

Disassembly of the rifle showed that the trigger assembly was quite clean and had been tampered with since it left the factory: The original sealant on all three adjusting screws had been removed, and replaced with some type of brownish colored thread adhesive. The adhesive used was so strong that in attempting to remove the trigger adjusting screw for inspection, the head of this screw broke off flush with the surface of the trigger housing, making this housing unusable. In addition, there were traces of a red paint near the engagement screw, indicating that this paint may have been used to seal this screw at some time in the past, too.

The trigger pull was measured to be 3 & 3/4 pounds and the trigger engagement was measured to be .020", both within specifications, although obviously tampered with and resealed since manufacture. The trigger over-travel adjustment was measured to be approximately .040" and resealed at this setting, much greater than at the factory.

The trigger itself had been removed from the trigger housing, and filed lightly on its sides also. In light of the fact that the trigger housing had not been removed from the firearm, and that the safety arm mechanism was not disturbed, the changes noted above are the type of things done by someone attempting to "improve" the trigger after manufacture. However, the adjustment settings we found in the trigger mechanism at the time of our examination would not have caused the accidental discharge you reported.

Since we found the trigger assembly to have been tampered with on at least one occasion, and presently it is outside our specifications, and considering the fact that you reportedly had at least six incidents over the years, there remains the question of what the adjustments of the trigger assembly were at the time of those prior incidents.