

Machine Guns...

STAGGER GAGE CALIBRATION

WE NEED CALIBRATING.

I KNOW, BUT I CAN'T SEND ALL OF YOU TO TMDE AT ONCE.

SOME OF YOU NEED TO STAY ON THE JOB.

Dear Half-Mast,

We saw on Page 20 in PS 672 (Nov 08) that the M2, M3P, and M296 headspace and timing gages should be calibrated every 360 days according to TB 43-180.

Many units probably have never had the gages calibrated. If they send all their gages in at the same time, their machine guns will be considered NMC until the gages come back from TMDE. How should armorers handle this difficult problem?

CW5 J.P.

Dear Chief J.P.,

There is no perfect solution to this problem. The best course of action is to send a few gages in at a time for calibration, holding some back at the unit until TMDE returns the other gages. Then send more gages in, again holding some back. Do this until all the gages have been calibrated. By staggering the calibration, you will always have some gages on hand.

Of course, gages disappear over time in the field and you will need replacements. If your commander approves, order extra timing and headspacing gages with these NSNs:

- M2 and M296, NSN 5220-00-535-1217
- M3P, NSN 5280-13-116-6359

Half-Mast