

KNOW YOUR LIMITS



AND WHEN I'M DONE CLEANING YOUR HEAT SHIELDS, I'LL GIVE YOU A SPONGE BATH AND A...

NO! NO! NO! THAT KIND OF ATTENTION IS NOT NECESSARY!

IN FACT, IT'S JUST PLAIN WRONG!

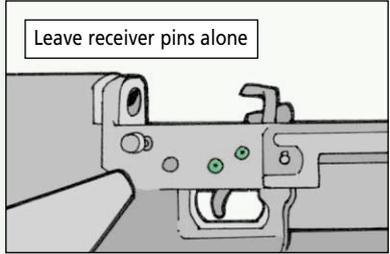
Your M16-series rifle or M4A1 carbine is the best friend you'll have in battle. That's why you need to give it all the PM attention it needs.

But there is a widespread problem in the Army. Some soldiers want to give their M16 or M4A1 too much attention. They want to do not only their job, but also the armorer's and maybe even direct support's. The results of doing more than you should can be disastrous for your weapon.

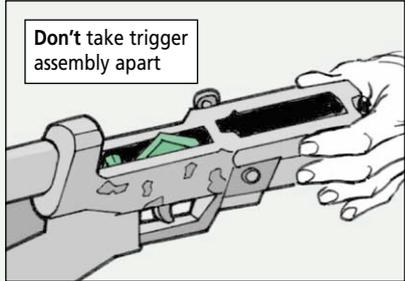


HERE'S WHAT YOU SHOULD'NT BE DOING...

- Don't disassemble the lower receiver and trigger assembly for better cleaning.

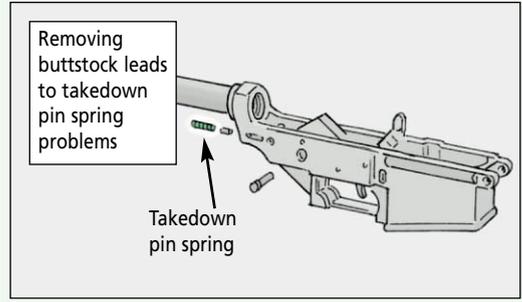


If you continually push out the receiver pins, you enlarge the receiver holes. The holes can't hold the pins and the receiver is ruined.



If the trigger assembly is put together wrong, the weapon fires automatic when it's not supposed to. That's dangerous.

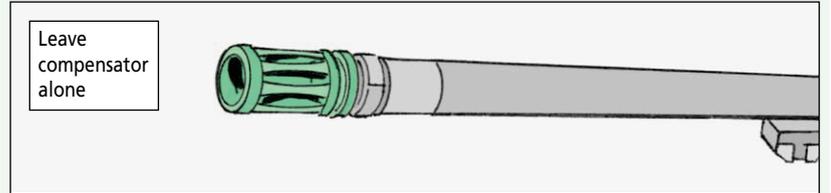
- Don't remove the buttstock to clean the lower receiver extension.



The takedown pin spring is easily damaged and difficult to install correctly. If the spring and detent are not put back in right, the takedown pin won't lock in and your rifle won't stay together. You could also loosen the lower receiver extension, which could let the buffer detent and spring pop free.

- Don't remove the compensator to clean the barrel.

The compensator must be torqued just right. If it's screwed on too tight, the barrel threads--and barrel--are ruined. If it's too loose, it can vibrate off.

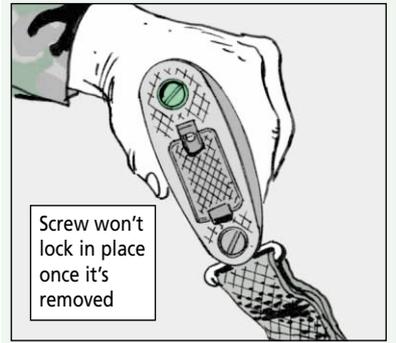


- Don't give your M16 or M4 a bath.



Water trapped in tight places corrodes metal parts like the carrier key, forward assist spring, trigger spring, and sear spring.

- Don't remove the self-locking screw in the buttstock.



Once the screw is removed, it's no longer self-locking. It won't hold and the buttstock can turn while firing.

- Don't use stuff like oven or toilet bowl cleaners or homemade cleaning tools on your rifle.

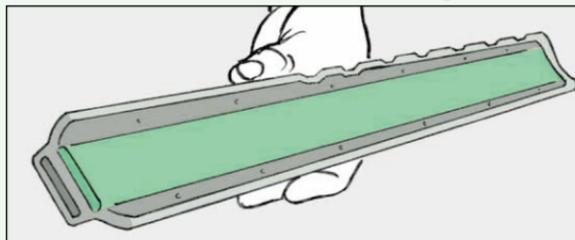


- Don't use the bore brush on the outside of the weapon.



These things will get your rifle or carbine wonderfully clean, but they also take off its protective finish and ruin the barrel grooves. Soon your weapon is junk.

- Don't take off the heat shields for cleaning.



Leave heat shields alone

You'll ruin the hand-guards if you remove the heat shields. That's why it says **DO NOT REMOVE** on the heat shields.

The bottom line is that if you want to do your M16 or M4 a favor, do everything TM 9-1005-319-10 says to do, then **stop**. If your weapon needs more attention, tell your armorer. He has the tools and training to either fix it or get it to support.



ARMORERS, MAKE SURE YOUR UNIT SEES THIS ARTICLE. IT WILL SAVE YOU TROUBLE AND YOUR UNIT THE COST OF REPLACING RUINED WEAPONS.