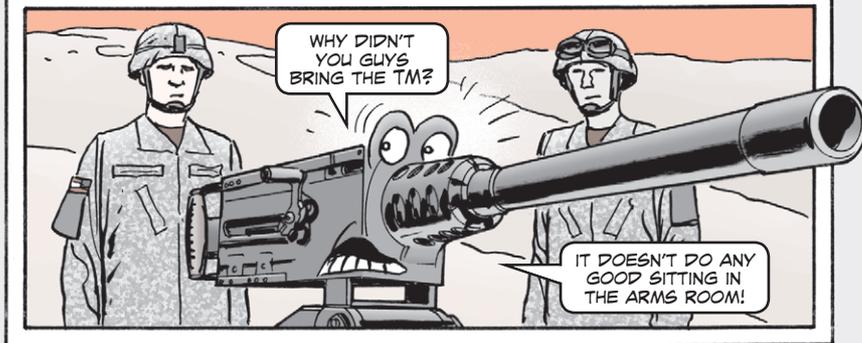
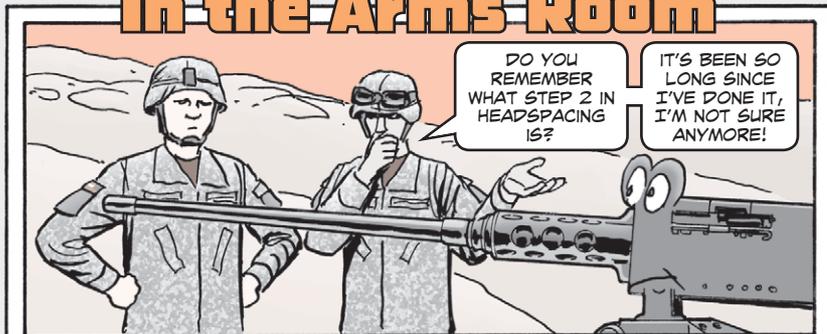


Don't Hoard TMs in the Arms Room



Rifles, pistols and machine guns are routinely issued from arms rooms missing a vital component: the -10 TM.

Armorers know that if the operator TMs leave the arms room a certain number of them will never make it back. Then the armorer has to go through the hassle of getting more TMs.

That is a hassle you need to put up with, armorers. It will be a much bigger hassle explaining to your commander why a soldier damaged a weapon or injured himself because he didn't have his TM to consult. Without the operator TM, the soldier is forced to rely on his memory for what he learned in basic training or Sergeant's Time. That can be difficult if he hasn't trained with his weapon in some time.

What are some very possible results of a soldier being sent to the range or field without his -10 TM?

The most common foul-up is with the M2 machine gun. Soldiers forget the precise steps for headspacing and timing the M2. If that's done wrong, the M2 can rupture its barrel and injure the soldier.

Another very common mistake is using CLP to lube the MK 19 machine gun. Without the -10 TM, the operator might not remember that CLP is not a strong enough lubricant for the MK 19, and that it needs LSAT or GMD. As a result, the weapon locks up during firing. In battle, that's bad news for everybody but the enemy.

Or without the -10 TM, the soldier fails to do a complete PMCS of his M16 rifle and misses that the front sight is bent. He gets to the field and can't zero his rifle. There goes accuracy.

Or the soldier doesn't realize that muzzle caps are part of the AAL in the -10 for the M16 and M4 carbine. Without a muzzle cap, his rifle gets clogged with sand in the desert and jams during firing.

The -10 TM explains in detail how to PMCS a weapon, how to troubleshoot problems, how to maintain it, how to zero it, and what items are authorized to support it. The operator needs his TM to do his job.

So don't lock those TMs in the arms room, armorers. Send them out with their weapons. That's where they belong—with the weapons.



Dear Half-Mast,
My unit just got new M4 carbines with the M68 optical sight and the backup iron sight (BUIS). We are unsure how to use the sights. Is the M68 the primary sight? Can you zero the M68 and then zero the backup iron sight with the M68?

H.R.

Dear Mr. H.R.,
The BUIS is to be used if the M68, ACOG, or other optic sights fail. The M4/M4A1 and M16A4 are now issued with the BUIS as standard equipment, but the M68 and other sights are usually used as the primary sight. All sights must be zeroed and at the same time if possible. One sight should not be used to zero another.

Half-Mast