

# FATALITY



AFVC-F

## 18<sup>th</sup> FIRES BRIGADE SAFETY GRAM



27 February 2014

SUBJECT: Fatality of a Paratrooper

1. On or about 2250 hrs 20 February 2014, a 18<sup>TH</sup> Fires Brigade, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Soldier lost his life when a 155mm HE round detonated while being rammed into the breach of a M777A2 Howitzer. The blast killed the Soldier and wounded six other members of his section. All casualties were ground evacuated to WAMC where the Soldier was pronounced dead. The incident is currently under investigation.

2. The 22 year old Soldier was assigned to the Brigade as a Field Artillery Cannon Crewman.

3. Always remember these safety tips when conducting howitzer live fire:

- a. Train personnel in accordance with appropriate FM's and TM's to perform duties under adverse conditions
- b. Reinforce the importance of indentifying and reacting to unsafe acts or behavior
- c. Supervise crew drill procedures to ensure proper adherence to applicable technical manuals and unit SOP's
- d. Never take unnecessary risk to increase crew drill times
- e. Monitor safety procedures during all live fire events to ensure that each member of the team is performing their safety duties to standard
- f. Continually update your RM (Risk Management) worksheet. Conditions will change once you are on ground. Keep everyone informed of those changes and supervise to ensure that those chances are being implemented
- g. Handle and store all ammunition IAW with appropriate references and unit SOP's



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