Figure 4–1. Example of completed DA Form 285, Technical Report of U.S. Army Ground Accident—continued
(30) Block 41. Indicate whether drug use by the individual in block 12 caused/contributed to this accident. Check “None” or indicate the type of drug suspected of being involved.

(31) Block 42. Indicate if the person listed in block 12 was using a vision-enhancement device (NVG, AN/PVS–5A, NVD, thermal imagery, Forward Looking InfraRed at the time of the accident. If a vision-enhancement device was being used, specify the type in block 42c and the model number in block 42d, even if it did not contribute to the accident. (If caused/contributed, explain in block 63.)

(32) Block 43. Check the type of guidance (standard/reference), if it exists, that covers correct performance of the activity/task identified in blocks 31 and 32. In the space provided following the selected type of guidance, specify by name/number (for example, FM 21–305, para 3c). Guidance may be written in state/local laws, ARs, TM, FM, Soldier’s manuals, SOPs, directives.

(33) Block 44. Indicate if the activity/task was being performed in accordance with the guidance (standard/reference) specified in block 43. If “No,” complete blocks 45 through 47.

(34) Block 45. Indicate whether the individual listed in block 12 made a mistake that caused or contributed to the accident. If “Yes,” enter the mistake number from Appendix B and complete blocks 46 and 47. If “No,” skip to block 48.

(35) Block 46. Provide a simple explanation of the mistake(s) made by the person listed in block 12 or explain how the activity/task was performed incorrectly. When describing mistakes, be sure to use one or more of the mistakes/errors listed at Appendix B to identify the specific mistake(s) made by the individual. Include the results or outcome of the mistake(s). For example, “The driver failed to use a ground guide to back the M915 truck, although one was required. As a result, the vehicle collided with a legally parked sedan.” For on-duty Class A and B accidents requiring separate findings and recommendations, reference the finding number in this block (see fig 4–1).

(36) Block 47. Identify why the mistake was made or the activity was performed incorrectly. What was the root cause of the mistake? Carefully consider deficiencies in system design, training, procedures, and command climate as well as individual factors such as attitude, haste, and overconfidence. Appendix B contains explanations and examples of root causes. Check the most important root causes (reasons) and explain in block 63. For on-duty Class A and B accidents requiring separate findings and recommendations and narrative of investigation, the root causes should be fully explained in the findings and supported in the analysis portion of the narrative, and referenced in block 63.

(37) Block 48. If the individual listed in block 12 was operating a vehicle, indicate how long they had been licensed to operate this type of vehicle before the accident.

(38) Block 49. If the individual listed in block 12 was operating a vehicle, indicate total miles they had driven Army motor vehicles (include all Army motor vehicles) before the accident.

(39) Block 50.
(a) Indicate the length of time the individual listed in block 12 had been in the unit shown in block 18 before the accident.
(b) Enter the date the Soldier was assigned or Army civilian/contractor was hired.
(c) Indicate the date of redeployment, if applicable.

(40) Block 51. Check the appropriate block to indicate which item from section C “Property/Materiel Involved” was associated with the individual listed in block 12. This information is required to ensure that it can be determined who was operating or using, each item of property/materiel involved in the accident. For example, PFC Jones was driving a tank. His name will be in block 12 and his vehicle will be item A in section C. Therefore, the correct entry for block 51 would be “Item A.” If the property/materiel associated with the individual will not be items A, B, or C, determine which letter will represent that item (see instructions for section C). Check “Other” and specify the appropriate letter in the space provided.

d. Section C—Property/Materiel Involved. Complete an entire column (For example, column titled Item A) filling in blocks 52 through 59 on each piece of property or item of equipment involved in the accident (whether damaged or not). If the property/materiel experienced a materiel failure/malfunction, also complete blocks 60 and 61. Be sure the same column is used for all blocks. Include Army and non-Army equipment/materiel as well as equipment/materiel whose use or misuse contributed to the accident. Include up to three items of equipment on the initial form. Use additional sheets of bond paper for other equipment, if necessary, continuing letter sequence, (for example, D, E, F, and G). Each column will be used to provide information for one piece of equipment/materiel.

(1) Block 52. Enter the type of property/materiel (for example, sedan, truck, generator) involved in the accident. If explosives were involved, enter the type of explosive and the NSN.
(2) Block 53.
   (a) Enter the full military equipment model number and/or civilian make and serial number, (for example, M109A2, M60A2, 2006 Ford Taurus, M16A2 rifle, M4 rifle). If explosives were involved, enter the model number and DODAC or DOD Identification Code (DODIC).
   (b) Enter the serial number for Army equipment/materiel, as applicable.

(3) Block 54. Indicate who owns the equipment/materiel.

(4) Block 55. Enter the ECOD or ACOD for each piece of property.

(5) Block 56. Indicate whether a rollover protection system was installed. If rollover protection systems do not apply to the piece of equipment, check NA (not applicable).

(6) Block 57. Indicate if this specific piece of equipment was being towed at the time of the accident. (Does not refer to post-accident towing of vehicles/equipment.)

(7) Block 58. If the answer in block 57 is “Yes,” indicate in which column (item A, B, C, and so forth), the equipment doing the towing is listed.

(8) Block 59. From the list provided on the form, select the type(s) that best describe the collision in which this property/materiel was involved. More than one collision type might be appropriate for the property/materiel. If so, enter up to three, in sequence, in the blocks provided. If “Other” is selected, specify what type of collision in the space provided. If no collision was involved, leave blank.