

DO'S AND DON'TS FROM DOL!



Dear Editor,

We do the small arms repairs for DOL at Ft Bliss and we see a few problems that we hope *PS* can help solve by educating Soldiers.

Spare barrel-*PS* has written again and again about the importance of changing machine gun barrels during firing. But that's still a problem. We frequently see barrels ruined because a Soldier fired and fired through the same barrel. Even if the barrel doesn't get so hot that it's warped, the heat can take the finish right off the barrel. Then corrosion has an open door.

But something else we're running into is units not IDing the spare barrel with the receiver's serial number. Then they take the spares to the field and randomly put one on their machine gun. Both barrels are headspaced to one receiver. Another barrel won't have the correct headspace, which means the machine gun could malfunction. If the barrels are not tagged, the weapon is NMC.

The serial number of the receiver should be stamped on dog tags and the dog tags should be safety wired to the barrels. Writing the serial number on the barrel bag will help, too. Soldiers need to be educated to make sure the ID number on the spare barrel is the same as the receiver's.

Units also need to remember that the spare barrel stays with the machine gun if it's transferred to another unit. If the spare barrel disappears, your unit can be giggered for a replacement.

Cleaning rods-We've seen Soldiers use another weapon's cleaning rod for PM. Using an M16 rifle cleaning rod to try to clean an M2 machine gun's barrel is pointless. The cleaning rod isn't big enough. But it's even worse if you do the opposite: try to clean an M16 with an M2 cleaning rod. We actually had to junk an M16 barrel because an M2 cleaning rod was stuck in it. Use only the cleaning rod specifically designed for your weapon.

Barrel caps-Units are leaving the caps on all the time. We've seen weapons shipped back from SW Asia where the cap had glued itself to the barrel. Plus the cap traps moisture in the barrel, which leads to corrosion. The only time the caps should be used is in the field to prevent dirt and sand from clogging the barrel.

Mr. D.W.
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I KNOW I NEED TO CHANGE YOUR BARREL, BUT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHICH IS YOUR SPARE?



YOU SHOULD'VE IDENTIFIED MY BARREL!

HEY, WAIT! I MAY JUST BE A SPARE, BUT IF THE GUN'S GOING TO A NEW UNIT...



...I NEED TO GO, TOO!

HA, YOU THINK YOU CAN CLEAN ME WITH THAT PITIFUL M16 CLEANING ROD.



BE SERIOUS.

HEY, WE DON'T NEED THESE BARREL CAPS FOR STORAGE.

TAKE 'EM OFF.



Editor's note: Excellent points, Sir. Soldiers, do your weapon a favor and remember these points. If you have questions, call DSN 793-7458, (309) 782-7458. Or, email: @us.army.mil