

FM COMMARCORSYSCOM QUANTICO VA
TO CMC WASHINGTON DC
COMMARFORSOUTH
COMMARFORNORTH
COMMARFORPAC
COMMARFOREUR
COMMARFORAF STUTTGART GE
COMMARFORCOM
COMMARFORRES
COMUSMARCENT
COMUSMARCENT MACDILL AFB FL
MCSF REGT
COMMARFORSOC
COMMCICOM
COMMARCORSYSCOM QUANTICO VA
INFO
HQDA ARMY SAFETY OFC WASHINGTON DC
CMC SD WASHINGTON DC
COMUSMARCENT G3 MACDILL AFB FL
COMMARFORCOM G THREE G FIVE G SEVEN
COMMARFORNORTH G THREE G FIVE G SEVEN
COMMARFORPAC G THREE
COMMARFORRES G THREE G FIVE
COMMCICOM G THREE G FIVE
COMNAVSAFECEN NORFOLK VA
AFSAFCEN
COMMARCORSYSCOM OOT QUANTICO VA
CG I MEF
CG I MEF G FOUR
CG I MEF G THREE
CG II MEF
CG II MEF G FOUR
CG II MEF G THREE
CG III MEF
CG III MEF G FOUR
CG III MEF G THREE
CG FIRST MARDIV
CG FIRST MARDIV G FOUR
CG FIRST MARDIV G THREE
CG FOURTH MARDIV
CG FOURTH MARDIV G FOUR
CG FOURTH MARDIV G THREE
CG SECOND MARDIV
CG SECOND MARDIV G FOUR
CG SECOND MARDIV G THREE
CG THIRD MARDIV
CG THIRD MARDIV G FOUR
CG THIRD MARDIV G THREE
CG FIRST MLG
CG FOURTH MLG
CG SECOND MLG
CG THIRD MLG

CG FIRST MAW
CG FOURTH MAW
CG SECOND MAW
CG THIRD MAW
CG MCCDC QUANTICO VA
CG MARCORLOGCOM ALBANY GA
CG MARCORLOGCOM SCMC ALBANY GA
MARCORSYSCOM ALBANY GA
CO MCLB BARSTOW CA
CG MAGTF TRNGCOM G FOUR
CG MAGTF TRNGCOM TWENTYNINE PALMS CA
CO MCLB ALBANY GA
COMMARCORSYSCOM QUANTICO VA
CMC CDI WASHINGTON DC
CG TECOM QUANTICO VA
CG TRNGCMD QUANTICO VA
SCOLOFINF CAMP LEJEUNE NC
SCOLOFINF MCB CAMP PENDLETON CA
MAWTS ONE YUMA AZ
MCMWTC
CMC AVN WASHINGTON DC
CMC DCI WASHINGTON DC
CMC I WASHINGTON DC
CMC L WASHINGTON DC
CMC PPO PO WASHINGTON DC
CMC PPO POG WASHINGTON DC
CMC PPO WASHINGTON DC
CO TBS QUANTICO VA
MARCORDET FT LEE VA
COMMARCORSYSCOM GCES QUANTICO VA
FIRST MAINTBN
FOURTH MAINTBN
THIRD MAINTBN
FIRST MAR RDR BN
FIRST MAR RDR SPT BN
SECOND MAR RDR BN
SECOND MAR RDR SPT BN
THIRD MAR RDR BN
THIRD MAR RDR SPT BN
MAR RDR SPT GRP
CG CE 5TH MEB MARFOR CENTCOM
TASK FORCE SOUTHWEST
SPMAGTF CENTCOM
CO BLOUNT ISLAND CMD
MAR RDR REGT
MAR RDR TRNG CNTR
BT

UNCLAS

SUBJ/SAFETY OF USE MESSAGE (SOUM) RESTORING OPERATIONS FOR THE MK 153
SMAW MOD 0, NSN 1055-01-164-4608 WEAPON SYSTEM//
REF/A/MCO 5100.34A/19 JUN 2017//
REF//B/DON TRACKER ID/2020-MCSC-1110//

REF/C/MCO 3500.27C/26 NOV 2014//
REF/D/TM 08673C-12-1/30 SEP 2019//
REF/E/TM 08673A-10-1B/SEP 2005//

NARR/REF A IS THE MARINE CORPS ORDER FOR DEADLINE SAFETY OF USE MESSAGE INSTRUCTIONS TO SUSPEND OPERATIONS OF MARINE CORPS GROUND EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS SYSTEMS, SAFETY OF USE MESSAGES AND MAINTENANCE ADVISORY MESSAGES. REF B IS THE PREVIOUS DSOUM DEADLINING BOTH THE MK153 SMAW MOD 0 AND MK153 SMAW MOD 2. REF C IS MARINE CORPS ORDER (MCO) ON RISK MANAGEMENT (RM). REF D IS THE OPERATOR AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL FOR THE LAUNCHER, ROCKET 83MM SHOULDER-LAUNCHED MULTI-PURPOSE ASSAULT WEAPON (SMAW) MOD 2 MK 153. REF E IS THE OPERATOR AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL FOR THE LAUNCHER, ROCKET 83MM SHOULDER-LAUNCHED MULTI-PURPOSE ASSAULT WEAPON (SMAW) MOD 0 MK 153.

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GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. THIS MESSAGE IS OF IMPORTANCE TO ALL UNITS USING THE MK 153 SMAW MOD 0 AND IS RELEASED IN COORDINATION WITH PP&O AND HQMC SAFETY DIVISION. THIS SOUM SUPERSEDES THE DSOUM IN REFERENCE B AND ONLY APPLIES TO THE MK 153 SMAW MOD 0. THE MK 153 SMAW MOD 2 REMAINS IN A DEADLINE STATUS. AN UPDATE TO THE EXISTING DSOUM (REF B) FOR THE MK 153 SMAW MOD 2 WILL BE RELEASED FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THIS MESSAGE.

2. BACKGROUND.

2A. PER REF B ALL LIVE-FIRE OPERATIONS OF THE MK 153 SMAW MOD 0 AND MK 153 SMAW MOD 2 WERE SUSPENDED IN RESPONSE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF AN OPERATIONAL CONDITION THAT CAN RESULT IN THE SYSTEM FIRING WHILE THE WEAPON IS ON SAFE AND WITHOUT THE GUNNER ENGAGING THE TRIGGER. THROUGH ANALYSIS IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED A DESIGN FLAW IN THE TRIGGER MECHANISM COULD LAUNCH A ROCKET UNCOMMANDED IF THE TRIGGER AND LAUNCH LEVER ARE NOT FULLY RESET AND THE SAFETY IS NOT FULLY ENGAGED. USE OF THE SPOTTING ROUND IN THE MK 153 SMAW MOD 0 MITIGATES THE FIRING OF A SUCCESSIVE ROCKET UNCOMMANDED BY ADDING THE ADDITIONAL STEP OF ENSURING THE TRIGGER AND LAUNCH LEVER ARE RESET IN THEIR FULLY EXTENDED POSITION AND THE SAFETY IS FULLY ENGAGED.

3. RETURN OF THE MK 153 SMAW MOD 0 TO LIVE FIRE OPERATIONS CAN BE RESUMED WHEN IMPLEMENTING THE FOLLOWING OPERATIONAL SAFETY PROCEDURES:

3A. AT NO TIME DURING TRAINING MAY A GUNNER FIRE SUCCESSIVE ROCKETS FROM THE MK-153 SMAW MOD 0. THE GUNNER MUST EMPLOY THE SPOTTING RIFLE IN BETWEEN EACH ROCKET FIRED.

3B. THE GUNNER AND PSO MUST PHYSICALLY AND VISUALLY ENSURE THE LAUNCHING LEVER AND TRIGGER ARE FULLY RESET IN THEIR FULLY EXTENDED AND RESET POSITION AND THE SAFETY IS FULLY ENGAGED PRIOR TO LOADING A ROCKET, CHARGING THE WEAPON AND ENGAGING THE FIRING MECHANISM.

3C. ROCKETS MAY ONLY BE LOADED AND SYSTEMS CHARGED FROM A HOT POSITION WITH THE WEAPON POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION DOWN RANGE. EXTRA CAUTION MUST BE TAKEN TO ENSURE THE GUNNER IS NOT TOUCHING THE TRIGGER OR LAUNCH LEVER DURING LOADING AND WHILE CHARGING THE SYSTEM.

3D. AFTER FIRING AND BEFORE LEAVING THE HOT POSITION, THE GUNNER AND PSO MUST VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY INSPECT THAT THE TRIGGER AND LAUNCH LEVER ARE IN THEIR FULLY EXTENDED AND RESET POSITION AND THE SAFETY IS FULLY ENGAGED.

3E. THE FIRING OF SPOTTING ROUNDS ON THE MK 153 SMAW MOD 0 DOES NOT NEGATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR UNITS TO CONDUCT STEPS 3B-3D.

3F. AT NIGHT, THE USE OF A LIGHT SOURCE IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE THE GUNNER AND PSO CAN VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY INSPECT THE TRIGGER AND LAUNCH LEVER ARE IN THEIR FULLY EXTENDED AND RESET POSITION AND THE SAFETY IS FULLY ENGAGED.

4. UNITS ENGAGED IN COMBAT OPERATIONS ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE ABOVE STEPS; HOWEVER, UNITS SHOULD TAKE CAUTION TO MAXIMIZE SAFE USE OF THIS WEAPON DURING EMPLOYMENT.

5. A PCN WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THIS MESSAGE AND CAN BE ASSESSED USING THE SL-1-2 UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT ALL REQUIRED ADJUDICATION ACTIONS ARE COMPLETED.

6. ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION OF THIS MESSAGE TO SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND AFFECTED UNITS.

7. RELEASE AUTHORIZED BY BGEN A.J. PASAGIAN, COMMANDER, MARINE CORPS SYSTEMS COMMAND.//