

SYNOPSIS:

THE AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY/AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE (ANA/ANP) POSSESS 60MM AND 82MM, HIGH EXPLOSIVE (HE), BULGARIAN PRODUCED, MORTAR ROUNDS WITH SINGLE SAFE FUZES THAT ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CATASTROPHIC PREMATURE DETONATION (BOTH IN- BARREL AND WITHIN 3-10 METERS (M) OF CLEARING THE BARREL). THE NOMENCLATURES OF THESE DANGEROUS ROUNDS ARE 60MM "HE80" AND 82MM "FRAG 82" OR "O-832DU". THE NOMENCLATURES ARE STENCILED ON THE BODY OF THE ROUND AND THEIR SHIPPING CONTAINERS/PACKAGING MATERIAL.

ALL US SERVICE PERSONNEL TRAINING, ADVISING, OR ACCOMPANYING INTO COMBAT ANA/ANP 60MM AND 82MM MORTAR TEAMS EMPLOYING THESE ROUNDS MUST IMMEDIATELY ENACT THE FOLLOWING:

A. DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN FIRING THE HE80, FRAG82, OR O-832DU MORTAR ROUNDS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

B. DO NOT BE WITHIN 300M OF THE ANA/ANP FIRING THE HE80 AND 400M OF THE ANA/ANP FIRING THE FRAG82/O-832DU MORTAR ROUNDS.

C. INSIST THAT THE ANA/ANP NEVER FIRE THE HE80 IN THE US SUPPLIED M224 MORTAR SYSTEM DUE TO POTENTIAL CATASTROPHIC COMPATIBILITY ISSUES. ONLY US SAFETY CERTIFIED AMMUNITION IS AUTHORIZED FOR USE IN THE M224.

D. ADVISE ANA/ANP OF THE PREMATURE DETONATION ISSUES OF THE HE80, FRAG82, OR O-832DU MORTAR ROUNDS REGARDLESS OF THE MORTAR SYSTEM UTILIZED.

1. RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

THIS IS A "TECHNICAL" SAFETY OF USE MESSAGE. COMMANDERS/DIRECTORS OF ARMY COMMANDS (ACOM)/ARMY SERVICE COMPONENT COMMANDS (ASCC)/DIRECT REPORTING UNITS (DRU), ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (ARNG), US ARMY RESERVE (USAR) COMMAND, AND OTHER SERVICE COMMANDERS AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICES WILL RETRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE TO ALL SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS/ACTIVITIES WITHIN 24 HOURS OF RECEIPT AND WILL, WITHIN 3 WORKING DAYS, ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT FOR ALL GROUND SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE MESSAGES USING THE MODIFICATION MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MMIS).

2. COMPLIANCE REPORTING:

THIS SOUM DOES NOT REQUIRE A COMPLIANCE RESPONSE.

3. MESSAGE LIBRARY:

THE JMC QUALITY ASSURANCE SURVEILLANCE WEBSITE:
[HTTPS://JMCSP.OSC.ARMY.MIL/SITES/MLRC/QA/QAS/QASURVEILLANCE/SOUMS/HOME.ASPX](https://jmcsp.osc.army.mil/sites/mlrc/qa/qas/qasurveillance/soums/home.aspx)
MAINTAINS ALL JMC SAFETY OF USE AND GROUND PRECAUTIONARY ACTION MESSAGES.

4. PROBLEM:

04 JULY 2013, A CATASTROPHIC EXPLOSION KILLED FOUR (ONE US ARMY SOLDIER AND THREE AFGHAN MORTAR CREWMEMBERS) AND INJURED 11 WHEN A BULGARIAN PRODUCED 60MM MORTAR ROUND (HE80) PREMATURELY DETONATED WHILE EXITING AN M224 MORTAR TUBE DURING A TRAINING EXERCISE.

TESTS REVEALED THAT THE HE80'S SINGLE SAFE FUZE (THE M6H) ARMS WITHIN 3-10M OF CLEARING A MORTAR'S BARREL AND IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO PREMATURE DETONATION. ROUGH HANDLING* FURTHER EXACERBATES THIS SITUATION AND CAN CAUSE THE FUZED ROUND TO DETONATE WITHIN THE MORTAR'S BARREL.

THE ANA/ANP RECEIVED OVER 565,000 BULGARIAN 60MM AND 82MM MORTAR ROUNDS EQUIPPED WITH THE M6H AND SIMILAR SINGLE SAFE FUZES (M52-B3 AND M6).

THEREFORE, DUE TO THE CLOSE ARMING DISTANCE, LACK OF DUAL SAFE FUZE FEATURES, AND UNCERTAIN FUZE QUALITY, THE HE80, FRAG82, AND O-832DU ROUNDS SUPPLIED TO THE ANA/ANP DO NOT MEET MIL-STD-331 AND ARE NOT CERTIFIED BY THE US ARMY FUZE SAFETY REVIEW BOARD FOR US SOLDIERS TO USE/FIRE UNDER ANY CONDITIONS.

*AS PART OF ADVISING THE ANA/ANP AS OUTLINED IN THIS SOUM'S SYNOPSIS IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE DEFINITION OF ROUGH HANDLING FOR THESE ROUNDS. ROUGH HANDLING IS DROPPING THE FUZED HE80, FRAG82, OR O-832DU FROM A HEIGHT OF 1.5M OR GREATER REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE ROUND WAS DROPPED IN OR OUT OF ITS SHIPPING CONTAINER/PACKAGING MATERIAL OR WHETHER THE EXTERNAL SAFETY LANYARD/PIN WAS INSTALLED OR NOT. ROUGH HANDLED ROUNDS DROPPED 1.5-3M IN HEIGHT CAN BE REMOVED FROM THE SITE AND MUST BE DESTROYED BY EOD OR EQUIVALENT PERSONNEL, WHILE THOSE DROPPED GREATER THAN 3M MUST NOT BE MOVED AND MUST BE DESTROYED IN PLACE BY EOD OR EQUIVALENT PERSONNEL.

5. USER ACTIONS:

A. U.S. SOLDIERS CAN TRAIN ANA/ANP ON 60MM AND 82MM MORTAR SYSTEMS, HOWEVER THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN FIRING THE HE80, FRAG82, OR O-832DU MORTAR ROUNDS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND MUST MOVE 300M AWAY IF THE ANA/ANP FIRE THE HE80 AND 400M IF THE ANA/ANP FIRE THE FRAG82/O-832DU MORTAR ROUNDS (IAW TABLE 9-1 (AREA B) OF DA PAM-385-63).

B. U.S. SOLDIERS SHOULD INSIST THAT THE ANA/ANP NEVER FIRE THE HE80 IN THE US SUPPLIED M224 MORTAR SYSTEM DUE TO POTENTIAL CATASTROPHIC COMPATIBILITY ISSUES. ONLY US SAFETY CERTIFIED AMMUNITION IS AUTHORIZED FOR USE IN THE M224. ADDITIONALLY, U.S. SOLDIERS SHOULD ADVISE THE ANA/ANP OF THE PREMATURE DETONATION ISSUES OF THE HE80, FRAG82, OR O-832DU MORTAR ROUNDS REGARDLESS OF THE MORTAR SYSTEM UTILIZED.

6. COMMANDERS:

A. COMMANDERS WILL NOT ALLOW US SOLDIERS TO FIRE THE HE80, FRAG82, OR O-832DU MORTAR ROUNDS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND IF THE ANA/ANP USE THESE ROUNDS THEN COMMANDERS WILL ENSURE THAT U.S. SOLDIERS STAY 300M AWAY (FOR HE80) AND 400M (FOR FRAG82/O-832DU).

7. PM ACTIONS:

A. DISCONTINUE PROVIDING NON-STANDARD 60MM MORTAR AMMUNITION DUE TO THE PREVALENCE OF STANDARD (TYPE CLASSIFIED AND SAFETY CERTIFIED) 60MM AMMUNITION IN AFGHANISTAN, WHICH IS AUTHORIZED FOR USE IN THE M224.

B. IF ADDITIONAL 82MM NON STANDARD MORTAR AMMUNITION IS REQUESTED BY CSTC-A, THEN PROVIDE THIS AMMUNITION WITH US OR NATO QUALIFIED DUAL SAFE FUZES.

8. SUPPLY STATUS:

A. 60MM (HE80): AS OF 9 JULY 2013 THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 22,250 HE80 ROUNDS IN AFGHANISTAN.

B. 82MM (FRAG 82/O-832DU): 545,932 82MM HE ROUNDS WERE DELIVERED TO AFGHANISTAN.

9. POCS:

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7. THIS AIN WILL REMAIN VALID UNLESS RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.

//SIGNED//
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