



SAFETY GRAM



ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION

On 12 Sep 15 one of our airman suffered a permanent partial disabling injury when the shotgun he was hunting with discharged when he was loading it.



Remington Model 887, 12 gaugh pump action shotgun

Background

The airman involved in this mishap is a skilled and experienced hunter. He was duck hunting by himself and had shot two ducks, firing off three shots. He was hunting in what is called a laydown blind. He placed the shotgun on safe and started to load it while laying down in the blind. The shotgun was placed on the outside of his left thigh while he was loading the shotgun. He pulled the pump backwards and loaded the ammunition, and when he slid the pump forward the shotgun shell discharged, striking his left foot. He lost two toes on his left foot and had to have several surgeries to save a third toe that was injured.

Analysis

The shotgun was a Remington Model 887, 12 Gauge Pump Shotgun. The airman was unaware that this model has a "Safety Warning and Recall Notice". The weapon may exhibit a defect causing the firing pin to bind in the forward position within the bolt, which can result in an unintentional discharge when chambering a live round. The airman failed to following the #1 Rule in Firearm Safety by pointing the weapon in an unsafe direction.

Recommendations

- Always Keep the Muzzle Pointed in a Safe Direction
- Firearms should be Unloaded When Not Actually in Use
- Don't Rely on Your Gun's Safety
- Be Sure of Your Target and What's Beyond It
- If You Own Firearms Check with the Manufacture to see if there are any Safety Recalls.
- Whatever your age or level of expertise recommend attending a Weapons/Hunting Safety Class

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