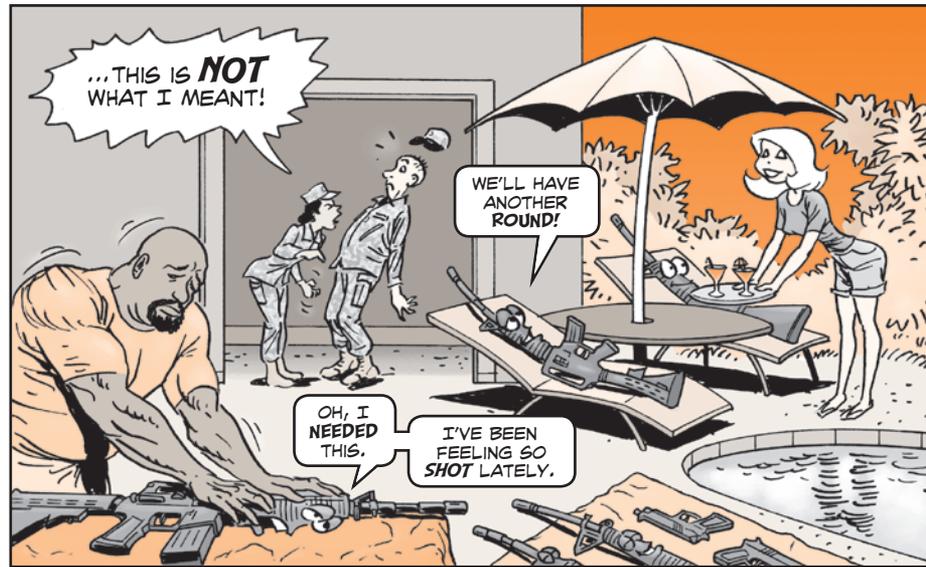


THINK RELAXED FOR STORAGE



Dear Editor,

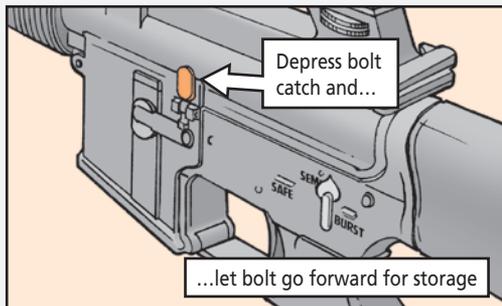
Through our experience repairing weapons here at the Ft Carson DOL, we see a couple of problems that armorers need to pay attention to:

Proper Storage

Armorers are not storing rifles, machine guns and pistols properly. Soldiers lock and clear their weapons before they turn them in to the arms room. Often the armorers leave the hammer cocked and the bolt locked to the rear when they put the weapon in the rack. That tension on the hammer and trigger springs causes them to lose their strength, which means armorers then have to replace the springs. Leaving the bolt locked back weakens the recoil spring, which could lead to jamming.

For the M16 rifle and M4 carbine, storing them cocked can also cause them to fail the trigger pull test. Then the hammer and trigger pins must be removed and reinstalled. If that has to be done often, the pins' holes enlarge and fail gaging. Then the only fix is to replace the lower receiver.

Armorers can avoid all of these problems by *always* leaving the bolt or slide *forward*, the selector on *SEMI* for the M16/M4 or off *SAFE* for pistols and machine guns, and the hammer *uncocked* for storage. That's all it takes!

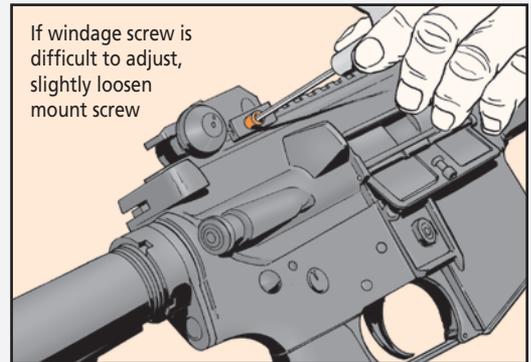


M16 Sight Suggestion

If an ACOG sight is used on an M16 or M4, the backup iron sight should be installed on the weapon. The backup iron sight won't interfere with the ACOG, plus it is the ACOG's backup.

And, if Soldiers remove the iron sight, it's probably going to disappear. Stress this to the Soldiers in your unit.

If the iron sight's windage screw is difficult to adjust, it may just be that the sight's windage screw is too tight. Try loosening the mount screw a tiny bit and see if that solves the problem. Too often armorers just replace the iron sight when this problem occurs.



Editor's note: It only takes seconds, armorers, to uncock a weapon, slide the bolt forward, and set it on SEMI or off SAFE. Make it a habit to check that this has been done for every weapon before you put it in the rack.

Allan Dykes
Adam Treloar
Ft Carson, CO