

## Pin's for Firing, Swab's for Swabbing



A good, thorough cleaning is the best favor you can do your M16-series rifle or M4/M4A1 carbine. But if you use a firing pin or cotton swab to do that cleaning, you're doing your weapon a disfavor.

The firing pin's job is to strike the cartridge primer hard enough to ignite the powder that propels the bullet. And that's it—it has no other job.

If you use the pin to ream the bolt or bolt carrier, the pin is blunted, burred, cracked or bent. If that happens, the pin can't do its job and you can't fire your rifle or carbine.

To clean the carbon from the bolt and carrier, use a couple of drops of CLP, a worn bore brush and a pipe cleaner.

Use pipe cleaners to clean out tight areas like the carrier key or trigger assembly.

What happens if you use a cotton swab for cleaning? The cotton comes off the swab and mixes with lube and carbon. That mixture hardens and does an excellent job of plugging the carrier key. Your rifle or carbine fires once and stops.

