

SAFETY ALERT



20th Engineer Brigade SAFETY MESSAGE



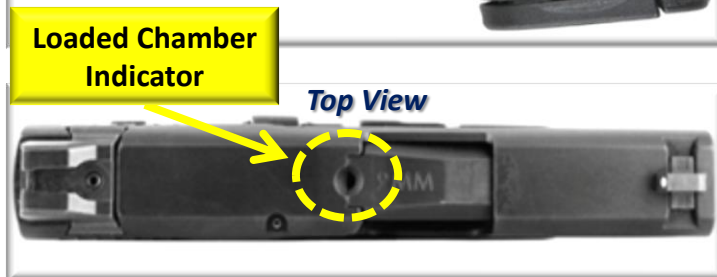
A Soldier at Fort Knox, Kentucky had a negligent discharge as he was preparing to clean his Smith & Wesson 9mm pistol. The Soldier failed to fully eject the magazine from the magazine well. When he pulled the slide to the rear to clear the chamber, he released the slide back to its forward position and chambered a round. The Soldier then squeezed the trigger, thinking the weapon was clear, as his pistol was pointed in a downward angle toward his leg. When he squeezed the trigger, the Soldier negligently discharged a round towards his leg. The Soldier was treated at the University of Louisville hospital for tissue damage to the knee. No permanent injury is expected.

Smith & Wesson M&P Shield 9mm



Side View

Mechanical
Safety



Loaded Chamber
Indicator

Top View



The weapon the Soldier attempted to clear was a Smith & Wesson M&P Shield 9mm. This is a striker-fired pistol that also features a mechanical safety. The factors that led to the negligent discharge include:

- Failure to fully eject the magazine from the pistol
- Squeezing the trigger is not a step in pistol clearing procedures
- Failure to use the pistol's loaded chamber indicator as an additional step to ensure the weapon was clear
- Soldier pointed the pistol in an unsafe direction (towards his own body) when he squeezed the trigger

Treat every weapons as if its loaded.

Handle every weapons with care.

Identify the target before you fire.

Never point the muzzle at anything you don't intend to shoot.

Keep the weapon on safe and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.

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