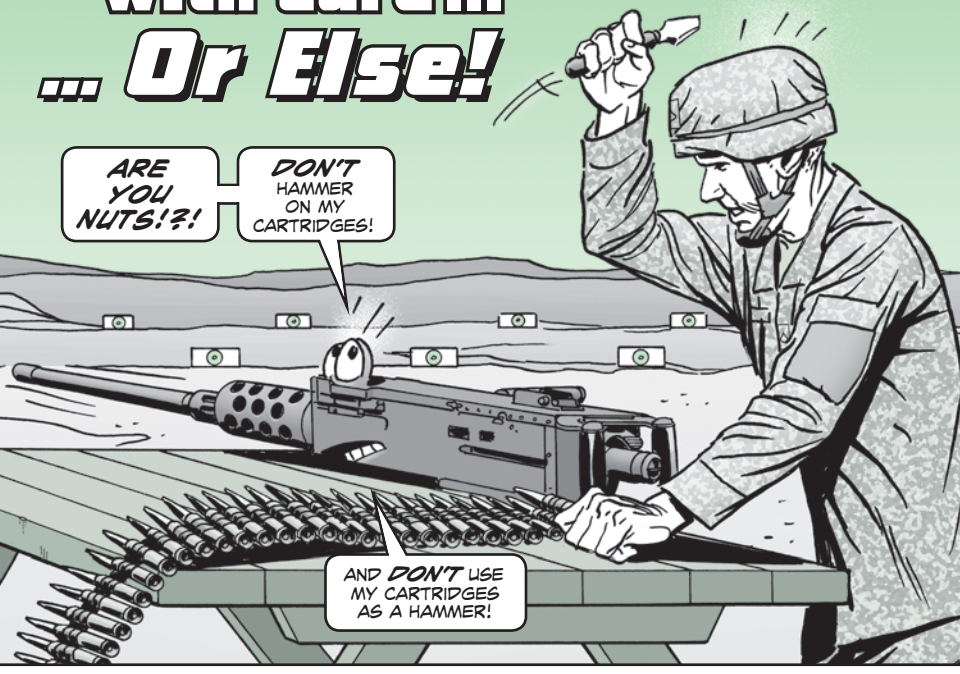
# Handle Ammo with Care... ... Or Else!




Machine gun and rifle ammo are designed to do serious damage to the enemy, but they can do serious damage to you if **you** don't handle them with care. Several Soldiers have learned that lesson the hard way.

A cartridge is not a substitute for a tool. Sometimes Soldiers try to use a .50-cal cartridge to hammer out mounting pins. Very bad idea! Or when a round won't fit in a linked ammo belt, they try to hammer it in place with a multi-purpose tool. Whoa!

Cartridges have a primer that is impact sensitive. When the primer is struck by **any** hard object, it will ignite. Most small arms ammo propellant generates 50,000 to 60,000 psi when ignited. If a cartridge is not enclosed within the steel barrel of a weapon when it fires, it is like a small hand grenade. You don't want it near your hands or body when it goes off.

So handle ammo cartridges with care. Don't throw ammo around. Never use a cartridge as a hammer and never hammer on a cartridge.