



[REDACTED]

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

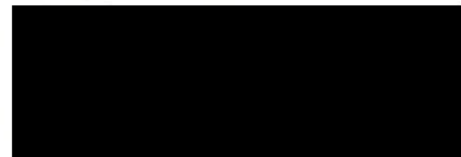
23 January 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR HQ AF/JA
HQ AF/SE

FROM: AF/A4S

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

1. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] Metrics and Data:
 - a. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] Actions Taken and Key Findings:
 - a. [REDACTED] 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
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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%