

COOL OFF COOK OFFS

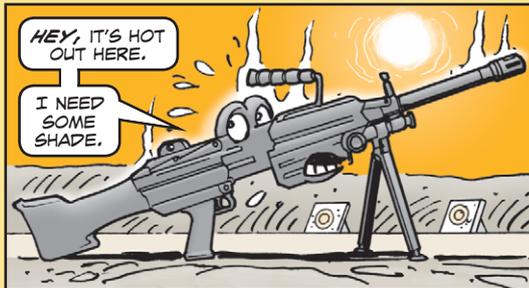
HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO COOL OFF M249 COOK OFFS!



M249 machine gunners have reported a rash of cook offs recently. A cook off occurs when a round fires because of a hot barrel and not because the trigger was pulled. There are a few things you can do to cool off cook offs.

First, keep your M249 as cool as possible. Don't leave the M249, its spare barrel, or its ammo in direct sunlight or on hot surfaces or shut up in hot vehicles or buildings.

Of course, in the desert that's very difficult, but you can still keep your M249 covered as much as possible in the field.



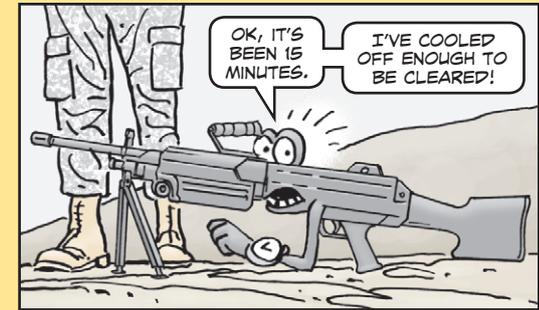
Change the barrel when you're supposed to during firing. If you continue firing through the same barrel, you not only risk a cook off but also a ruined barrel. During both sustained fire (3 to 5 round bursts, 4 to 5 seconds between bursts, 50 rounds per minute) and rapid fire (8 to 10 round bursts, 2 to 3 seconds between bursts, 100 rounds per minute), change the barrel every 200 rounds.



Clean and lube your weapon like it says in TM 9-1005-201-10. A dirty, rusty, poorly lubed weapon will have more trouble with malfunctions that lead to cook offs than a properly maintained weapon.

If you do have a stoppage, charge the weapon. If a round is ejected, fire again.

If no round is ejected, assume you have a live round in the chamber. If the weapon is hot (it's fired 200 successive rounds or more), don't open the cover or remove the barrel. Point the weapon down range, put it on SAFE, let it cool off for 15 minutes, and then clear it. If the M249 isn't hot, you can clear it immediately.



Small Arms...

The *Final* Cleaning Step

Dear Editor,

I thought your article in PS 668 (July 08) on cleaning the M16 rifle was very good, but I believe there is one final step that should be mentioned.

The last thing you should do when cleaning the bore of the M16 or any of the machine guns is to repeatedly run clean, dry patches through the barrel until the patches come out clean. That way you've made sure all oil and foreign material have been removed from the bore.

SSG K.G.
Illinois ARNG

Run dry, clean patches through barrel until all oil and obstructions are removed



Editor's note: Excellent point, Sergeant. We'll pass it on.