# **OPERATOR'S MANUAL**

# M16A1 RIFLE

INTRODUCTION TO YOUR WEAPON AMMUNITION DISASSEMBLY LUBRICATION ASSEMBLY MAGAZINE PMCS OPERATION TROUBLESHOOTING PAGES 2-10 9 11-19 20-23 24-29 30-31 32-33 34-47 48-55

TM 9-1005-249-10

**APRIL 1977** 

TM 9-1005-249-10 C 1 HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY WASHINGTON, DC 20 March 1979

OPERATOR'S MANUAL M16A1 RIFLE

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TM 9-1005-249-10, April 1977, is changed as follows:

CHANGE NO. 1

#### DANGEROUS PROCEDURES

 Be sure the cam pin is installed in the bolt group. If it isn't, your rifle can still fire, but it could possibly explode, causing you harm.

ANDANI

- If you're using the blank ammo attachment, don't use any other ammo except the blank round, M200.
- DO NOT exchange or switch bolt assemblies from one M16A1 to another...It could cause damage to both you and the rifle.
- If your rifle stops firing with a live round in the chamber of a hot barrel, remove the round fast. However, during training, if you cannot remove it within 10 seconds, wait 15 minutes with the rifle pointing in a safe direction. This way you won't get hurt by a possible ammo cook-off, which could happen 10 seconds after contact with a hot chamber.

Use only authorized ammo that is manufactured to U.S. specs.

- If your bolt fails to unlock and you try to free it by banging the butt stock on the ground, keep yourself clear of the muzzle.
- If there's water in the barrel, don't fire the rifle. It could explode.
- If a noticeable difference in sound or recoil is experienced, STOP FIRING. Either condition could indicate an incomplete propellant burn and a bullet still in the bore. Retract bolt slowly and remove fired cartridge case. Clear weapon and check for unburned powder grains in the receiver or bore and for a bullet in the bore. Remove unburned propellant or bullet from bore before resuming firing, or barrel could explode. If bullet is lodged in bore, turn in rifle to direct support maintenance.

IF YOU GO BY ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS BOOK, AND PERFORM PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE (PM), YOUR M16A1 RIFLE WILL SHOOT, AND SHOOT AND SHOOT. IF YOU'VE DONE YOUR PART AND IT STOPS SHOOTING, TAKE YOUR M16A1 RIFLE TO YOUR SERGEANT. HE HAS THE ANSWERS.

# FACTS ABOUT

The M16A1 rifle system consists of a rifle, one magazine and a sling. It is a lightweight, gas operated, air cooled, magazine fed, shoulder fired weapon that can be fired either automatic or semi-automatic. Other features:

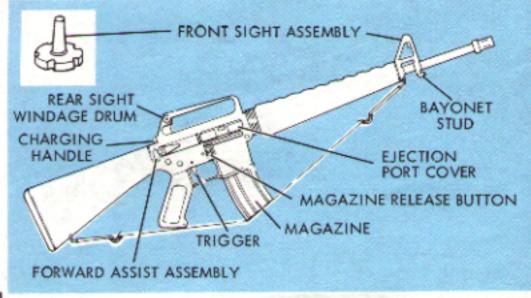
- The barrel assembly has an adjustable sight and a flash suppressor.
- Upper and lower receivers are easily opened for cleaning and inspection.
- Bolt group and barrel extension designed with locking lugs that lock bolt group to barrel extension.
- An aluminum receiver reduces the weight of the rifle.
- Some rifles are equipped with the Low Light Level Sight to increase effectiveness during periods of limited visibility.

# YOUR RIFLE

Weight:

w/20 rd mag 3.5 Kg. (7.6 lb.) w/30 rd mag 3.6 Kg, (7.9 lb.) Max effective rate of fire: Semi: 45-65 rds per min Auto: 150-200 rds per min Max effective range: 460 meters Max range: 2653 meters

### RIFLE PARTS AND . .



# • • • WHERE THEY ARE



#### ITEMS TROOP INSTALLED OR AUTHORIZED

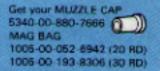
Items which, at the discretion of the unit CO, may accompany the M16A1 rifle but are not subject to be turned in with the rifle



#### AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT



TOP SLING ADAPTER KIT



from your UNIT SUPPLY CARRYING CASE 1005-00-999-2430

> SCABBARD M8A1-1095-00-508-0339

Se S

RIFLE BIPOD M3 1005-00-992-6676

> M7 BAYONFT 1005-00-073 9238

### M15A2 BLANK FIRING ATTACHMENT (BFA)

WARNING Use ONLY blank M200 with the BFA

1005-00-118-6192

CAUTION: Do not use tools to tighten attachment,

3. Slide into flash suppressor and HAND TIGHTEN

HANDS ONLY



 Hook behind first groove of flash suppressor

1. Unscrew and slide all the way back

NOTE: After 50 rounds, check to see if it is still tight. Make sure to clean carbon buildup after each use



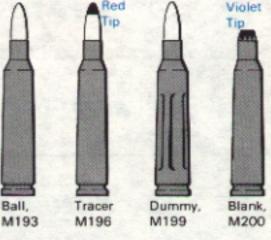
#### WARNING

#### DO NOT FIRE ....

- Seriously corroded ammunition
- Dented cartridges
- Cartridges with loose bullets
- Cartridges exposed to extreme heat (135°) until they have cooled

Use only authorized ammo that is manufactured to U.S. specs.





#### KEEP DRY, CLEAN, AND FREE OF CRUD YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!

### USE OF SELECTOR LEVER

Rifle will not fire. Selector lever cannot be on safe unless rifle is cocked. Always place in SAFE, when loading and unloading

> Rifle will fire one round each time the trigger is pulled



SEMI

SAFE 50

SEMI

### automatic

safe

SAFE AUTO Semi-automatic

Rifle will continue to fire until the magazine is empty or the trigger is released

# CLEAR YOUR RIFLE

3 To tock bolt open, pull charging handle rearward, aross bottom of bolt cetch allow bolt to move forward ontil it engages bolt cetch. Return charging handle to forward if you haven t before place on SAFE

PULL CHARGING HANDLE



 Place selector on SAFE II weapon is not cocked, lever cannot be pointed toward SAFE



20

4 Eyeball receiver and champer to insure these areas contain no ammo.



2 Remove magazine



PRESS

5 With selector lover pointing toward SAFS allow bolt to go forward by pressing upper portion of bolt catch.



# DISASSEMBLY

### first CLEAR YOUR RIFLE

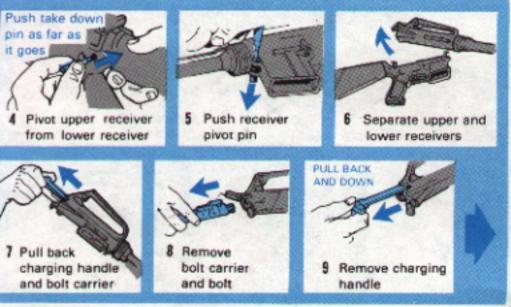




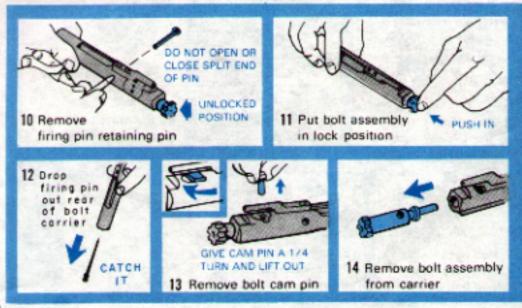


Remove & clean only if dirt & corrosion can be seen through vent holes

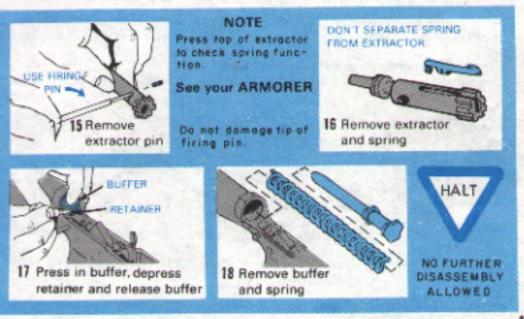




### DISASSEMBLY cont.



#### DISASSEMBLE STEPS 15 THRU 18 ONLY WHEN DIRTY OR DAMAGED



# CLEAN .... INSPECT... LUBE

With the rifle disassembled, thoroughly clean, inspect and lube, so you have a reliable weapon you can always depend on.

After firing, clean your weapon for 3 consecutive days with <u>Rifle Bore</u> <u>Cleaner</u> (RBC). Wipe dry and lube according to lubrication instructions.



Cleaning materials: swabs, pipe cleaners and RBC are expendable items that are available from Company Supply.

If any parts are missing or defective see your ARMORER.

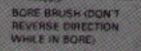
# THOROUGH CLEANING upper receiver

#### CLEAN WITH RBC

- All Areas of Powder Fouling, Corrosion, Dirt & RUST
  - Bore & Chamber
  - Locking Lugs

Gas Tube



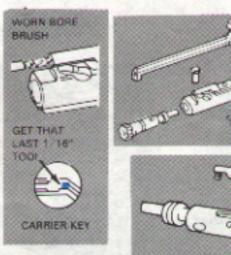




Use a worn bore brush to get outside surface of protructing gas tube (get sides and bottom from bottom of receiver)

# THOROUGH CLEANING bolt carrier group

- Outer & Inner Surfaces of Bolt Carrier
- **Carrier Key Firing Pin Recess** and Firing Pin
- **Firing Pin Hole** (Use Pipe Cleaner There)
- Carbon Deposits & Dirt from Locking Lugs
- Areas Behind Bolt **Ring and Under Lip** of Extractor





# THOROUGH CLEANING lower receiver group

All Areas of Powder Fouling, Corrosion and Dirt

Wipe Dirt from Trigger Mechanism

Clean Buffer and Inside Lower Receiver Extension

#### CAUTION

Do not use wire brush or any type of abrasive material to clean aluminum surfaces



### LUBE GUIDE

Under all but the coldest arctic conditions, LSA is the lubricant to use on your rifle. Remember to remove excessive oil from the bore before firing.

LSA Lubricating oil, semifluid weapons

BETWEEN OF F AND -35° F EITHER LSA OR LAW

LAW-Lubricating oil, Arctic weapons

Lightly Lube - A film of oil barely visible to the eye

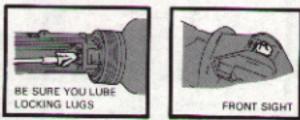
Generously Lube - Heavy enough so that it can be spread with the finger

# LUBRICATING upper receiver



#### LIGHTLY LUBE

BORE & CHAMBER, OUTER SURFACES OF BARREL AND FRONT SIGHT, SURFACES UNDER HANDGUARD, DEPRESS FRONT SIGHT DETENT SEVERAL TIMES TO WORK LUBE INTO THE SPRING

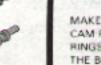


# LUBRICATING

### bolt carrier group

#### CAUTION

Lightly lube firing pin and firing pin recess in bolt



GENEROUSLY LUBE OUTSIDE OF THESE PARTS

MAKE CERTAIN TO GET CAM PIN AREA, PISTON RINGS, AND OUTSIDE OF THE BOLT BODY

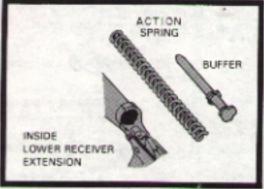






LIGHTLY LUBE CHARGING HANDLE, INNER AND OUTER SURFACES OF BOLT CARRIER, GENEROUSLY LUBE SLIDE AND CAM PIN AREA OF BOLT

# LUBRICATING lower receiver group

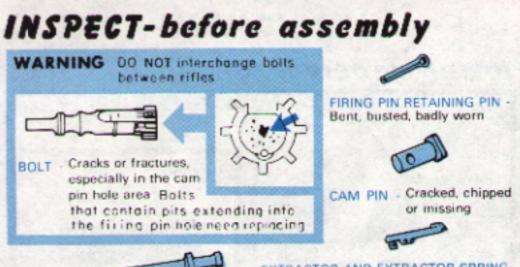


#### GENEROUSLY LUBE

#### TAKE DOWN AND PIVOT PINS



#### INSIDE PARTS LOWER RECEIVER



IRING RIN Bent cracked or blunter

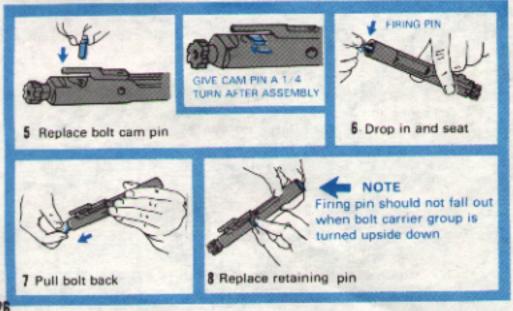
FIRING PIN - Bent, cracked or blunted end EXTRACTOR AND EXTRACTOR SPRING-Check extractor for chipped or broken edges in the area of the lip that engages the cartridge rim.

#### IF PARTS ARE MISSING OR DEFECTIVE, SEE YOUR ARMORER

### ASSEMBLY



### ASSEMBLY cont.





12 Join upper and lower receivers

13 Engage receiver pivot pin

### ASSEMBLY cont.

CAUTION: Selector lever must be on safe or semi before closing upper receiver

SEMI





14 Close upper and lower receiver groups. Push in takedown pin





# DID YOU INSTALL EVERYTHING?

• extractor & spring WORK SLICK IF YOU HAVE ASSEMBLED • extractor pin ALL THE PARTS CORRECTLY

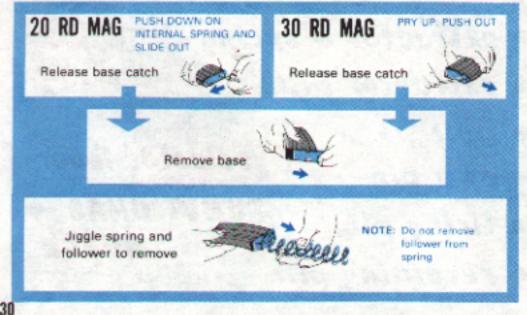
bolt

• cam pin

• firing pin

CHECK THE selector lever BY PERFORMING THE FUNCTIONAL CHECK • retaining pin SEE PAGE 33

# MAGAZINE DISASSEMBLY



### MAGAZINE ASSEMBLY

IF THE SPRING COMES LOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWER, TURN IN THE PIECES DON'T TRY TO FIX IT YOUR-SELF CLEAN & LUBE Wipe dirt from tube, spring, and follower, then hightly lube spring

Jiggle spring and follower to install



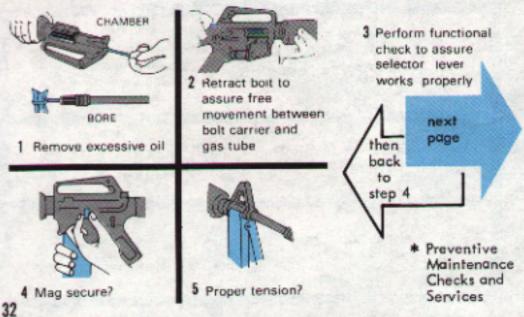
Slide the base under all four tabs



MAKE SURE PRINTING IS ON THE OUTSIDE

J

# PMCS\* before operation and..



FUNCTIONAL CHECK

#### (REMOVE MAG ... CHECK CHAMBER)

#### SELECTOR LEVER ON:





Pull charging handle to rear and release. Place on safe. Pull trigger. Hammer should not fall.

# 



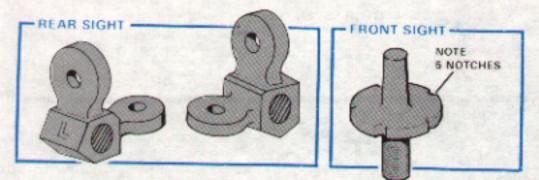
Place selector in semi Pull trigger and hold to rear. Hammer should fail. Pull charging handle to rear and release. Release trigger and pull again. Hammer should fail

SEMI



Place selector in auto Pull charging handle to rear and release. Pull trigger and hold to rear, hammer should fall. Pull charging handle to rear and roloase. Release trigger and pull again. Hemmer should not fail

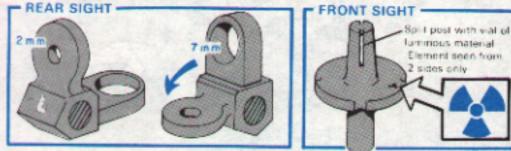
## STANDARD DAYLIGHT SIGHT



REAR SIGHT - Has two apertures for range Unmarked aperture 0 - 300 meter range. Lunder aperture: 300-460 meter range

See page 39 for sight usage

### LOW LIGHT LEVEL SIGHT SYSTEM (Promethium Sight) NOTE: Not every rifle will have this sight



#### PURPOSE

Used during limited visibility. A weapon equipped with the PROMETHUM front sight has only 4 "notches" of elevation per revolution, whereas the original sight had 5. The 7mm rear sight aperture is for night firing and limited visibility. The 2mm aperture is used to zero the weapon and engage largets to 460 M under normal conditions (see page 40 for sight usage).

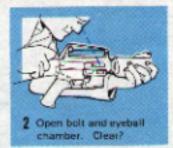
CAUTION: The front sight post contains a small glass vial of radioactive Promethium 147. Take care not to bump, abuse, tamper or aller the past in any manner. DO NOT blacken or sact-up the front sight.

## **OPERATION** - loading and





With hammer cocked, place selector lever on SAFE





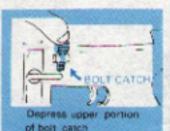
3 Push upward until magazine catch engages and holds magazine



Tap upward to make sure d's seated right MAGAZINE MAY BE LOADED WITH BOLT ASSEMBLY OPEN OR CLOSED

## chambering a round

### BOLT ASSEMBLY OPEN

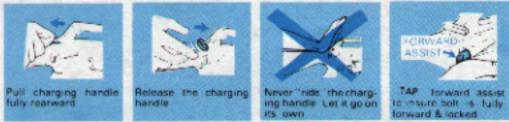




FORWARD

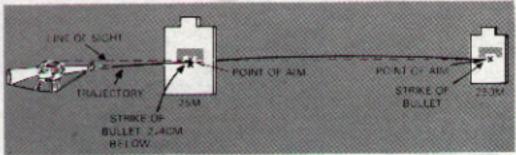
bolt is fully lorward & locked

#### BOLT ASSEMBLY CLOSED



## BATTLESIGHT ZERO

TO ZERO THE RIFLE, YOU MUST HAVE THE FRONT SIGHT (ELEVATION) AND THE REAR SIGHT (WINDAGE) ADJUSTED SO THAT IT CAN HIT YOUR POINT OF AIM AT A GIVEN RANGE



#### NOTE.

In order to battlesight zero you adjust your sights so you can hit an aiming point at 250 meters. Zeroing can also be accomplished on a 25 meter range by adjusting the sights so that the bullet will strike 2.4 centimeters below the point of aim. If M16A1 has "promethium" sight and you can't see the vial after zeroing, turn front sight post one click down for use during periods of limited visibility

### SIGHT ADJUSTMENT LOW LIGHT & STANDARD

REAR SIGHT To adjust windage, depress detant and rotate drum to desired direction. To move point of impact to right, turn drum clockwise in direction of arrow and letter R. To move left, move drum counterclockwise. Each graduation (notch) moves the point of impact of bullet as indicated in chart.

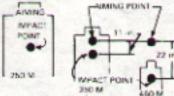
HONT SIGHT To adjust elevation, depress detent, rotate post. To raise strike of bullet, rotate post in the direction of arrow marked up Reverse the direction of rotation to lower strike of bullet. Each graduation (notch) moves the point of impact of bullet as indicated in chart.

IMPACT		DISTANCE
STANDARD	LOW LIGHT LEVEL	
0.7cm (12: 640) 2.8cm (1-3: 32)n) 5.6cm (2:13: 64)n)	0 (km (23, 64m) 3 (km (13, 4 m) 7 (km (23, 6 m)	25 millions DEC millions 200 millions

## USING LOW LIGHT LEVEL (PROMETHIUM) SIGHT SYSTEM daylight firing



Use aperture marked L. Effective range is 250 meters long nal battle eight zeros beyond which "Hold-Off" (aiming above deared point of impacts must be used. Aim about 11 in lat 350 meters, 22 in lat 460 meters. To become end remain preficient practice "Hold-Off

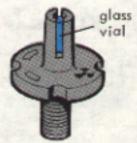


## night and limited visibility



Use unmarked (7mm) aperture: Obtain geet sight picture using davight hours procircure. After target detection, obtain good sight alignment by centering top of luminous portion of front sight cost within 7mm aperture on target, and fire. Under cantain light conditions, front sight post can be seen, but you can t determine whether you are toking through above, or to the side of near sight aperture. Practice positioning stock agoinst shoulder and looking through texis aperture.

# CARE & CLEANING of PROMETHIUM SIGHT handling and care



- The front post has a small glass vial containing radioactive Promethium 147.
- Take care when handling, not to bump the front sight post.
  DO NOT abuse, tamper or alter the post in any manner.
- Frequently check the sight post for damage. If damage is evident or suspected, have it checked by your unit armorer.

### cleaning of front sight post

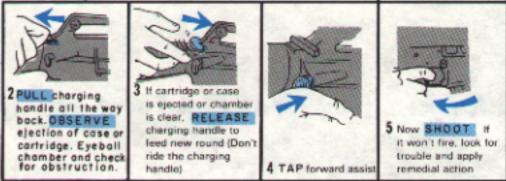
CAUTION: DO NOT use a wire brush to clean the sight. Clean with toothbrush, bore swabs and Rifle Bore Cleaner (RBC), then dry.

# IMMEDIATE ACTION

If your rifle stops firing before you do . . S.P.O.R.T.S. S.P.O.R.T.S. is an acronym<sup>\*</sup> to help you remember the following actions -- Slap, Pull, Observe, Release, Tap, Shoot.

\*ac-ro-nym: a word formed from the initial letters of each word in a group of words that convey a meaning or action.

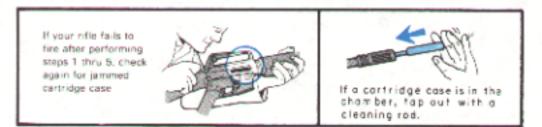




### REMEDIAL ACTION

### WARNING

If your rifle stops firing with a live round in the chamber of a hot barrel, remove the round fast. However, during training, if you cannot remove it within 10 seconds, wait 15 minutes with the rifle pointing in a safe direction. This way you won't get hurt by a possible ammo cook-off, which could happen 10 seconds after contact with a hot chamber.



IF YOUR RIFLE STILL FAILS TO FIRE, CHECK TROUBLESHOOTING

# PROJECTILE LODGED IN BORE

### WARNING

If an audible "POP" or reduced RECOIL is experienced during firing, immediately CEASE FIRE, remove the magazine (1), lock the bolt to the rear (2), and place the selector lever on the "SAFE" position (3). Visually inspect and/or insert a cleaning rod into the bore to insure there is not a projectile lodged in the bore (4).

DO NOT APPLY IMMEDIATE ACTION.



If a projectile is lodged in the barrel of the weapon, DO NOT attempt to remove it. Turn the weapon in to the armorer.

## LIMITED PM CLEANING

### CLEAR YOUR RIFLE



 Look for fouling in bore and chamber

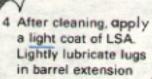


Remove bolt carrier group and clean carbon and oil from firing pin and all surfaces of bolt/bolt carrier with dry swabs. Clean

firing pin hole and bolt carrier key with pipe cleaner. Apply light coating of LSA paying special attention to slide and cam pin area



3 "Swab out" (from chamber to muzzle) CAUTION: Don't bend or flex cleaning rod. Oh yeah, make sure swab goes clear through flash suppressor



# UNUSUAL CONDITIONS

#### EXTREME COLD -

- Clean and lubricate rifle with LAW.
  Keep it moisture free
- b. Operate controls thru their entire range, at intervals, to keep them from freezing up
- When your rifle is not being used and kept outside, protect it with a cover



#### HOT CLIMATES

- a. Inspect rifle and bipod more frequently, especially the hidden surfaces of bolt carrier group, forward assist assembly and lower receiver components. Make certain they are lubricated using LSA.
- b. When handling, make certain to wipe dry, as moisture could cause cerrosion. After drying, lubricate with LSA

#### HOT, DRY CLIMATES

Clean and oil rifle more frequently with LSA.

#### DUSTY AND SANDY AREAS

- a. Clean and lubricete your rifle more frequently
- b. Keep sand out of parts when inspecting, lubricating, or assemblying rifle. Apply only a very light amount of lubrication on outside of rifle.
- c. Use magazine bag and muzzle cap for dust and sand protection

CAUTION: Do not use magazine bag and muzzle cap on stored rifles.



### WARNING DO NOT FIRE RIFLE IF WATER IS PRESENT IN BARREL

HERE'S WHAT YOU DO!

### AFTER YOU REMOVE THE CAP



POINT THE MUZZLE DOWN PULL CHARGING HANDLE 2 TO 3 INCHES REARWARD AND ALLOW WATER TO DRAIN



RELEASE CHARGING HANDLE AND STRIKE FORWARD ASSIST TO SEAT ROUND AND LOCK BOLT



CLEAR THE DRAIN HOLE WITH A PIPE CLEANER AND DRAIN



PROBLEM	CHECK FOR	WHAT TO DO
WON'T FIRE	Selector lever on SAFE Improper assembly of firing pin	Put it on SEMI or AUTO Assemble correctly RETAINING PIN GOES IN BACK OF LARGE SHOULDER OF FIRING PIN
	Too much oil in firing pin recess Defective ammo Too much carbon	Wipe off Remove and discard
BOLT WON'T UNLOC	on firing pin K Dirty or burred bolt	See your NCO or your unit ARMORER

PROBLEM	CHECK FOR	WHAT TO DO
WON'T EXTRACT	Broken extractor spring Dirty or corroded ammo	See your ARMORER Remove. Push out stuck round with cleaning rod
	Carbon in chamber Fouling or carbon in extractor recess or lip	Clean chamber Clean
WON'T FEED	Dirty or corroded ammo	Clean
	Dirty magazine	Clean
	Defective magazine	Replace
	Too many rounds in magazine	Take out excess
	Restricted buffer assembly action	Take out the buffer and spring, and clean

#### PROBLEM

#### CHECK FOR

WON'T FEED

Magazine not fully seated,

Defective magazine Defective magazine to loosen Replace

WHAT TO DO

PRESS BUTTON ON

Turn catch clockwise to tighten and counterclockwise

RIGHT SIDE

Adjust magazine catch

TURN CATCH ON

Replace

DOUBLE FEED

#### WON'T CHAMBER

#### WON'T LOCK



Dirty or corroded ammo Damaged ammo Carbon in chamber

Dirt. corrosion, or carbon buildup in barrel locking lugs

Frozen extractor

Restricted buffer assembly

Restricted movement of bolt carrier group

# Roplace

Clean

Clean lugs



Remove and clean

Remove and clean

Remove, clean, and lube. (When putting bolt back in, make sure gas tube fits into carrier key and moves freely)

PROBLEM	CHECK FOR	WHAT TO DO
SHORT RECOIL	Gaps in bolt rings (not staggered)	Stagger ring gaps
	Carbon or dirt in carrier key or on outside of gas tube	Clean
BOLT FAILS TO LOCK	Dirty or corroded bolt latch	Clean

SELECTOR LEVER BINDS Dirty or corroded bolt latch Faulty magazine Needs oil

Replace Lubricate with LSA

#### PROBLEM

### CHECK FOR

BOLT CARRIER

Round jammed between bolt and charging handle

#### WHAT TO DO

**1** Remove magazine

2 Hold charging handle back and bang rifle butt an ground. KEEP CLEAR DF MUZZLE

CAUTION After round is removed, bolt is under tension

3 While bolt is held to rear, push charging handle forward. Round should fall through magazine well



#### PROBLEM

#### CHECK FOR

CAN'T SEE PROMETHIUM SIGHT POST Check for alignment of illuminous elements

Luminous element dirty

Luminous element broken or missing WHAT TO DO

Rotate front sight post up or down one click

Clean with dry cleaning solvent Turn in to ARMORER

DETENT FITS IN HOLE IN THE HANDLE

0

а

There is a cartridge deflector, for left hand shooters, available from:

FOR LEFTYS'

TRAINING AIDS SERVICE OFFICE (TASO) ATTN: ATZJ-DPTA FORT JACKSON, S C 29207

SEND ONE BUCK (\$1.00) PER COPY

### SARGE'S INSPECTION



Sarge'll gig ya if the following items are not clean....

BOLT, SIGHTS, RECEIVER, CHARGING HANDLE, HANDGUARDS, GAS TUBE & PORTS, STOCK DRAIN HOLE, BORE & FLASH SUPPRESSOR, MAGAZINE CATCH & MAGAZINE WELL

He'll also check the overall condition of the SIGHTS, BIPOD, STOCK, & HANDGUARDS So, be prepared, keep it clean and lubed.

### DO YOU KNOW A BETTER WAY ? DON'T KEEP THOSE GRIPES TO YOURSELF VE'D LIKE TO HAVE YOUR IDEAS

BRANK LANS

-

THE R. P. LEWIS

-----

USE D.A. FORM 028 OR WHATEVER OU HAVE HANDY

COMMANDER US ARMY ARMAMENT MATERIEL READINESS COMMAND ATTN: DRSAR-MAS ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201

Consider and Add.

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