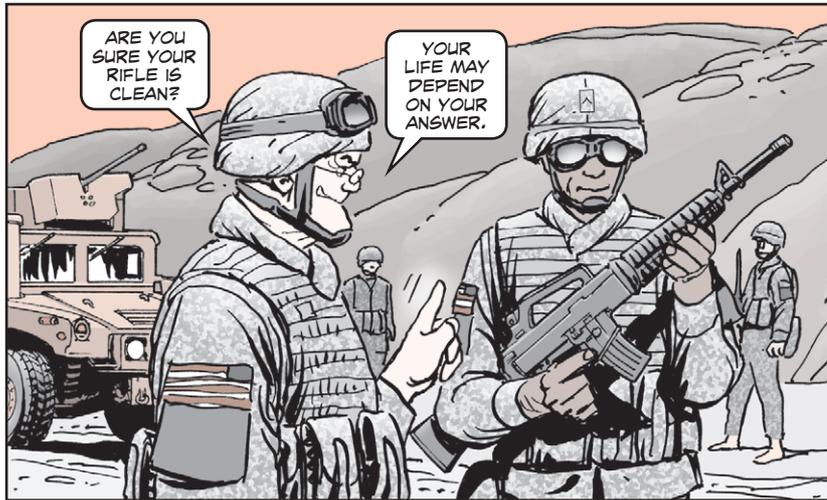


# MAKE SURE IT'S CLEAN

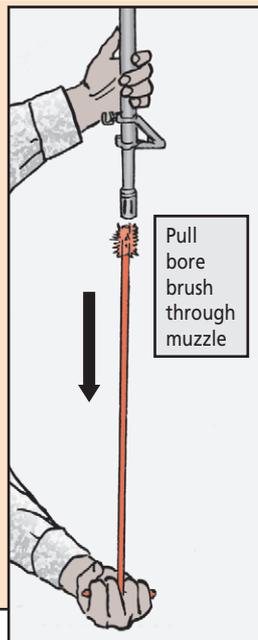


**A**n M16 rifle or M4 carbine that's filled with sand and carbon is a weapon doomed to failure. That lack of PM attention can doom you in a firefight with the enemy. Here are the cleaning basics for making sure your weapon is ready for duty.

**Bore** — A good cleaning begins with the bore. Carbon quickly builds up there during firing. First swab out the barrel with a patch moistened with CLP to loosen the carbon.

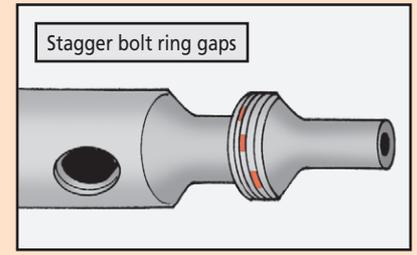
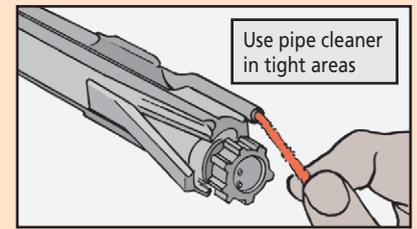
Drop the end of the rod without the brush in the chamber end with the barrel pointing down. Attach the handle to the end of the rod sticking out the muzzle and pull the rod all the way through. Let the section with the bore brush turn as you pull it through. That way the brush bristles follow the rifling grooves.

Repeat this process until all the carbon is gone, periodically running a patch moistened with CLP through the bore to clean out the carbon. Don't pull the bore brush through a dry bore or reverse direction. That damages the brush.

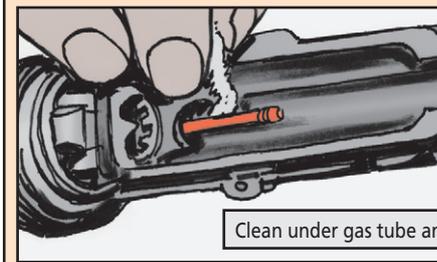


**Bolt and bolt carrier** — Clean carbon from the bolt and bolt carrier with a worn bore brush, CLP, and a pipe cleaner. Use the pipe cleaner to clean out tight areas like inside the carrier key. What you don't want to use are the firing pin or cotton tips. Cleaning with the firing pin blunts it and leads to misfires. Cotton tips leave cotton inside the carrier key, which mixes with lube and carbon and blocks the gas system. Then your weapon can't cycle.

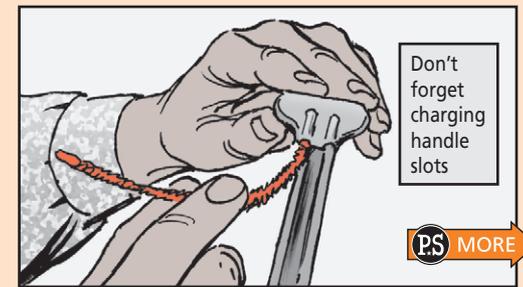
Make sure the gaps in the bolt's gas rings are staggered. If they're lined up, too much gas escapes and the bolt won't be pushed back to the lock position. Stagger the gaps if necessary.



**Gas tube and locking lugs** — If they get too gunked up, bolt action slows. Use your chamber brush to loosen carbon around the lugs. Then clean the lugs and under the gas tube with a pipe cleaner and CLP.

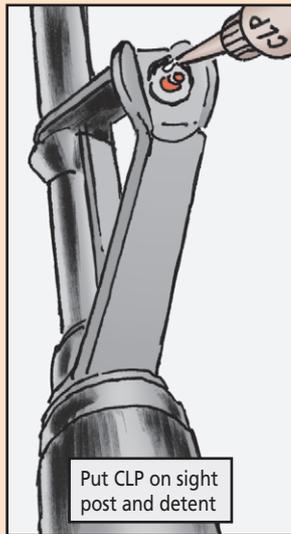


**Charging handle** — If you don't clean the charging handle, eventually you can't charge your rifle or carbine. Pull out the handle from the receiver and clean it with CLP and a cloth. Use a pipe cleaner dipped in CLP to clean out the handle and receiver slots.

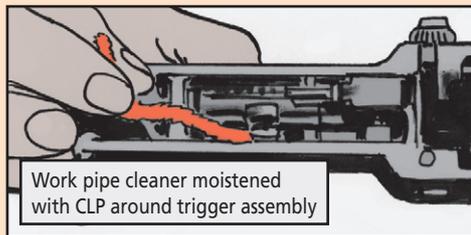


**Slip ring**— If the slip ring collects too much sand, you'll have trouble putting on or taking off the handguards. Have a buddy hold down the slip ring with both hands while you work out sand with a dry pipe cleaner or toothbrush. Don't put CLP under the slip ring. Lube attracts more dirt.

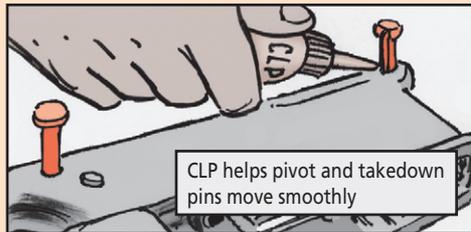
**Front sight post**— If the post sticks, you can't adjust it. That means you miss what you're shooting at. Clean around the post with a toothbrush. Depress the detent and give it a drop of CLP. Work the detent and post up and down until they move smoothly.



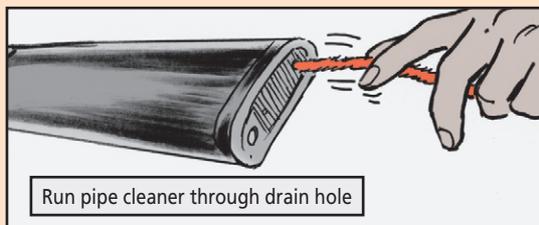
**Trigger assembly**— If the inner workings of the trigger assembly get too dirty, the trigger will bind. The best way to clean out the assembly is to use your own breath to blow out sand. Then put CLP on a pipe cleaner and gently clean out any remaining sand from the assembly.



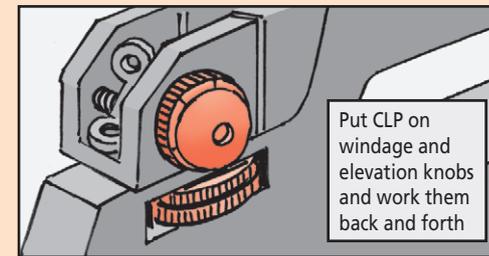
**Takedown and pivot pins**— If the pins stick, you'll have trouble disassembling your weapon. Put a stripe of CLP down each pin and work them in and out of the receiver until they move easily.



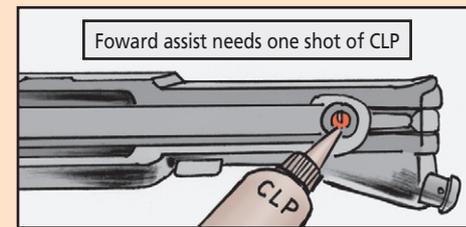
**Buttstock drain hole**— If the hole's clogged, moisture collects inside the buttstock and soon corrosion is chewing up the lower receiver. Run a pipe cleaner through the hole.



**Windage and elevation knobs**— If the knobs stick, you can't adjust the rear sight. Put one or two drops of CLP in the hole in front of the rear sight aperture and on each knob and turn the knobs until they move smoothly. Return them to their original position.



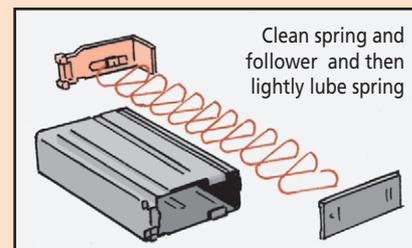
**Forward assist**— If the forward assist won't budge, you may not be able to lock the bolt forward. Squirt one shot of CLP in the forward assist port inside the upper receiver. Run the forward assist back and forth until it's moving smoothly.



**Magazine**— No matter how well you take care of your weapon, it will be useless if you don't take care of the magazines, too.



Take each magazine apart and run a clean cloth through each tube until all dirt is gone. Wipe off dirt from the spring and follower. Lightly lube the spring. If the spring and follower come apart, you need a new magazine. Don't try to reattach them.



Eyeball all seven magazines for dents or corrosion that could cause feeding problems. Turn in dented or corroded magazines. While loading, don't jam the feed lips of the magazine against a table or anything else hard. That's what bends lips.



In the field, you can protect magazines by keeping them in their bag, NSN 1005-00-193-8306.