

STORAGE PROBLEM SOLVED!



HERE'S A SUGGESTION THAT WILL SAVE UNITS MONEY REPLACING M16s AND M4s...

...AND IT'S EASY TO DO!

Dear Editor,

We continually run into the problem of M16 rifles and M4/M4A1 carbines being stored with the selector set to SAFE and the hammer cocked back. Leaving the hammer cocked wears out its spring. To replace the spring, you must take out the pins in the lower receiver. But removing the pins repeatedly enlarges the pinholes so much they can no longer securely hold the pins. Then the whole lower receiver must be replaced.

I think a big part of the problem is that Soldiers must clear their weapons before they turn them in to the arms room. To do that, they lock back the bolt and put the M16 or M4 on SAFE. They leave the weapon that way when they give it to the armorer. And the armorer leaves it that way when he puts the weapon in the rack. Soon the hammer spring is shot.

If armorers would stress to their units that after they clear their weapons they need to set them to SEMI with the hammer and bolt forward and the dust cover closed, this problem would be greatly reduced. And, of course, armorers need to check that weapons have been cleared before they store them in the rack.

SGT Elijah Kramer
Camp Beauregard, LA



Editor's note: A simple check can save armorers and units time and money. And remember that your machine guns and pistols should also be stored uncocked with the bolts forward. Otherwise, their springs wear out, too. All springs should be relaxed for storage.