

**Official Remington Statement CNBC Program Regarding the Model 700 – Submitted September 7, 2010**

Despite emotional reporting of baseless and unproven allegations and plaintiff lawyer [Richard Barbers] assertions, several undisputed facts remain:

- The Model 700, including its trigger mechanism, has been free of any defect since it was first produced and, despite any careless reporting to the contrary, the guns use by millions of Americans has proven it to be safe, trusted and reliable rifle. (See Exh: B, C, F, G, H)
- Both Remington and experts hired by plaintiff attorneys' have conducted testing on guns returned from the field which were alleged to have fired without a trigger pull, and neither has ever been able to duplicate such an event on guns which had been properly maintained and which had not been altered after sale. (See Exh: B, C, F, G, H)
- Remington takes safety very seriously. We support hunters safety and other educational programs nationwide, and include with every Remington firearm, the "Ten Commandments of Firearm Safety," which urgently remind every gun owner that if proper firearms safety rules are followed, no accidental would ever occur. (See Exh: J)

**“Remington Fact” – Point/Counterpoint**  
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**CNBC Allegation:**

**The Model 700 rifle is prone to firing without the trigger being pulled because of a design defect in the Walker trigger mechanism.**

**Remington Fact:**

- **Both Remington and experts hired by plaintiff attorneys’ have conducted testing on guns returned from the field, which were alleged to have fired without a trigger pull, and neither has ever been able to duplicate such an event on guns which had been properly maintained and which had not been altered after sale.**  
See: Exh: B, C, F, G, H
  
- **Mr. Belk, a paid plaintiffs’ expert, was given extensive air time by CNBC to expound his theory that the Remington Model 700 is defective because the trigger “connector” supposedly allows debris to interfere with the trigger mechanism (the “debris theory”).**  
See: Exh: C - “The Debris Theory”

**“Remington Fact” – Point/Counterpoint**  
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**CNBC Allegation:**

**The shooting accidents featured in the CNBC program involved circumstances where the Remington Model 700 rifle fired without a trigger pull.**

**Remington Fact:**

**Whenever a firearm is not handled properly, tragic accidents can occur. Each of the emotional personal injury and death cases cited by CNBC involved a breach of one or more important gun safety rules.**

- **Failure to keep the rifle pointed in a safe direction.**  
See Exh: J - “Safe Gun Handling”
- **Failure to properly maintain the rifle.**  
See Exh: D – “Abuse and Neglect”
- **Altering the rifles trigger mechanism.**  
See Exh: E - Fire Control Adjustment History
- **Failure to have the safety engaged when not actively engaged in firing the rifle.**  
See Exh: I part 1 - the Bolt Lock Feature/ 3 Position Safety  
also Exh: I part 2

**“Remington Fact” – Point/Counterpoint**  
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**CNBC Allegation:**

**Military and police agencies have had issues with Model 700s.**

**Remington Fact:**

**- Portland, Maine Police Department:**

**CNBC showed a five second video of a rifle discharging when the bolt is touched by a man dressed in camouflage fatigues with his identity blocked. CNBC did not provide any information as to where the video was taken, who the shooter was, and most importantly, the condition of the gun. Remington has initiated contact with the Portland police department to inquire about the alleged problems and gain access to the guns and the officers.**

**See Exh: F - “No Fire, No Fire” – The “Fails to Fire” Malfunction**

**- U.S. Border Patrol**

**Remington representatives spoke with a Border Patrol official familiar with the CNBC allegation that the Border Patrol officers had experienced misfires. The Border Patrol official advised Remington that the rifles had been improperly altered. The Border Patrol continues to utilize Walker fire controls in their Remington sniper rifles.**

**See Exh: G - “The Trick Condition”**

**also, CNBC Video, Border Patrol Incident – “Tricking”**

**“Remington Fact” – Point/Counterpoint**  
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**CNBC Allegation:**

**A multitude of historical documents show that a defect in the design of the Model 700 trigger mechanism causes accidental discharges.**

**Remington Fact:**

- During CNBC's program, portions of some isolated internal documents, going back as far as 1946, on a variety of topics, were mixed-and-matched by CNBC with other documents on unrelated topics to lead the viewer to false impressions.  
See Collective Exhibits – A-J
- As the documents clearly demonstrate, both “tricking” and the “screwdriver” test refer to contrived, intentional manipulations of the trigger, not an unintended discharge as alleged in the CNBC program. (See Exh: G, H - Functional Defect Testing)
- As explained in a 1979 Remington document, “tricking” required the user to first place the safety between “safe” and “fire” positions, then pull the trigger, then push the safety the remainder of the way forward to the “fire” position. If the firing pin released, the rifle was said to have failed the trick test.  
See Exh: G - Trick Testing
- In addition, even the contrived “tricking” condition only applied to the estimated 1 percent of Model 700 rifles manufactured before 1975, not to any rifles made thereafter as was put forth by CNBC. (Exh: J – 1/2/79 Product Safety Sub-Committee Memo)  
(If the rifle failed the “Screwdriver Test” it was said to “Fire off Safe” - FOS)
- CNBC also inappropriately relied upon 60-year-old documents created during the developmental and pilot testing phase for its proposition that the Remington 700 Walker trigger mechanism is unsafe. To the contrary, these documents underscore Remington's long standing commitment to safety through its program of pre-production testing its products.  
See Exh: B – Listed Malfunctions      See development of M725

**“Remington Fact” – Point/Counterpoint**  
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**CNBC Allegation:**

The complaints stack up in the 1970's after Remington recalls a similar rifle, the 600, over inadvertent discharges. But the company decides not to recall the more popular 700.

**Remington Fact:**

- The trigger mechanism of the Model 600 rifle at the time of the recall was different than the Model 700 rifle's trigger mechanism.  
See Exh: G – The Trick Condition
- In fact, when Remington recalled the Model 600 rifle, it replaced Model 600 trigger mechanism with Model 700 trigger mechanisms.

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See Exh: G - Safe Gun Handling –  
Jan. 2, 1979 Product Safety Sub-Committee Record

See, The trigger is  
safe, we still manufacture  
it –

Hemo: if we change, will  
this get us by the Trial  
attor., or do they say your  
guilty - you changed?

**“Remington Fact” – Point/Counterpoint**  
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**CNBC Allegation:**

**The 2007 X-Mark Pro is “exactly the same mechanism” that Mike Walker proposed in 1948.**

**Remington Fact:**

- **Remington has an extensive and ongoing research and development program across all of its product lines, and continuously introduces new and updated products.**  
See Exh: I part 1- part 2
- **Remington introduced the X-Mark Pro trigger mechanism in 2007.**
- **The X-Mark Pro trigger mechanism has a one piece trigger without a connector. Like the Walker trigger mechanism, the X-Mark Pro is a safe and reliable high performance system.**
- **Remington continues to utilize the Walker trigger mechanism in rifles sold to the U.S. military and for use in certain custom rifles as requested by our customers.**
- **The 1948 design shown by CNBC is very dissimilar to the X-Mark Pro and, in fact, was not even Mr. Walkers, but that of another Remington engineer.**
- **CNBC also did not note that Mr. Walker’s 1948 proposal would have left the connector in place, or that when Mr. Walker designed the Model 700 in the early 1960’s, he maintained the connector and incorporated a sear blocking safety mechanism, consistent with prior designs.**  
See Exh: I part 1 – part 2 - Trigger Block/Safety Designs

M/725 development  
Last comment - ...

**“Remington Fact” – Point/Counterpoint**  
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**CNBC Allegation:**

**Instead of changing its guns, Remington changed its message to the public and developed the Ten Commandments of Firearms Safety with giant public relations firm Hill & Knowlton**

**Remington Fact:**

- **Remington firmly stands behind the importance of gun safety and has actively supported and promoted safe gun handling practices and other safety initiatives for decades.**  
See Exhibit J - Safe Gun Handling
  
- **Remington did not, however, develop the Ten Commandments of Firearms Safety. According to the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (S.A.A.M.I.), the Ten Commandments of Firearms Safety have been in existence since the 1920's.**  
See Above Exhibits –