



US Air Force Supplemental Inspection of M18 Modular Handguns Found Zero Evidence of Conditions Which Would Allow “Uncommanded Discharge”

Last July [Amn Brayden Lovan was tragically killed in a shooting](#) which occurred in the Weapons Storage Area of FE Warren AFB, Wyoming. It is alleged he was shot by another member of his squadron, Amn Marcus White-Allen who was [charged with involuntary manslaughter as well as making a false official statement](#). That Airman was later found dead in his dorm room when his command failed to hold him in pre-trial confinement.

But that’s not the story most people heard for many months after the shooting. The Air Force failed to address the death in a timely fashion which gave opportunity for false accounts of the shooting to infest the internet. Even after lies about the M18 MHS “going off on its own” the Air Force allowed the issue to fester while Air Force Global Strike Command Commanding General Gen Thomas Bussiere [removed the weapon from service](#) so that the command’s inventory could be inspected for defects, despite knowing almost immediately that the assailant had lied about his role in the death.

While General Bussiere (who is now retired) remained on leave and failed to address the issue, a paranoid firestorm led to calls to remove MHS from service across the entire Department of War (as well as other agencies at all levels of government) based on unfounded rumors that were circulating the internet. Although the [pistols were returned to service with AFGSC by late August](#), the command did not fully set the record straight as to how AMN Lovat died for over three months.

Eventually, the Air Force directed a complete “Supplemental Inspection” of the service’s entire inventory of MHS. This was “to ensure Airmen/Guardians with an arming requirement, whether at home station or deployed, have a weapon which is safe, reliable, and functional if the moment of need may arise.” The Supplemental Inspection Criteria went above and beyond the requirements of the Technical Order at the time and have since been incorporated into the TO.

Despite consisting of nearly 126,000 pistols, the AF inspection was completed last year and the report was signed on 23 January, 2026 by Brig Gen Brian Filler, Director of Security Forces.

Unfortunately, it has taken over six months for us to obtain a redacted version of the Final Report. At only three pages it is succinct and to the point.

The executive summary tells the story:

“100% of the inspected weapons exhibited no signs of any condition that could have allowed the weapons to experience an “uncommanded discharge.”

Rather than just telling you what is in it, we are sharing the report for you to read every detail yourself. This revelation should put further rumors to bed that the Air Force inventory of sidearms is not safe. To the contrary, MHS is both safe and reliable and this has been [attested to time and again](#). As you can see, no weapon exhibited anything beyond normal wear and tear and those deficiencies have been addressed by maintenance.



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

23 January 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR HQ AF/JA
HQ AF/SE

FROM: AF/A4S

SUBJECT: Final Report – M18 Modular Handgun System (MHS) Supplemental Inspection

1. The MHS Supplemental Inspection Criteria (SIC) was undertaken as a precautionary action, based on reports that a Department of the Air Force (DAF) M18 potentially suffered an “uncommanded discharge.” The SIC sought to investigate this situation and to verify the safety of DAF M18 Pistols. The results of the SIC reinforce confidence and assurance that the M18 remains safe and reliable for DAF missions.
2. The AF/A4S NOTAM, *M18 Modular Handgun System (MHS) Supplemental Inspection*, dated 23 July 2025, required 100 percent inspection of “in-use” weapons. AF/A4SR, along with AFLCMC/EBU, Small Arms Program Office (SAPO) and US Army Program Manager, reviewed and investigated reported deficiencies, authenticated discrepancies and findings to identify trends, and worked collaboratively with key stakeholders to address any perceived issues.
3. Metrics and Data:
 - a. SIC Completion Status: Data collected from the Automated Readiness Information System (ARIS), Enterprise Logistics Management System (ELMS), and e-mail reports show that as of 10 January 2026, approximately 113,479 of 117,864 or 96.28% of the DAF’s “in-use” M18s were inspected.
 - b. Executive Summary of SIC Findings: 100% of the inspected weapons exhibited no signs of any condition that could have allowed the weapons to experience an “uncommanded discharge.”
4. Actions Taken and Key Findings:
 - a. Action Taken: AF/A4SR and the SAPO engaged with the Army Program Office (DoW Lead for MHS) to coordinate efforts on crafting the SIC. As a result, the Army Program Office incorporated the DAF M18 SIC as part of the standard DoW inspection criteria and added it to DoW Technical Manuals. Additionally, AF/A4S instituted permanent adoption of SIC via A4S NOTAM and SAPO addition to appropriate DAF Technical Orders.

b. [REDACTED] **Key Finding:** As expected, during periodic inspections, some weapons inspected displayed normal wear and tear commensurate with their usage schedule and high rates of manual functioning for skill building during classroom training and daily arming. DAF CATM has or will return 1,586 weapons identified during this inspection and SIC with normal wear to "serviceable" condition through standard maintenance procedures.

5. [REDACTED] In summary, the intent of the SIC was to ensure Airmen/Guardians with an arming requirement, whether at home station or deployed, have a weapon which is safe, reliable, and functional if the moment of need may arise. All inspected DAF M18 are deemed safe per the SIC for continued operational use. The remaining "in-use" M18s to be inspected are in extended storage (sealed in "preferred packaging"), and a directive scheduled for release in early CY 2026 will require the owning commands to remove and inspect these weapons per the SIC, thus achieving 100%. According to normal policies, practices and procedures, no DAF Small Arms are ever issued from storage without receiving these inspections and proper maintenance if required. Subject Matter Experts have a high degree of confidence that these final inspections will yield similar findings to the rest of the inventory.

6. [REDACTED] Furthermore, steps undertaken such as NOTAM and messaging from AF/A4S regarding Weapons Safety and Responsibility in handling and operating Small Arms, permanently incorporating procedures from the SIC into the applicable TOs, outlining more in-depth Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS), as well as updating Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) lesson plans will provide further assurance that any potential mechanical issue, however unlikely, would be identified prior to use.

7. [REDACTED] It can now be stated that the M18 is safe and reliable for DAF missions. My POC is Lt Col Ratte at david.ratte@us.af.mil.



BRIAN A. FILLER
Brigadier General, USAF
Director of Security Forces
DCS/Logistics, Engineering, and Force
Protection

Attachment:
DAF ARIS Data

cc:
AFLCMC/EBU

Attachment 1: DAF ARIS Data

DAF M18 - "In-Use" Total	117,864
DAF M18 - Not "In-Use" (Anniston Depot) Total	8,053
Total DAF M18s	125,917
DAF M18 "In-Use" inspected through 15 Dec 2025	113,479
Percentage of Total "In-Use" M18's inspected to date	96.28%
DAF M18 - Not "In-Use" (Anniston Depot) M18's inspected to Date	0
Percentage of Total Not "In-Use" (Anniston Depot) M18's inspected to date	0.0%
DAF M18 "Satisfactory" Inspection	111,893
Percentage of the inspected M18s categorized as "Satisfactory"	98.60%
DAF M18 "Other than Satisfactory" Inspection (Routine Maintenance by Local CATM) Including: "Repair or Replacement Required" or "Lightly Pitted" or "Adjustment Required"	1,586
Percentage of ALL Inspected M18s categorized as "Other than Satisfactory" Inspection	1.40%

Adopted in 2017, there are currently around 500,00 MHS in the US military's inventory consisting of the M17 and M18 pistols. They are based on the SIG SAUER P320 pistol which is also issued to [militaries](#) and [law enforcement agencies](#) worldwide. Combined with civilian owned versions of the pistol, they number in the millions.