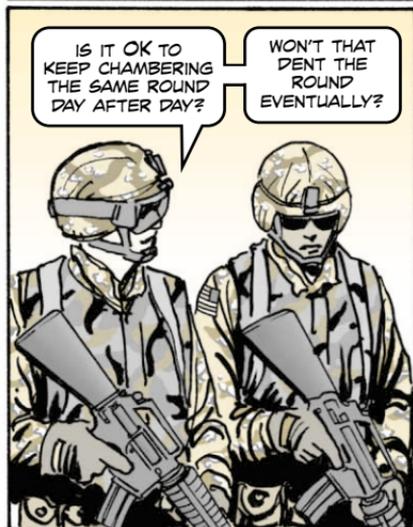


Dented Primer OK



Dear Half-Mast,
Here in Iraq we've noticed that when we chamber—but not fire—rounds in our M16-series rifles or M4/M4A1 carbines, it dents the round's primer. Is there something wrong with our weapons or is this normal?

SGT P.S.

Dear Sergeant P.S.,
It is normal for the round's primer to be dented when the round is chambered. The dent is about .007 inch deep, which isn't deep enough to set off the round. **You can charge and chamber a round five times before you risk a deadened round that won't fire.** It is a good idea when you're in a combat situation like Iraq to rotate a chambered round to the bottom of the magazine when you clean your weapon and the magazine each day. No use taking any chances.

Half-Mast