



Negligent Discharge Safety OND SB11-005

A negligent discharge (ND) is a breakdown in weapons handling discipline. Preventing a negligent discharge is everyone's business, anyone who is issued or has a weapon in theater must be properly trained on loading, unloading and clearing procedures. Performing proper clearing procedures is a basic weapons task and must be performed as prescribed for each weapon system that an individual will be using. Rehearsing and practicing these tasks routinely will insure the highest level of proficiency and prevent injury or death.

Lesson Learned during OIF, OEF and OND:

- Leaders/supervisors must be directly responsible for weapons clearing
- Perform weapon clearing procedures to standard - training, training, training
- Handle weapons as if loaded
- Maintain muzzle discipline at all times (no flagging)
- Maintain familiarization and qualification on the assigned weapon
- Head space & timing; conduct PM/function check
- Incorporate individual duties during weapons clearing into unit SOPs i.e. VC, TC, or Section leader is responsible for verifying weapons clear in their vehicle or section
- Hold individuals accountable for NDs
- VCs, TCs, Patrol leader responsible for clearing mounted crew served weapons prior to removing them from their mounts
- Treat the weapon for what it is - a deadly device designed to kill
- Two person operation:
 - Designated individual oversees clearing procedure
 - Both individuals visually verify weapon is clear (use a white light at night)

The major underlying reasons for injuries and deaths due to negligent discharges are:

- Lack of self-discipline
- Horseplay
- Failure to enforce standards
- Failure to follow procedures
- Improper or inadequate clearing
- Inadequate training
- Untimely loading/unloading

Leader engagement is paramount. All leaders are responsible for ensuring all Soldiers and assigned personnel maintain proficiency with their assigned weapon. Non-Commissioned Officers are the answer to enforcing the standards in all units.