

If TM Says Do It, Do It! Otherwise, Don't!



If Soldiers followed these two simple rules, they would save themselves and their equipment a lot of trouble.

The Army spends a great deal of time preparing operator technical manuals that tell you exactly what you need to do to keep your weapon, vehicle, aircraft, or radio operating smoothly.

If you follow the PMCS and other maintenance instructions in the -10 TM with true dedication, you have an excellent shot of not having any trouble with your equipment. And even if you do, the TM's troubleshooting chart will often help fix the trouble.

But if you think you can improve on what the TM instructs you to do, then you're asking for trouble. For example, using a commercial sight on your M16 rifle or a different lubricant than what the TM lists, can leave you missing the target or, even worse, not being able to fire at all because your rifle jammed.

Also, just because something has an NSN doesn't mean it's OK to use. A particular lubricant might be fine for your M16 rifle, but definitely shouldn't be used on the MK 19 machine gun. Once again, your TM has the word. Follow it and you should be OK.

If you aren't sure you understand something in the TM, contact your local logistics assistance office (LAO). The LAO has equipment experts who can clear up your confusion.

Let your TM be your guide and you will stay on the road to success.