

Use Your Head on Headspacing



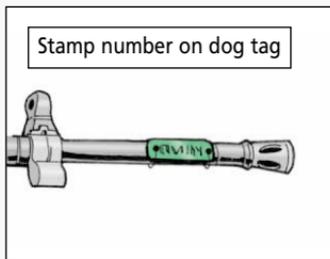
Don't take chances with headspacing, armorers. If the space between the bolt face and the chamber isn't exactly right, not only will the gun shoot poorly or not at all, but it could explode.

That's why you must make sure every rifle and machine gun has been headspaced by support before it goes to the field. Active duty units must have their weapons headspaced at least every 12 months, while Army Reserve and National Guard units should do it every 24 months.

But any time a bolt or barrel is replaced, DS needs to headspace the weapon.

With machine guns, get the spare barrel headspaced by support, too. Clearly mark both barrels with the gun's serial number so they can easily be identified.

Have the number stamped on a dog tag and use lacing wire to secure the tag to the barrel's handle or leg. Paint the tag a dark color so it won't reflect in the field.



Of course, the M2 machine gun is an exception. It must be headspaced and timed every time it's fired.

DURING TRAINING, MAKE SURE YOUR MACHINE GUNNERS KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT MIXING BOLTS AND BARRELS.

WHEN CLEANING SEVERAL WEAPONS AT ONCE, THEY NEED TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO PUT THE WRONG BARREL ON—OR WRONG BOLT IN THEIR MACHINE GUN. IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT, THE GUN NEEDS TO BE CHECKED BY SUPPORT.

THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT CONFUSION IS NOT DO BATCH CLEANING.

