



DON'T STAGGER CALIBRATION, *ORDER EXTRA GAGES*

Dear Editor,

I saw in PS 678 (May 09) your suggestion that units whose M2, M296, or M3P machine gun gages hadn't received the required yearly calibration should stagger sending their gages to TMDE. That way all the gages aren't out at the same time.

The problem with that idea is that these machine guns are considered **NOT READY/AVAILABLE** if they don't have their gages or their gages haven't been calibrated in a year.

As a TACOM logistics assistance representative (LAR), I recommend to the units I assist that they have two sets of timing and headspace gages for each weapon.

That way when one set of gages has to go to TMDE for calibration, you still have the other set available and your machine guns are still mission capable. Plus, gages are going to disappear in the field and this way you have an immediate replacement.

The gages cost almost \$200, but extra gages are worth it if they keep \$13K machine guns in action and make them safe for Soldiers to fire.

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Editor's note: Good idea, Sir. The M2 and M296 headspace and timing gages come with NSN 5220-00-535-1217 and the M3P gage comes with NSN 5280-13-116-6359.