

**mishap**

# LESSONS LEARNED

## MISHAP SUMMARY

**Mishap**  
Explosive

**Damage**  
Loss of limb.

**Injury**  
Marine lost right ankle.

**Operation**  
Rank 410

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## M72AS LAAW Explosive Mishap

### BACKGROUND

A Sergeant was hastily demonstrating instruction on the proper cycle of operation for the M72AS LAAW Trainer. During the instruction, the Sgt unknowingly picked up a loaded trainer, and subsequently depressed the trigger in an attempt to collapse the weapon in order to load it.

### CAUSES

- The Company Commander, Officer In Charge, Range Safety Officer, Position Safety Officer, and Non-Commission Officer leadership did not effectively supervise the range. They allowed the loaded M72AS LAAW trainer to leave the attack position and move back to the assembly area to be placed with unloaded M72AS LAAW trainers.

- The Platoon Sergeant did not ensure that the Mishap Marine understood as the demonstrator, the loading and unloading procedures of the M72AS LAAW trainer. The Platoon Commander did not ensure that both the Platoon Sergeant and the Mishap Marine understood the weapon system, which included loading, sighting, arming/ firing, reloading, misfire, clearing and returning that trainer launcher to the transport configuration.

- The Battalion Gunner's class given the night before did not include all the unit's leadership that was responsible for the proper and safe employment of M72AS LAAW trainer.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- When providing classes on new weapons systems, all leadership within the unit that is responsible for the employment of the weapon system are required to be present during all period of instructions regarding.
- The RSO needs to ensure all weapons system are clear after firing, during check/cease fires, etc.
- Properly certify RSO's and OIC's in the weapon systems that will be employed on live fire ranges.
- Use a system approach to training when utilizing unfamiliar weapons systems.