

IRAW Dir
B 349

AMSTE-BC (12 May 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Stoppage and Immediate Action, M16/M16A1 Rifle

DA, Headquarters, US Army Test and Evaluation Command, Aberdeen Proving
Ground, Md 21005 19 MAY 1969

TO: Project Manager, Rifles, US Army Weapons Command, Rock Island,
Ill 61201

In review of the inclosure to basic letter, this command has the following
suggestions keyed to the appropriate steps:

- a. Reference step 1 - concur.
- b. Reference step 2 - concur.
- c. Reference step 3 - concur in the instruction if a cartridge or case ejects. Suggest the following statement if no ejection occurs: If no cartridge or case ejects, first look for a round visibly jammed in mechanism or chamber. If jammed in mechanism, pull charging handle rearward slightly, remove magazine, and dislodge round. If in the chamber, lock bolt rearward and dislodge round by use of extraction tool. After correction, in either case, recharge the weapon, hit forward assist and again pull the trigger.
- d. Reference step 4 - the instruction is considered pertinent; however, the position of the hand as depicted suggests forceful locking of the charging handle. It seems more realistic to depict the thumb and forefinger grasping the charging handle because it is impossible to "ride the charger" as shown.
- e. Reference step 5 - the instructions in this step appear pertinent; however, the referenced comment in paragraph 4 of 24 April 69 letter cautioning against forceful and repeated use of the bolt assist device, should be emphasized as follows:

CAUTION

Never be guilty of forceful or repeated use of the bolt assist device when attempting to fire a round.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. J. MOLLOY, Jr
Colonel, GS
Dir, Inf Mat Test Dir

Copies furnished:
✓CO APG ATTN: STEAP-MT-TI
Pres USAIB ATTN: STEBC-SA



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND
PROJECT MANAGER - RIFLES
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AMCPM - RS

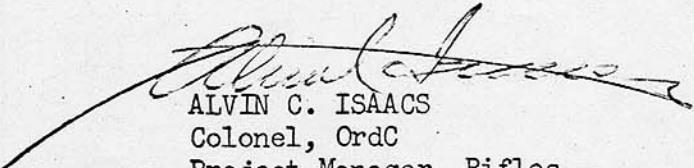
12 MAY 1969

SUBJECT: Stoppage and Immediate Action, M16/M16A1 Rifle

Commanding General
US Army Test and Evaluation Command
ATTN: AMSTE-BC
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005

1. Reference is made to paragraph 4 of your final letter report on Initial Production Retest of M16A1 Rifles, USATECOM Project No. 8-9-0200-25 dated 24 April 1969.
2. It is recognized that your activity has had considerable firing experience using both civilian technicians and military personnel in your test programs. It is also agreed that test results would indicate that the predominant causes for stoppages are double feeds or as you have stated, stubbed rounds. As indicated in the referenced paragraph, hitting the forward assist would not correct this type of stoppage.
3. The latest procedure for immediate action received from USAIS, based upon their experience in troop training is inclosed for your information. According to USAIS, this is also the procedure that will be used in the revision to FM23-9 currently scheduled for distribution in June 1969.
4. Based upon experience obtained during your test programs with particular emphasis on experience with soldiers, it is requested that you provide a draft of your recommended "Immediate Action when a Stoppage Occurs". Upon receipt of your draft, this office will coordinate with appropriate agencies to insure that both the FM23-9 and the TM9-1005-249-12, when changed, will be consistent and accurate.

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ALVIN C. ISAACS
Colonel, OrdC
Project Manager, Rifles

THINK COOL,
BUT ACT FAST

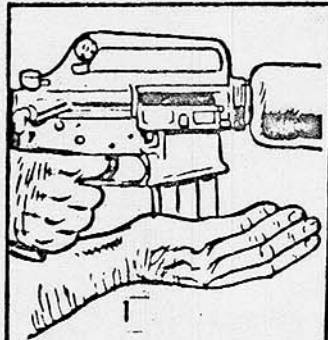
WHAT TO DO IN A STAGNATION



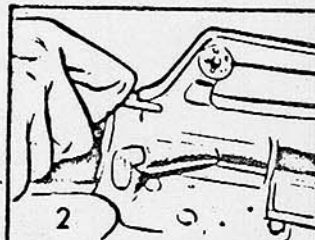
If your M16A1 rifle refuses to pop off—or quits popping sudden-like—you've got a stoppage that needs immediate action.

Immediate Action: Instinctively doing the right thing to clear your weapon and get it firing again, soonest!

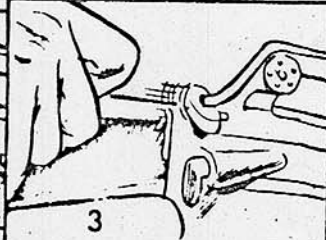
Here's a slow motion of the procedure you'd best make second nature:



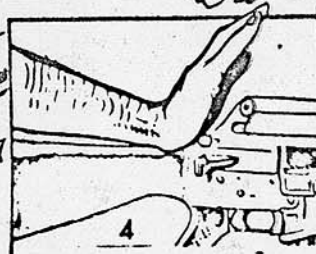
Tap upward on the magazine to make sure it's seated right.



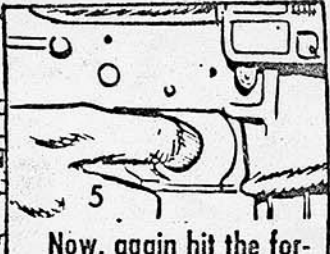
Now pull the charging handle all the way back and see if a whole cartridge or case comes out.



If a cartridge or case is ejected, release the charging handle to feed a new round.



Careful, though, never "ride" the charger—let it go on its own.



Now, again hit the forward assist to make sure the bolt's closed . . . and pull the trigger.



If she won't fire, now look for the cause . . . a bad round, busted firing pin or hammer spring, or whatever. Table 3-3 in your -12 TM covers causes and cures.



If no cartridge or case ejects, first look for a round in the chamber. If none's there, once more release the charging handle to feed a round. Next hit the forward assist and again pull the trigger.

If she still won't fire, do what your TM says on trouble-shooting.

However, if you do find a cartridge or case in the chamber, be sure you remove it before you try to reload and recycle your weapon.

Now, remember, get these steps down pat.