

SAFETY ALERT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5056



AFZF-GA-SAFE

26 September 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Weapons/Ammunition Safety – Safety Alert 01-03

1. As we engage in missions requiring soldiers to handle weapons with ammunition, we must be extremely cognizant of associated safety measures. Attention to detail and the avoidance of complacency when handling weapons/ammo is everyone's paramount responsibility.
2. Leaders must be thoroughly familiar with the published Rules Of Engagement (ROE) and Use of Force pertaining to each mission. Troops will be effectively briefed on the provisions in the ROE. Leaders must continue to emphasize weapons/ammo safety on a daily basis.
3. Historically, the major common injury-producing failures in handling weapons with ammo are failure to follow procedures, improper/inadequate clearing, untimely loading/unloading of weapons, and fratricide.
4. During these intense missions, leaders must continuously assess the mental and emotional state of their soldiers. Soldiers exhibiting unusual anxiety, depression, or abnormal behavior should be monitored closely and referred to seek Chaplain and/or medical assistance.
5. We cannot afford to experience a tragic weapons/ammo-handling incident resulting in casualties. Proper teamwork formulated with clear instructions can avoid such incidents. Leaders owe it to their soldiers to positively influence the soldiers' habits concerning weapons/ammo-handling.

Ensure this Safety Alert receives widest dissemination and is posted on unit bulletin boards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. B. Bell".

B. B. BELL
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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