocks designed to place the weapon system in a no fire zone.

3. User Actions: The following tasks include interim steps (as stated below) to prevent accident reoccurrence. These interim steps will remain in place until completion of the vehicle component analysis and any accident associated investigations.

A. Shut Down Turret Under Usual Conditions - Tasks listed in M2A2/M3A2 TM 9-2350-284-10-2; M2A2 ODS/M3A3 ODS TM 9-2350-284-10-2-1;

M6 Linebacker TM 9-2350-361-10-1; and M7 BFIST TM 9-2350-297-10-2 will include the following as interim steps:

1. Prior to turning off the STAB switch, move the Arm Safe Reset switch to reset then to safe (reset clears all previous fire control selections).

2. After turning off the turret power switch, place the 25MM weapon system on MANUAL safe.

B. Vehicle Power Up - Tasks listed in M2A2/M3A2 TM 9-2350-284-10-1; M2A2 ODS/M3A2 ODS TM 9-2350-284-10-1-1; M6 Linebacker TM 9-2350-361-10-1; and M7 BFIST TM 9-2350-297-10-1 will include the following as an interim step:

Before beginning the start engine task, enter the turret and physically verify that the 25MM gun system is on MANUAL safe. Do not turn on Master Power prior to ensuring the 25MM is on manual safe.

C. If gun cycling is heard during vehicle startup, refer to the vehicle turret technical manual for Immediate Action when 25MM Gun misfires. After cycled weapon is corrected, properly power down turret and hull and report the incident to maintenance personnel. Do not attempt to take weapon off manual safe.

D. Use only turret batteries specifically called for in the Bradley Fighting Vehicle TM's, NSN 6140-00-057-2553, P/N: MS35000-1.

E. Read, understand, train and follow all cautions and warnings in the vehicle TM's.

F. Unit commanders and subordinate leadership will re-emphasize to all vehicle crewmembers the basic safety considerations of ensuring

that the 25MM gun is pointed in the safest direction possible consistent with the on-going operations. Personnel should never stand in front of the weapons system while performing any maintenance or routine operational procedures.

G. Unit Commanders, contact your local TACOM Logistics Assistance Representative (LAR) or your State Surface Maintenance Manager upon receipt of this message for assistance. For assistance in locating your TACOM LAR, see paragraph 6E.

4. TACOM/PM actions:

PM Bradley will perform an in-depth component analysis on the vehicle Turret Distribution Box (TDB) to determine what impacts the batteries may have had on the electrical system. Updates will be provided to the user community after completion of the analysis and any associated accident investigations.

5. Supply Status: N/A

6. POC:

A. The Engineering POC within PM Bradley is for this message is Mr. Patrick Mulcahy, SFAE-GCS-BV-S, DSN 786-7850, commercial (586) 574-7850, e-mail: mulcahyp@tacom.army.mil

B. The Logistics POC within PM Bradley for this message is Mr. Chris Gartner, SFAE-GCS-BV-L, DSN 786-5786, commercial (586) 574-5786, e-mail: gartnerc@tacom.army.mil

C. The Quality Assurance POC within PM Bradley for this message is Mr. David Rutman, SFAE-GCS-BV-Q, DSN 786-7649, commercial (586) 574-7649, e-mail: rutmand@tacom.army.mil

D. The Safety POC within PM Bradley for this message is Mr. Ron Sevo, SFAE-GCS-BV-S, DSN 786-5231, commercial (586) 574-5231, e-mail sevor@tacom.army.mil