



THE  
PREVENTIVE  
MAINTENANCE  
MONTHLY

## SERGEANT'S TIME TRAINING SUPPORT

### Keep M2A1 Machine Gun Barrels Secured An Easy Outline for Sergeant's Time Training

(**Note to Sergeants:** Here's an easy training outline you can follow any time your unit has a free minute. A problem & solution format is provided below, with visuals if you scroll down. Use this outline or add more info as you see fit. Make it yours & make it matter! –*PS Magazine*)

**Problem:** M2A1 machine gun barrels are being shot off because Soldiers don't have the barrels completely screwed in the receiver. Soldiers get the barrel alignment pin in the barrel support J-slot, but don't fully screw in the barrel. This is not only dangerous, but expensive. Each barrel costs \$800 to replace.

**Solution:** Before firing, check the barrel threads in front of the barrel extension. If you see threads, the barrel isn't fully screwed in. No threads? The barrel is screwed in. A good second check is to close the cover assembly and charge the M2A1. If the barrel moves forward and rearward during charging, the barrel is secure.



**SEE BARREL THREADS?  
DON'T FIRE!**



Dear Editor,

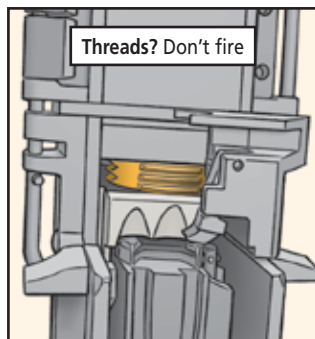
M2A1 machine gun barrels continue to be shot off because Soldiers don't have the barrel completely screwed into the barrel extension.

That's not only dangerous, but expensive. It costs more than \$800 to replace a barrel.

Soldiers get the barrel alignment pin in the barrel support J-slot, but fail to fully screw in the barrel. That leaves space between the barrel and bolt assembly. Disaster follows.

A simple check can prevent that. Before firing, check for barrel threads in front of the barrel extension. If you see threads, the barrel is not fully screwed in. No threads? You're good to fire.

Douglas Wolcott  
Ft Indiantown Gap, PA



**Editor's note:** An excellent tip, Doug. Another good check is to charge the M2A1 after closing the cover assembly. If the barrel moves forward and rearward during charging, the barrel is secure.

Since improper barrel installation has been such a big problem, units should review the barrel installation steps before Soldiers fire at the range. It will save replacing an \$800 barrel.