

SUBJECT: SAFETY OF USE MESSAGE (SOUM) TACOM CONTROL NO.
SOUM-04-007, Operational, M142, NSN: 1005-00-854-4463, LIN: M74618, Used
with M60 Machine Gun for Overhead Firing.

URGENT
DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY TO SOLDIERS OR
DAMAGE TO ARMY EQUIPMENT WILL OCCUR IF THE
INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS MESSAGE ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED

1. References:

- A. DTG 2003/11/18/18:55:43Z, Safety Of Use Message (SOUM) TACOM Control No. SOUM-04-003, Operational, M142, NSN: 1005-00-854-4463, LIN: M74618, Used with M60 Machine Gun for Overhead Firing.
- B. TM 9-1005-245-13&P, Operator, Unit and Direct Support Maintenance Manual for Ground Mounts; Machine Gun Mounts; and Combinations for Tactical/Armored Vehicles, Dec 1994.
- C. TM 9-1005-224-23&P, Unit and Direct Support Maintenance Manual for M60 Machine Gun, May 1998.

2. Distribution: Note this is a "Safety Of Use Message". MACOM Commanders will immediately 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 Safety Office, Tank-automotive and Armament Command-Rock Island (TACOM-RI), ATTN: AMSTA-CS-CZR, Rock Island, IL 61299-7630, e-mail: AMSTA-CS-CZR@RIA.ARMY.MIL.

3. Problem Discussion:

A fatality occurred in December 2003 during an overhead firing exercise on a Night Infiltration Course. As a result, the following safety modification to the M60/M142 overhead fire configuration is required effective immediately. The modification described herein when properly applied will provide a second positive means of preventing depression of the M60 MG barrel during overhead firing.

4. User Actions:

A. The user will insure the previously released directed safety modification (M142 latch locking screw) described per Safety Of Use Message (SOUM) TACOM Control No. SOUM-04-003, Operational, M142, NSN: 1005-00-854-4463, LIN: M74618, dated November 18, 2003 has been fully implemented and applied. Modified equipment must be dedicated to the sole purpose of overhead live fire training and never used in any other scenario.

B. Users are reminded that the following Direct Support maintenance checks and services must be applied to all M60 Machine Guns and M142 Mounts used during overhead live fire:

(1) After each 10,000 rounds fired, the machine gun barrel must be replaced and the weapon must undergo a complete technical inspection IAW TM 9-1005-224-23&P.

(2) After each 10,000 rounds fired, the M142 Machine Gun Mount Strike Catch is checked for cracks using a dye penetrant. If a crack is found, latch must be replaced. The spring, NSN: 5360-00-772-0187, and Pin, NSN: 5315-00-772-0186, are automatically replaced after 10,000 rounds fired.

(3) If round count has not been maintained on mounts which have been modified: Perform dye penetrant test, replace spring and pin as described above and initiate round count.

C. An M60 Buttstock Retention Cap Assembly for overhead fire has been developed and tested by TACOM and approved by HQ, TRADOC. Effective with this SOUM, its use with all M60/M142 overhead fire hardware is mandatory. Photographs and plans for fabrication of the buttstock retention cap assembly can be viewed on the Army Electronic Product Support website at <<https://aeps.ria.army.mil/>>. The new hardware to be incorporated into a typical overhead fire stand consists of four pieces; the buttstock cap, a base support, and a safety lock with keys. The buttstock retention cap attaches to the M60 buttstock by using the forward sling swivel screw. The individual DOL shops of each location must fabricate a post and base to which the buttstock retention cap assembly attaches. The buttstock retention cap assembly is available from TACOM or may be fabricated IAW the drawings posted on AEPS.

D. For added hardware safety and if compatible with the overhead fire stand configuration, it is recommended that each overhead firing stand also utilize the standard M60 travel lock. This consists of:

- 1) Bracket Assembly, Travel Lock, NSN 1010-01-151-6239
- 2) Travel Lock Assembly, NSN 1010-01-152-1138
- 3) Adapter Assembly, NSN 1005-00-772-0192

E. Effective with this SOUM, all users are required to perform the following overhead fire pre-operational safety check prior to every firing exercise:

1. Pull up on barrel/front handguard to ensure front mounting pin of weapon is hooked into M142 mount.
2. Pull up on buttstock of weapon to ensure it is properly seated and latched in the M142 mount.
3. Check that M142 latch locking bolt required by TACOM SOUM 04-003 is present and fully tightened to prevent latch movement.
4. If travel lock is used, check that all quick release pins

are in place, attachment to underside of M60 is properly engaged, and travel lock clamp is securely fastened and will not move on mount post.

5. Check that sling swivel screw attaching buttstock retention cap is in place and tightened down.

6. Check that buttstock retention device is securely locked into place with the padlock provided. Pull up on buttstock. There should be minimal to no vertical movement of the M60.

7. Double check retaining bolt in post, which supports the Retaining Assembly, to ensure it is tightened.

F. CATEGORY OF MAINTENANCE. Direct Support

5. Program Sponsor Actions:

PUBLICATIONS THAT REQUIRE CHANGE BECAUSE OF THIS INSPECTION:

TACOM-RI is currently working on revisions to TM 9-1005-245-23&P and TM 9-1005-224-23&P.

6. Supply Status:

This fix is for training centers only and will not adversely affect inventory of replacement parts.

A. PARTS REQUIRED: The M60 buttstock cap assembly may be fabricated per instructions provided on AEPS or may be requested from TACOM by contacting MAJ Donald Hurst, DSN 793-5143/3677, e-mail, HURSTD@RIA.ARMY.MIL <mailto:HURSTD@RIA.ARMY.MIL>.

B. REQUISITIONING INSTRUCTIONS - The travel lock hardware is available thru normal requisitioning channels using NSNs provided above.

C. ESTIMATED COST IMPACT OF STOCK FUND ITEMS - The M60 buttstock retention cap assembly costs approximately \$30 in materials and requires eight (8) hours to fabricate. It requires steel bending, metal forming, machining, lathe, drilling, and welding capability.

7. Risk Assessment.

a. Hazard Severity. Death and or permanent disability injuries may result if the M142 Gun Mount fails to hold the M60 Machine Gun during Overhead Firing. The hazard severity for this hazard is CATASTROPHIC (Category I). The definition of CATASTROPHIC is "Death, system loss, or severe environmental damage."

b. Probability: The probability of the M142 Gun Mount failure resulting in death to the soldier is OCCASSIONAL (Level C) due to previous deaths. The fleet definition of OCCASIONAL is will occur several times.

c. Risk Level. Based on the above severity and probability, the risk level of this hazard is a HIGH risk. This level is gathered from the Decision Authority Matrix for AMC managed systems.

8. POCs:

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B. MAJ Donald Hurst III, Small Arms Mount Team Leader, TACOM-RI, AMSTA-LC-CSIO, DSN 793-5143, <HURSTD@RIA.ARMY.MIL>.

C. JUDITH WINDHAM, SAFETY ENGINEERING, TACOM-RI, AMSTA-CS-CZR, DSN793-6367, WINDHAMJ2@RIA.ARMY.MIL <mailto:WINDHAMJ2@RIA.ARMY.MIL>.

D. Barbara Painter, Equipment Specialist, TACOM-RI, AMSTA-LC-CSIO, DSN 793-4403, Barb.Painter@us.army.mil <mailto:Barb.Painter@us.army.mil>.

9. Logistics Assistance Representative (LAR). To find your TACOM LAR, you must be a registered user in the Army Electronic Product Support (AEPS) database, click on this link:

<https://aeeps2.ria.army.mil/Services/Lars/Tacom/larmap/LARlocate/larmap.cfm>. Then select the appropriate region, i.e. CONUS, USAREUR, Far East, Kuwait. Select the location nearest you and click on a name. This will give you a

LAR's name, DSN and commercial phone number, email address, and photo.
If you are not a registered user, request access at the public page:
<https://aeps.ria.army.mil/aepspublic.cfm>, click on "Access Request Form" and
follow the instructions for obtaining an AEPS userid.

If you don't have access to AEPS, you can also obtain this information by
contacting the TACOM Senior Command Representative (SCR) for your area.

CONUS-East: includes all units east of the Mississippi, FORSCOM, SOUTHCOM,
KUWAIT, and CONUS units deployed, (to include National Guard and Reserve
units), DSN 236-6923, Commercial 910-396-6923.

CONUS-West: includes all units west of the Mississippi (to include all
National Guard and Reserve units), DSN 737-0263, Commercial 254-287-0263.

USAREUR: Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, Luxemburg, Italy, Bosnia,
Kosovo, and Macedonia, DSN 314-375-3461, Commercial 01149 621-487-3461, in
Germany, 0621-487-3461.

Far East: includes Alaska, Hawaii, Korea, Okinawa, Kwajlein, and Japan,
DSN 315-722-3036/3579, commercial 011 82 32 520-6036/6579.

SBCT units can contact your SCR at DSN 357-2991, Commercial 253-967-2991.

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