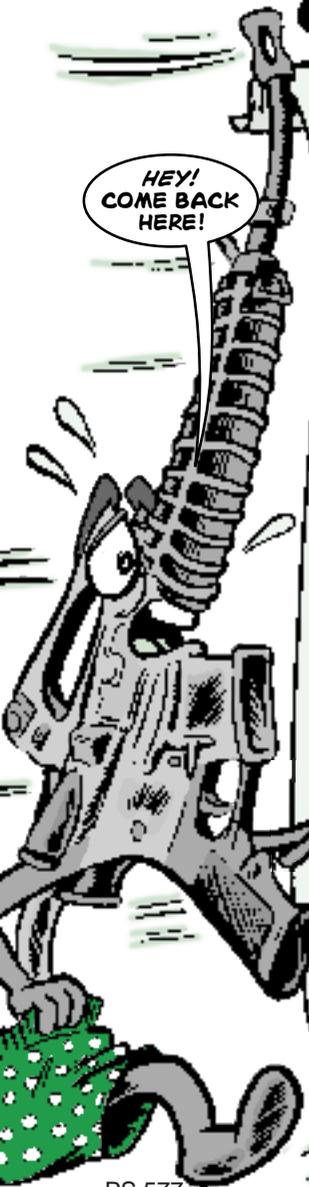


Catching Loose

HEY!
COME BACK
HERE!



Dear Editor,

As an arms room inspector, I see too many M16 rifles with loose receiver extensions or buttstocks. Some extensions have actually come off during firing, damaging the lower receiver.

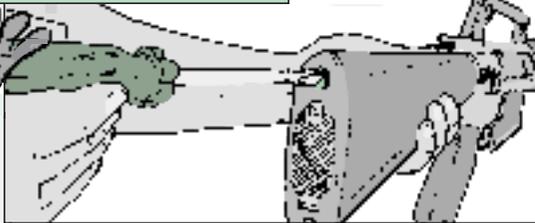
If armorers carefully do the checks from Page 2-17 in TM 9-1005-319-23&P during their quarterly PMCS, they will catch loose extensions and buttstocks before they come completely loose.

For instance, can you move the buttstock forward or backward? Is there a gap of 1/32 inch or more between the buttstock and lower receiver? If there is movement or a gap, replace the buttplate's self-locking screw.

Is there buttstock movement or a 1/32-in gap?



If so, replace self-locking screw

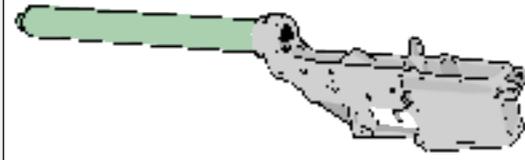


Buttstocks

If that doesn't eliminate the movement or gap, take off the buttstock and check the lower receiver extension for looseness.

If the extension is loose, don't try to tighten it. Support has the right tool and needs to tighten it to 35-39 lb-ft.

If buttstock is still loose, check lower receiver extension



If the extension's not loose, try replacing the buttplate. If the buttstock still moves forward or backward or there's still a gap, support needs to check it out. The rifle probably needs a new buttstock.

It's also a good idea to check the buttplate self-locking screws when rifles come back from the field. If it looks like a screw has been removed and screwed back in, replace the screw. It's a one-time use fastener and can no longer hold the buttstock tight.

SSG Gerald Knipe
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NYAH!
NYAH! CATCH
ME IF YOU
CAN!

