

Examination of the rifle and trigger assembly could not duplicate the malfunction you reported, specifically "...I was preparing to leave the house for further hunting. Intending to check the rifle for cartridges, I pointed it in a safe direction, and pressed the safety forward. The rifle discharged...". Numerous attempts were made by myself and our engineers to cause the rifle to fire as you described but it did not malfunction. The trigger and the safety operation was normal.

Disassembly of the rifle revealed that the trigger assembly was fairly clean, with some lint on the exterior. Significantly, it had been tampered with since it left the factory: The original sealant on all three adjusting screws had been removed, and the sealant on the trigger pull and overtravel adjustment screws had been replaced with a bright red lacquer, probably fingernail polish. The trigger engagement screw has not had any sealant added since the after-factory adjustment was made.

The trigger pull was measured to be 4.3 pounds average, which although changed since the original setting at the factory, was still within our specifications. Both the trigger engagement and overtravel adjustments were beyond our factory settings, measured to be .025" and .020" respectively. The changes in the trigger adjustments observed by us are the type of thing done by someone attempting to "improve" the trigger performance after manufacture. Even though two of the three trigger adjustment settings were beyond our specifications, they would not have caused the accidental discharge you reported.

Based on the results of our extensive examination and testing of your rifle, Remington Arms Company, Inc. cannot accept any liability or responsibility for the reported incident. Assuming that the condition of the trigger assembly as received by us is unchanged since the incident, the only explanation for the accidental discharge is that the trigger was inadvertently pulled either during or after the safety was moved to the "fire" position.

As you are aware, the design of the safety on your Model 700 rifle is such that when the safety is in the "safe" position, the bolt is locked down. And, the safety must be moved to the "fire" position to unlock the bolt so that it can be rotated to open the action. This