

SAFETY MEANS T.H.I.N.K.!! (PART 2)

THE *FIRST* STEP
IS TO *ALWAYS*
MAKE SURE I'M
NOT LOADED!



Dear Editor,

Your article "Safety Means T.H.I.N.K.!" offered good rules for avoiding small arms accidents. But the first example in the article bothered me. After cleaning his rifle, a Soldier reassembled it and did a function test. The rifle fired three rounds on BURST, killing another Soldier.

The first safety rule for any weapon is that before doing any maintenance or function test, you make absolutely sure it's not loaded. It doesn't get any more basic than that.

Jerry Davison
Logistics Assistance Representative
Ft Riley, KS

Editor's note: You're absolutely right, Jerry. You should never, ever, do any maintenance on a weapon without first checking that it's not loaded. Everything follows from that.

To review T.H.I.N.K.:
Treat every weapon as if it's loaded.
Handle every weapon with care.
Identify the target before you fire.
Never point a weapon at anything you don't intend to shoot.
Keep the weapon on SAFE and your finger off the trigger until you intend to fire.