

# SAFETY MESSAGE

**SUBJECT: TACOM LCMC SOUM 15-001, MORTARS SYSTEMS OPERATION BASEPLATE SETTling PROCEDURE. ALL MORTAR MODELS**



**SYNOPSIS:** While conducting live fire exercise, Soldiers were in the process of settling the mortar base plate by riding it during registration fires. This is not an approved procedure and not in applicable equipment manuals. Riding the base plate is when a Soldier uses his weight by standing on the base plate while the first couple of rounds are fired to insure the base plate is seated properly in the ground. One Soldier was standing on the base plate while the squad leader was assisting by balancing the Soldier on the base plate. The squad leader lost his footing and his right foot slid under the base plate as the gun fired resulting in injuries.

## 1. Message Library:

This message will be available on the Safety First web site located on the TACOM-Unique Logistics Support Applications (TULSA) portal

<https://tulsa.tacom.army.mil>

## 2. Problem:

a. Summary of Problem. Standing on any model of mortar base plates during settling procedures can result in injury or death. Practicing this procedure has shown there is a high probability of injury to Soldiers.

b. Expected results if failure occurs. Not following safety procedures as addressed in this Safety of Use Message (SOUM) can result in serious injury or death.

## 3. User Actions:

a. Users shall follow settling and firing procedures as described in mortar FMs and TMs. Soldier will not stand on the base plate during the settling procedures. Operators will comply with all operators' procedures described in the referenced Technical and Field Manuals (TMs/FMs). Operators will also pay attention and adhere to the warnings, cautions, notes, and operational procedures for tactical employment.

## 4. Unit Commanders:

a. Commanders shall ensure personnel are briefed that standing on mortar base plates is not an approved practice during settling or fire missions.

b. Contact your local TACOM LCMC Logistics Assistance Representative (LAR) or your State Surface Maintenance Manager upon receipt of this message for assistance.

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