GENERAL. Sand and dust cause persistent problems with small caliber systems (5.56mm to 40mm). It is important that weapons are maintained (cleaned and lubricated) much more frequently than under normal conditions. “Bright Star” exercise experience shows that cleaning and lubrication were required twice as often as routine weapon maintenance. To avoid attracting grit and sand, wipe off all excess lubricants with a clean, dry cloth.

1. Keep small arms ammunition in closed metal containers and out of the direct rays of the sun as much as practical. If powder is hot, excessive pressure may be developed when the weapon is fired.

2. Protect ammunition from mud, sand, and water. If the ammunition gets wet or dirty, wipe it off at once with a clean, dry cloth. Wipe off light corrosion as soon as it is discovered. Turn in heavily corroded cartridges.

3. Clean ammunition, ammunition cans, and magazines with a clean, dry cloth.

4. Ammunition cans, which have been opened and weapon magazines exposed to dirt, dust, and sand, should be unloaded and wiped off daily.

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5. Do not lubricate ammunition, ammunition cans, or magazines. Dust and other abrasives that collect on greasy ammunition may cause damage to the operating parts of the machine gun. Moreover, oiled cartridges produce excessive chamber pressure.

6. Save all inner and outer small arms ammunition packing material for repackaging turned-in ammunition.

7. Wear protective leather or cotton gloves when handling olive drab painted small arms ammunition metal containers.

8. Do not fire dented cartridges, cartridges with loose bullets, or otherwise defective rounds.

**M16 SERIES RIFLE/M4 SERIES CARBINE**

**WARNING** – For proper functioning of your M16 series rifle/M4 series carbine magazine in a hot dry climate, keep the magazine and ammunition clean and free from lubricant. Sand and dust will adhere to the lubricant and possibly cause feeder problems. This could cause injury or death to personnel.

1. The M16A2 rifle uses M855/M856 (DODIC A059/A063) ammunition. The M16A1 uses M193/M196 (DODIC A071/A068) ammunition.

2. Even though M16A1 (M193/M196) ammunition fits the M16A2 rifle, effective range is reduced approximately 16 percent.

3. Do NOT use M16A2 (M855/M856) ammunition in the M16A1 rifle. M16A2 ammunition is extremely inaccurate when fired in the M16A1. The projectile will start to tumble within a very short distance.

For quick confirmation that you have the correct ammunition for the weapon, check the color code of the bullet against this chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEAPON</th>
<th>TYPE OF AMMUNITION</th>
<th>BULLET TIP COLOR CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M16A1</td>
<td>M193 Ball</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M16A1</td>
<td>M196 Tracer</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M16A2</td>
<td>M855 Ball</td>
<td>Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M16A2</td>
<td>M856 Tracer</td>
<td>Red</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**7.62MM AMMUNITION**

1. Protect ammunition from mud, sand, and water. If the ammunition gets wet or dirty, wipe it off at once with a clean, dry rag. Wipe off light corrosion as soon as it is discovered. Turn in heavily corroded cartridges.

2. Do not expose ammunition to direct rays of the sun. If the powder is hot, excessive pressure may be developed when the weapon is fired.

3. Do not oil or grease ammunition. Dust and other abrasives that collect on greasy ammunition may cause damage to the operating parts of the machine gun. Moreover, oiled cartridges produce excessive chamber pressure.

4. Do not fire dented cartridges, cartridges with loose bullets, or otherwise defective rounds.