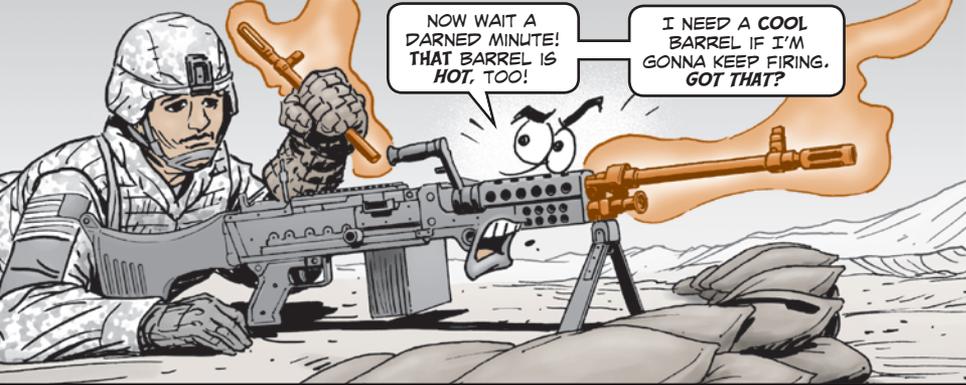


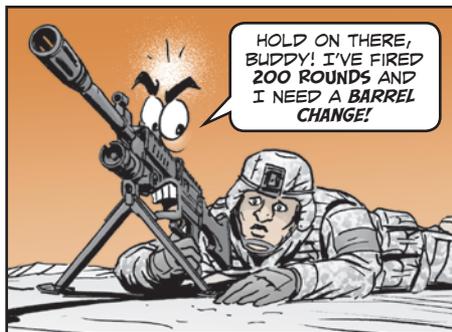
TAKE BOTH BARRELS AND ORDER EXTRAS IF NEEDED



Every unit that fires M2, M240 and M249 machine guns should have a sign hanging over the arms room door saying "Always take both barrels to the field."

Every year thousands of bucks are spent replacing these weapons' barrels because units leave the spare barrel in the arms room. Especially at the range, they fire many rounds through the same barrel. The barrel gets so hot—red hot in some cases—it warps. That barrel is ruined. And hot barrels can also cause cook offs, which are dangerous.

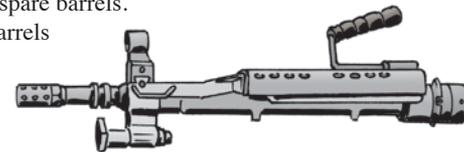
But if you're firing and firing at the range, you may need more than one spare barrel. For the M240, you should change the barrel every 10 minutes during sustained fire (100 rounds per minute with 4-5 seconds between bursts) and every 2 minutes during rapid fire (200 rounds per minute with 2-3 seconds between bursts). The M249 barrel should be changed every 200 rounds both for sustained and rapid fire.



For the M2, change the barrel at the end of the day if you're firing single shot or slow fire (fewer than 40 rounds per minute). Change the barrel every hour if you're firing more than 40 rounds per minute and every half hour for more than 100 rounds per minute. Of course, change the barrel immediately if the barrel is damaged.

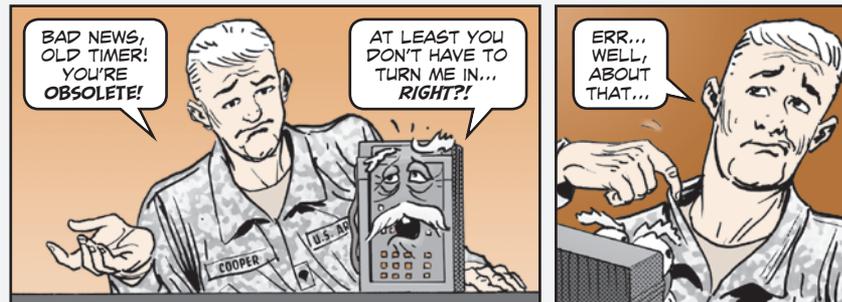
If you're firing rounds fast, the barrels don't have time to really cool off even when you change them like you're supposed to. So, if you replace a hot barrel with another hot barrel, the barrel is ruined. That's why if you regularly do lots of firing at the range, it's a good idea to have extra spare barrels. Then you can rotate three or more barrels instead of two.

Barrel should be cool to touch with your bare hand **before** you reinstall it



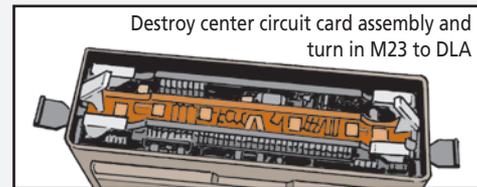
But remember for the M2A1, M240 and M249, you can use only spare barrels specifically headspaced to that particular weapon. If you swap barrels between machine guns, you damage not only the barrel but the machine gun itself. And you could damage yourself if the gun blows up! All barrels should be tagged for the machine gun they have been headspaced for.

Mortars... **M23 MBC Obsolete**



If you're still using the M23 mortar ballistic computer (MBC), NSN 1220-01-119-6049, and its companion computer, NSN 1220-01-161-8888, stop. They're obsolete and should be demilitarized and sent to DLA Disposition Services.

To demil the M23, remove the center circuit card assembly from inside the MBC and destroy it. Fill out a DLIS Form 1867 and tape it to the MBC's back cover plate. Then turn it in to your local DLA Disposition Services.



Let TACOM know you've turned in the MBC by emailing its serial number to: usarmy.detroit.tacom.mbx.ilsc-mortar-systems@mail.mil

The M23 has been replaced with the M32 lightweight handheld mortar ballistic computer.

If you have questions, contact TACOM's Joe Leigh at DSN 786-1223, (586) 282-1223, or email: joseph.t.leigh.civ@mail.mil