

## INCIDENT REPORT

### NGPSA LEAGUE

#### EEUFEEES RANGE : AUGUST 2005-08-13

Competitor : Carl Meerholz  
Club : Mopani-Marksman  
Firearm : STI  
Calibre : .40S&W

I was the R/O on the stage when this incident occurred. Carl was engaging a target during above competition when he experienced a malfunction. The slide would not go into battery.

Being a left handed person, he used his placed his right hand ("over" the port) and racked the slide back from the front of the slide (the gun has had serrations added to the front of the slide). The offending round promptly exploded outside the chamber of the gun, causing the case to rupture, launching a piece into the neck of the shooter, who luckily only sustained a light cut to the underside of the jaw. Although not cut, his hand was burnt and pieces of powder lodged in the skin.

The ruptured case and bullet were both found at the feet of the shooter. Examination of the case clearly shows that the edge of the primer came into contact with the ejector when the slide was racked, resulting in ignition. The bullet carries a deep indent on its front face. This could have resulted from it getting jammed against the face of the barrel during the initial cycling of the gun, which resulted in the malfunction, or it -could be the result of the bullet hitting the edge of the chamber when the case exploded.

As indicated above, this is an STI firearm. It has a standard ejector fitted, which was examined, but shows no sign of any abnormality. A number of pictures are attached.

I believe the words from Carl himself are quite self explanatory, as attached below.

Please place this incident on record and post on the Web if OK. I believe all shooters should be made aware of this incident, and at club level range officials should strongly discourage the placement of a hand over the ejection port when clearing a round from the chamber.

Hein Krüger  
Secretary - SAIRO & I  
16<sup>th</sup> August 05

The words of Carl Meerholz himself:

#### Quote

I have attached reduced versions of some of the pictures that I took last night. The original versions of each of these is around 3MB in size. If these reduced versions are not good enough for web publishing or for printing, I will burn the originals to CD and get this to you.

The following can be deduced from these pictures:

1. The bullet must have hit the top of the barrel and stuck there, thus the gun did not go into battery. You can see the groove on the top of the bullet that supports this. I matched the groove to the bevelled top edge of the barrel and it fits perfectly.
2. When I racked the gun to clear the mis-feed, even though the ejection port was facing towards the ground, the round was pulled back onto the ejector pin. The shape of the ejector can clearly be seen on the back of the case - it created a groove that cuts the primer pocket. The primer itself was broken open from the rear by the ejector. This may explain why the "shot" sounded so soft, as the primer being detonated would have flashed backwards in addition to the expected flash going through the flash-hole into the case to ignite the propellant.
2. There is evidence of partially burnt powder on the inside of the slide, plus I picked out pieces of partially burnt and un-burnt powder from my right hand. No brass from the case rupturing has turned up embedded in my skin to date.
4. No damage to the barrel, slide or frame is apparent. I still need to clean the gun properly to confirm this.

For info, the gun was field-stripped and cleaned the evening before the shoot. A little oil was applied to the slide rails / grooves, the recoil guide rod and to the front-end of the barrel (to avoid friction between slide and barrel as the gun locks back into battery). The gun is an STI (Eagle based) in 40 S&W. My ammunition is self-loaded, the bullet is a 200gr Frontier cast in front of 5.5 gr of MP200, the case is not identifiable in the pictures (I will look tonight and let you know) and the primer is PMP Small Pistol. My normal round OAL is 30.5mm.

The only damage to me (besides the 7 pieces of powder in my right hand) is a scratch under the chin, where I assume a piece of the case must have grazed past.

Thanks!  
Carl

#### Unquote





