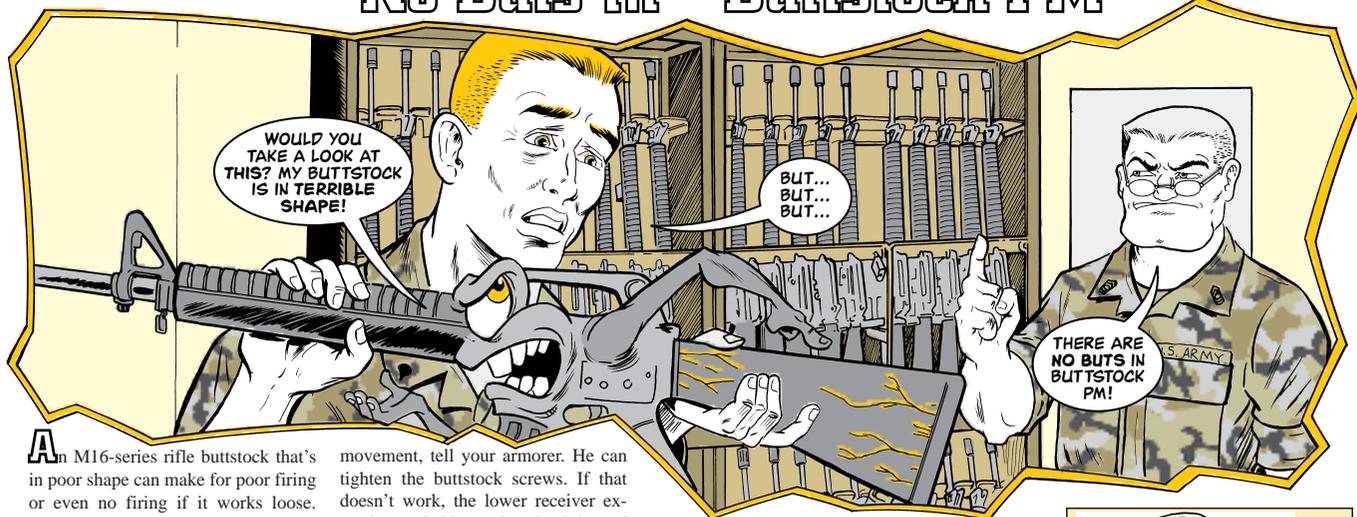


No Butts in Buttstock PM



An M16-series rifle buttstock that's in poor shape can make for poor firing or even no firing if it works loose. Keeping buttstocks in fighting shape takes teamwork by both gunners and armorers.

Gunners

Gunners, as part of your before-operation PMCS, gently twist the buttstock clockwise. There should be almost no movement. If there is much

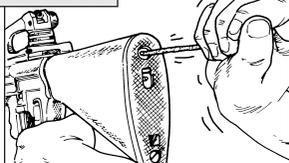
movement, tell your armorer. He can tighten the buttstock screws. If that doesn't work, the lower receiver extension probably needs to be tightened by support.

When you're cleaning your rifle, run a pipe cleaner through the buttstock drain hole to clear it. If the hole plugs up, moisture can collect in the buttstock and corrode the lower receiver extension.

Twist gently to check for looseness



Clear drain hole

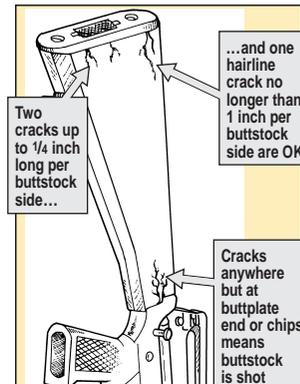


Look for cracks and chips in the buttstock. Any cracks starting from the front of the buttstock or chipped-away areas anywhere on the buttstock mean you need a new buttstock. Cracks elsewhere may not mean your buttstock is shot, but your armorer needs to check them.

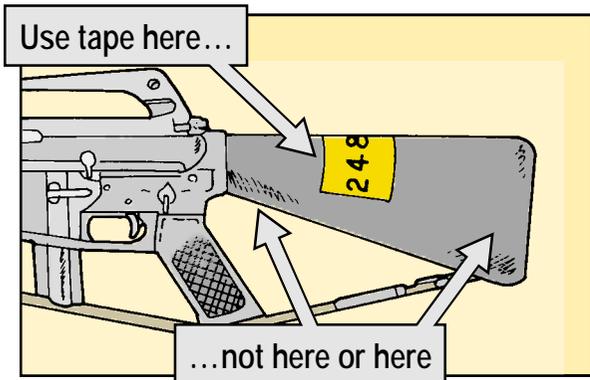
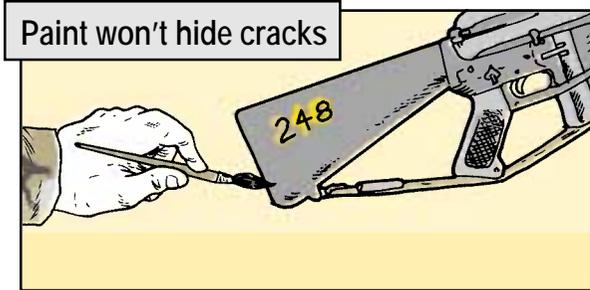
Armorers

Buttstocks are OK with up to three hairline cracks on each side:

- if they start from the buttplate end,
- if none of the cracks are longer than 1 inch,
- and if two out of three cracks are no longer than 1/4 inch each.



The best way to ID rifles is to paint the number on the buttstock. Paint doesn't hide cracks, but tape does. If you use tape to ID rifles, put it on the middle of the buttstock where cracks are rare.



When you replace a buttstock, take it easy with the buttplate screws. If

you give them too many turns, you can crack the buttplate or distort the liner.

Turn the screws until you feel resistance. Make one more quarter turn and stop. Remember, any time the buttcap screw, NSN 5305-01-147-8585, is removed, its nylon insert is ruined and the screw must be replaced.



Save your unit money and yourself trouble by convincing your CO not to conduct drills on concrete. Slamming rifle buttstocks on concrete breaks them for sure.

