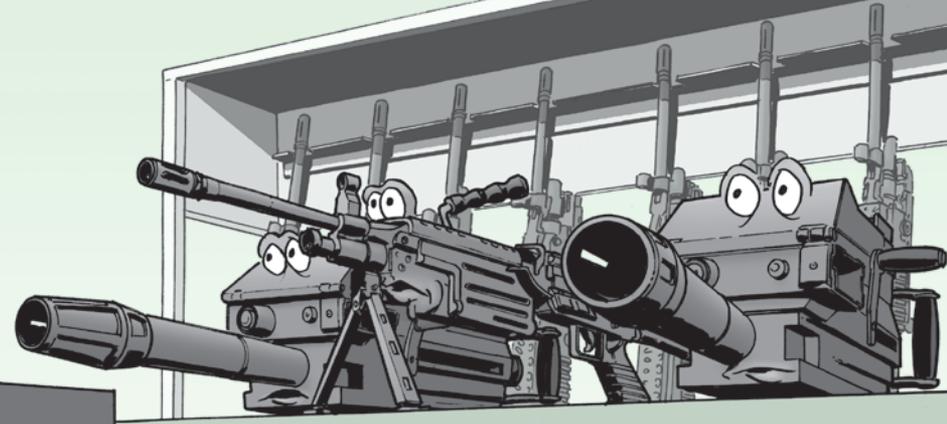


WHICH LUBE GOES

ON WHICH WEAPON?



Dear Editor,

As an armament tech, I correct armorers about using the wrong lubes on weapons all the time. I think it would be a great idea for *PS* to summarize which lubes can be used on which weapons. That would clear up some of the confusion.

CW2 Ryan Harmon
Camp Casey, Republic of Korea

Editor's note: That's a great idea! Here we go:

Small arms lubricants differ in viscosity (how easily they flow), chemical composition and heat resistance. These characteristics dictate which lubricant to use depending on the weapon and environmental conditions. Your -10 TM is always the best guide to cleaning and lubing your weapons, but here are some general guidelines on lubricants:

RBC (rifle bore cleaner) is not a lubricant. It's strictly for cleaning out carbon and powder from the chamber and bore. Remember, when you're finished using RBC, you need to lube your weapon.

CLP (cleaner, lubricant, preservative) is usually the best choice for taking care of your weapon since it cleans, lubes and preserves in one step.

LSA (lubricant, semi-fluid, automatic weapons) and **LSA-T** (lubricant, semi-fluid, automatic weapons with Teflon®) are strictly lubricants. So before using them you must first clean your weapons with dry cleaning solvent, MIL-PRF-680 Type II. **Always de-grease thoroughly when changing lubes.**

CLP and LSA can be used on most weapons as long as the temperature is -10°F or higher. When the temperature drops below 10°F , you can use **LAW** (lubricating oil, arctic, weapons). If it's below -10°F , use only **LAW** on most weapons.

There are exceptions, though. For the **M249 machine gun** and the **M3 recoilless rifle**, use only **CLP** regardless of the temperature.

On the **M231 firing port weapon**, don't use **CLP**. Use only **LSA** in normal conditions and **LAW** in extreme cold.

For the **MK 19**, never use **CLP**—it's not strong enough. Use **GMD** (grease, molybdenum disulfide) if you can get it. If you can't, use **LSA** or **LSA-T**. If the temperature drops below 0°F , it's OK to use **LAW**.

When you're lubing, remember a light lube means a film barely visible to the eye. A heavy lube means a film thick enough to spread with your finger.

If you need the NSNs for these lubricants and cleaners, see your -10 TM or Page 23 in *PS* 671 (Oct 08) at:

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/archives/PS2008/671/671-23.pdf>

Now that you've got the whole lube story, make sure armorers and Soldiers read the story. Copy this article and hand it out at the next Sergeant's Time. Post it on bulletin boards, too.

