

# Short Vs Long

Dear Half-Mast,

Is it OK to use a short barrel on an M249 that came with the standard barrel or a standard barrel with an M249 that came with a short barrel? We're not sure if it's safe.

E.P.

Dear Mr. E.P.,

As long as you get the barrels headspaced to that particular M249, it's fine to use either barrel. Both barrels were designed to be used with all M249s.

But remember you should not fire blanks with the short barrel. With the short barrel, the increased bolt unlocking velocity can damage the receiver's inner rail. Eventually, the Army will have a blank firing attachment (BFA) for the short barrel. PS will let you know when the BFA is available.

If you get short barrels, be sure to keep the standard barrel. You will need to turn in the standard barrel with the M249 when it goes to overhaul. Do not send short barrels to overhaul. You won't get them back.

Half-Mast

M2 Machine Gun...

# New Safety Available?

Dear Half-Mast,

Is there a new safety device available for the M2 machine gun? We've heard there is, but we can't find any info on it.

1LT J.D.

Dear Lieutenant J.D.,

Yes, there is a new safety device, but it can be used only when the M2 is mounted on the M1A2 and M1A2 SEP tanks.

New safety device can be used only with M1A2 and M1A2 SEP tanks



The safety kit comes with NSN 5340-01-387-3058 and the instructions for installing it are in TB 9-2350-264-23-1, M2 Machine Gun Preparation for Safety and Replacement of Handle Frames and Grips. The TB is on the ETM website:

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/online.htm>

The modification makes the M2 non-standard. When the weapon is removed from the tank it must be put back in its normal configuration to be classified mission capable.

Half-Mast