

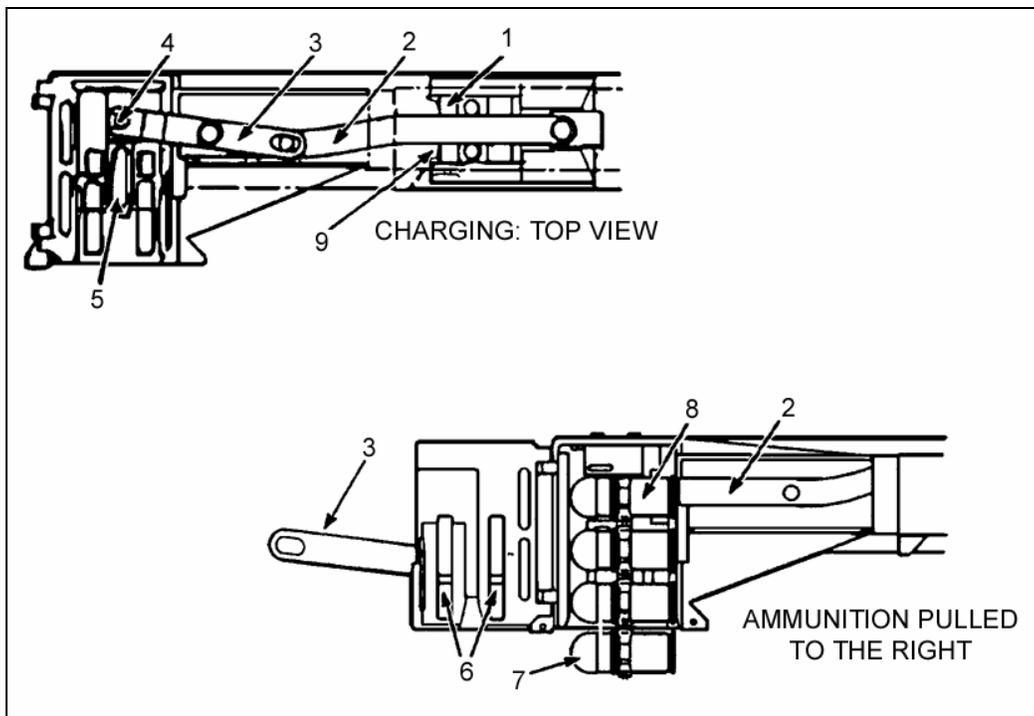
## CHAPTER 2 OPERATION AND FUNCTION

*This chapter includes the cycle of operation; operating precautions; clearing; disassembly and assembly; loading; malfunctions, stoppages, and corrections; operations under adverse conditions; and destruction of the MK 19. Refer to Appendix B, Operations Checklist, for procedures to be used before, during, and after operation of the MK 19 and Appendix C, Stoppages, Malfunctions, Immediate Actions, and Remedial Actions, for procedures to correct stoppages and malfunctions.*

### 2-1. CYCLE OF OPERATION

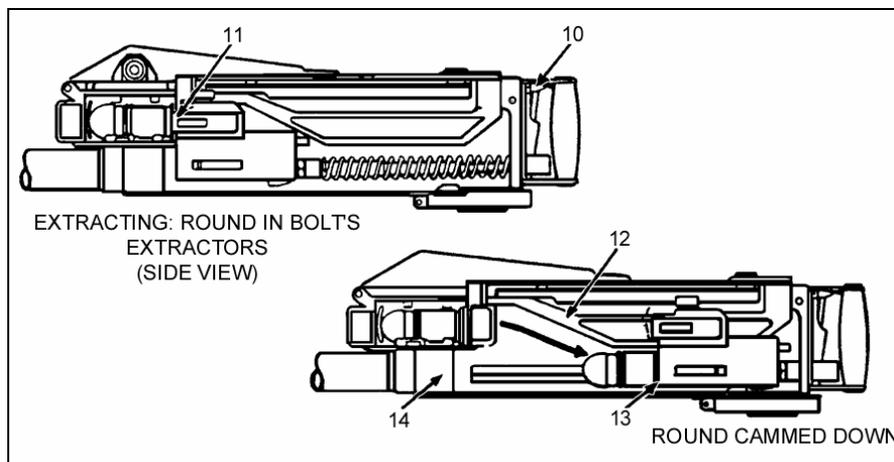
The MK 19's cycle of operation includes six steps: charging, extracting (delinking), cocking, firing, blowback, and automatic feeding. More than one step may be done at the same time.

a. **Charging.** The charger handles are used to pull the bolt (1) to the rear, aligning the round with the bolt extractors. The rearward movement of the bolt causes the primary drive lever (2) to move to the left, which moves the secondary drive lever (3) to the right. The forked end of the secondary drive lever, which rests on the feed slide pin (4), moves the feed slide (5) to the right. The feed pawls (6) on the feed slide move the linked rounds (7) over one place in the ammunition-feed area of the receiver. The leading round (8) lines up with the bolt extractor (9). See Figure 2-1.



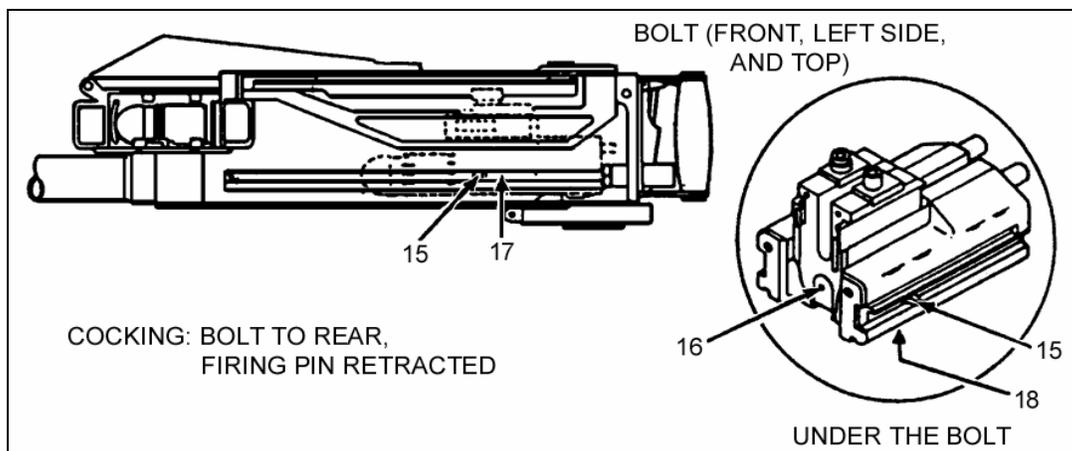
**Figure 2-1. Charging cycle.**

b. **Extracting (Delinking).** When a round is stripped from the belt, it is extracted or “delinked.” This happens, after the MK 19 has been charged once, when the trigger (10) is pressed. The bolt slams forward and the bolt’s extractors (11) snap over the rim of the cartridge case. When the MK 19 is charged again, the extractor pulls the leading round to the rear and separates the male and female links. The curved edge of the vertical cam (12) forces the lead round out of the extractors and into the bolt fingers (13). With the bolt completely to the rear, the round lines up with the chamber (14), and is ready to fire. As the original leading round chambers, the next round aligns with the bolt extractors. See Figure 2-2.



**Figure 2-2. Extracting (delinking) round.**

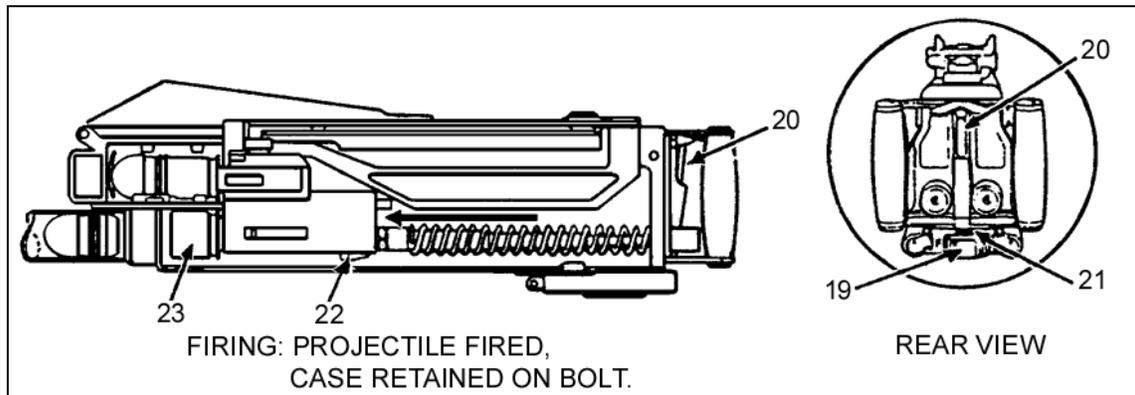
c. **Cocking.** The rearward movement of the bolt causes the cocking lever (15) to retract the firing pin (16). When the cocking lever hits the rear end of the left receiver rail slot (17), the cocking lever is forced forward. When the cocking lever retracts the firing pin, the firing pin sear holds the firing pin to the rear (18). See Figure 2-3.



**Figure 2-3. Cocking the MK 19.**

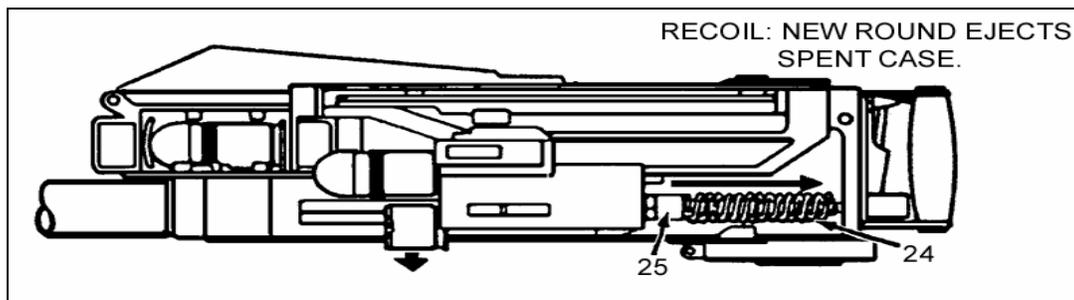
d. **Firing Cycle.** The safety switch is on F (FIRE). Pressing the trigger (20) depresses the tip of the receiver sear (21). The receiver sear disengages the bolt sear (22), which releases the bolt forward under spring pressure with a round in the bolt fingers. The

cocking lever hits the forward end of the left receiver rail slot, forcing the lever to the rear. The bolt sear hits a plate in the bottom of the receiver, which pushes the firing pin sear up to release the firing pin. A combination of the bolt's inertia and pressure from the firing pin spring drive the firing pin forward. The tip of the firing pin detonates the primer. The round is not completely inside the chamber at the moment the weapon is fired. The cartridge case, held by the bolt fingers, protrudes from the chamber (23). The explosion forces the projectile down the bore. See Figure 2-4.



**Figure 2-4. Firing cycle.**

e. **Blowback and Automatic Feeding Cycle.** The gases from the burning powder force the bolt, with a new round in its extractors, to the rear. During this blowback, several things happen at once. First, the curved rail of the vertical cam delinks and forces down the new round on top of the spent case, which forces the spent case out of the bolt fingers and ejects it out the bottom of the gun. Next, the feed slide assembly pulls the rounds to the right in the receiver ammunition feed area, where a new round is ready to pick up (automatic feed). During the bolt's travel to the rear, the cocking lever is pushed forward, which cocks the firing pin. When the bolt reaches the limit of its rearward travel, the recoil springs (24) are completely compressed. The bolt buffers (25) absorb over-travel, reducing trunnion load (recoil force) at the gun-mount attaching points. The bolt sear will not engage the receiver sear if the trigger is still depressed, and another firing cycle occurs. Release of the trigger causes the bolt sear to engage the receiver sear, which prevents the bolt from going forward, and firing stops. See Figure 2-5.



**Figure 2-5. Blowback and automatic feed.**

## 2-2. OPERATING PRECAUTIONS

Precautions are taken before, during, and after firing of the MK 19.

- a. Before firing the weapon ensure that:
  - (1) The correct ammunition is on hand.
  - (2) The ammunition is clean and dent-free.
  - (3) All ogives on the cartridges are tight.
  - (4) The line of fire is clear of obstructions.
- b. While firing the weapon ensure that:
  - (1) The top cover is closed.
  - (2) The muzzle of the MK 19 is pointed downrange at all times.

**NOTE:** In the event of a runaway gun, lower one of the charging handles.

- (3) Use the suggested three to five-round bursts.
- c. After firing the weapon:
  - (1) Unload and clear the MK 19.
  - (2) Note weapon discrepancies and report them to the armorer.
  - (3) Clean and lubricate the MK 19 before storage.

## 2-3. CLEARANCE PROCEDURES

The MK 19 is cleared differently in a firing situation than in a nonfiring situation.

- a. **Firing Situation.** In a firing situation, use the following procedures to clear the MK 19:
  - (1) Move the safety switch to S (SAFE) (Figure 2-6).

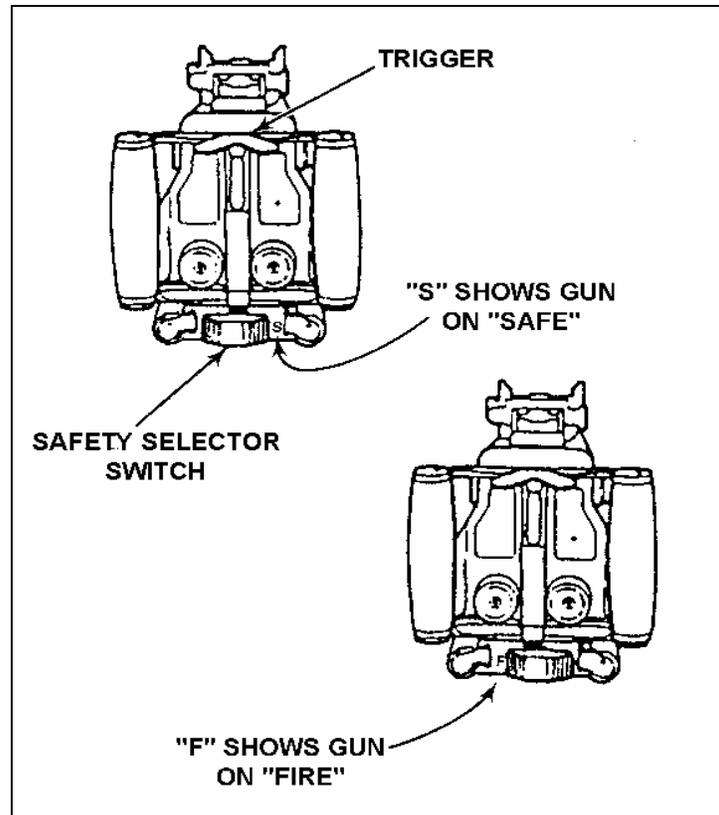


Figure 2-6. S (SAFE) position.

(2) Open the top cover assembly (Figure 2-7). If all the ammunition has NOT been fired, the bolt is to the rear and a round is on the bolt face. If the bolt is forward, lock it to the rear.

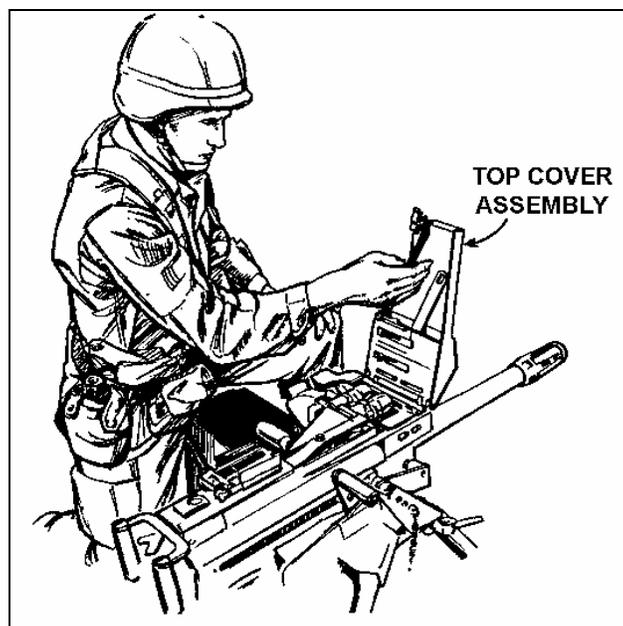
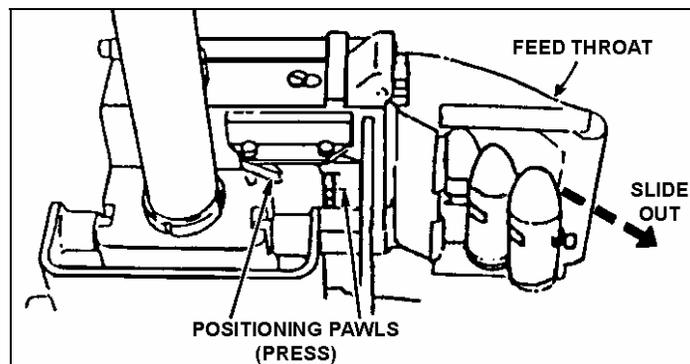


Figure 2-7. Opening the top cover assembly.

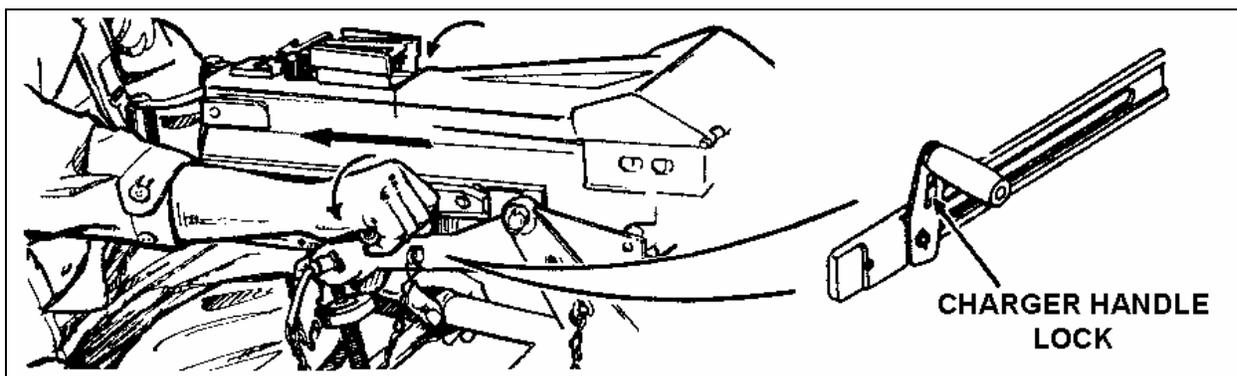
(3) Take the ammunition from the feed tray by reaching beneath the feed tray and pressing the primary and secondary positioning pawls. While pressing the position pawls, slide the linked rounds out of the MK 19 through the feed throat (Figure 2-8).



**Figure 2-8. Removal of linked rounds from feeder.**

(4) Insert a section of the cleaning rod or bayonet through either side of the receiver rail. Place it on top of the live round or cartridge case, as close to the bolt face as possible, and push down. This action forces the round out of the MK 19.

(5) Lower and pull both charger handles to the rear (Figure 2-9).



**Figure 2-9. Charger handles.**

- (6) Inspect the chamber and bolt face to ensure that no live rounds are in the weapon.
- (7) Place the safety switch on F (FIRE) (Figure 2-6).
- (8) Maintain rearward pressure on the charging handle, press the trigger and ease the bolt forward.
- (9) Place the safety switch on S (SAFE).
  - b. **Nonfiring Situation.** In a nonfiring situation, use the following procedures to clear the MK 19:
    - (1) Place the safety switch on S (SAFE) (Figure 2-6).
    - (2) Open the top cover assembly.
    - (3) Lower one or both charger handles.
    - (4) Pull the charger handle slightly to the rear.
    - (5) Allow sufficient space between the face of the bolt and the chamber to see both.
    - (6) Check for live ammunition.

- (7) Ride the bolt forward.
- (8) Return the charger handle to its original upright position.

#### 2-4. DISASSEMBLY AND ASSEMBLY

Only qualified ordnance personnel should disassemble the MK 19 beyond the steps detailed in this paragraph (Figure 2-10 and Table 2-1).

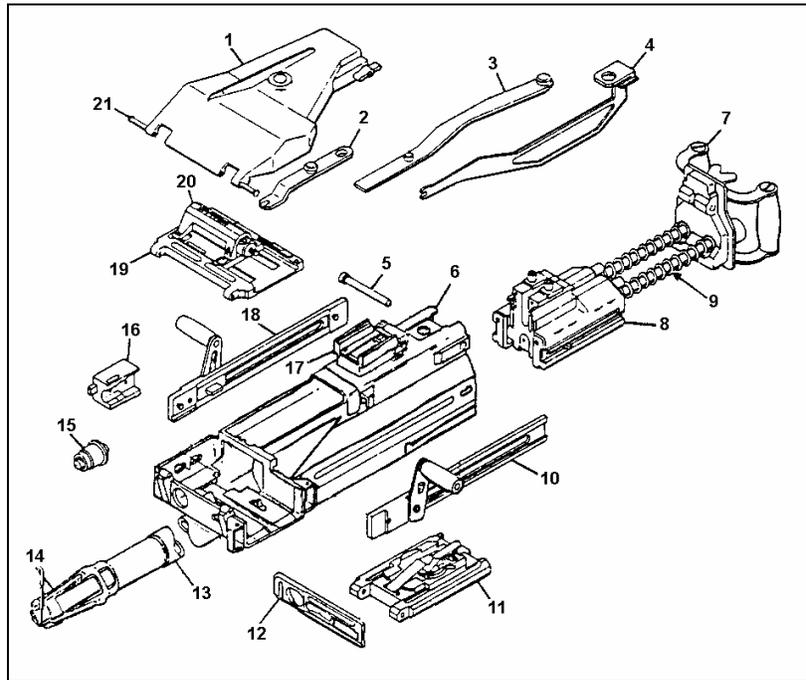


Figure 2-10. MK 19 disassembled.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
1	Top Cover
2	Secondary Drive Lever
3	Primary Drive Lever
4	Vertical Cam Assembly
5	Backplate Pin
6	Receiver Assembly
7	Control Grip Assembly
8	Bolt
9	Guide Rods and Springs
10	Charger Assembly, Left
11	Sear Assemble
12	Alignment Guide Assembly
13	Barrel
14	Flash Suppressor
15	Ogive Plunger Assembly
16	Round-Positioning Block
17	Rear Sight Assembly
18	Charger Assembly, Right
19	Feed Tray
20	Feed Slide
21	Cover Pins

**Table 2-1. Names of the MK 19 major components.**

**NOTE:** High friction areas — the under side of the primary drive lever (3), the vertical cam assembly (4), the bolt (8), the area where the feed slide (20) and feed slide tray (19) touch have been treated to prolong the life of the MK 19 — should be handled carefully during cleaning and handling.

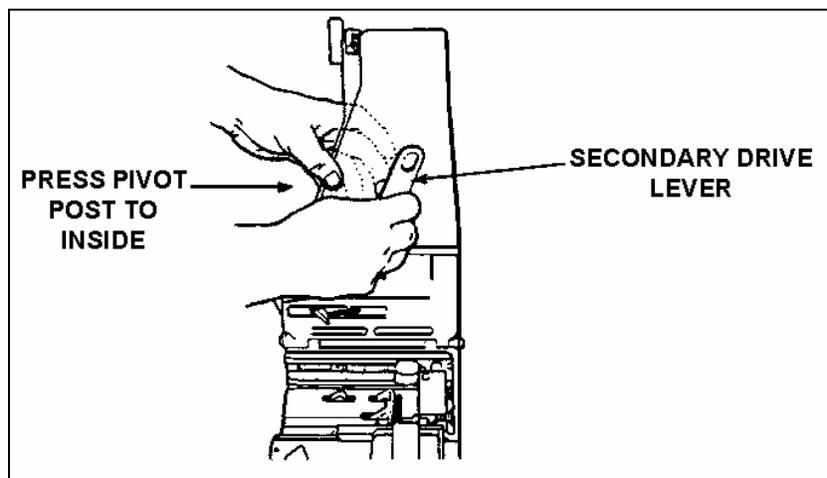
**CAUTION**

The sear assembly should be removed only in a clean and well-lit area because a small pin could possibly fall out and become lost, which makes the gun inoperable.

a. **Disassembly.** Disassembly includes removal of parts to the extent explained in this chapter. To ensure that parts are not lost and are replaced properly, place them (in the order in which they are taken off) on a clean flat surface. A spent cartridge casing, a section of the cleaning rod, and a cartridge link may be used as removal and replacement tools. To disassemble:

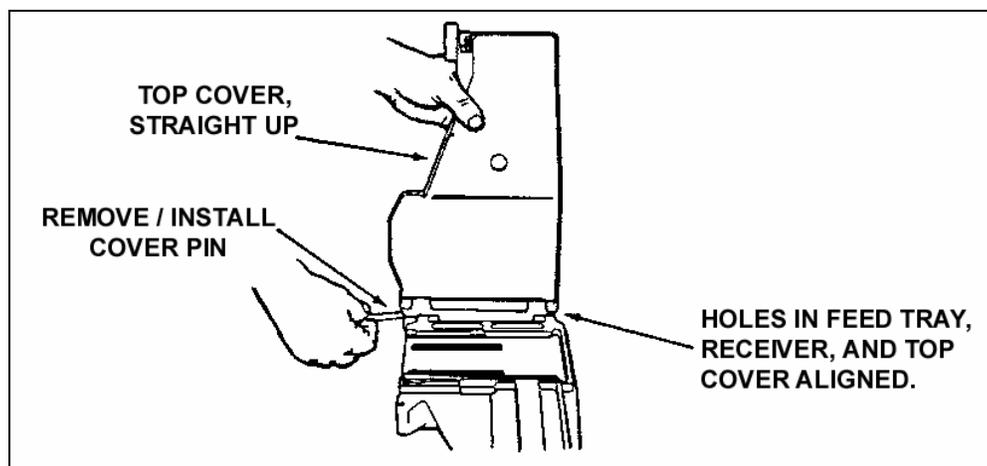
- (1) Clear the weapon.
- (2) Take out the secondary drive lever by following these procedures:

- (a) Raise the top cover assembly and push the secondary drive lever pivot post from the outside of the top cover assembly.
- (b) Separate the secondary drive lever from the top cover assembly (Figure 2-11).
- (c) Tap lightly on the secondary lever pivot post with any available tool, if necessary.



**Figure 2-11. Secondary drive lever removal.**

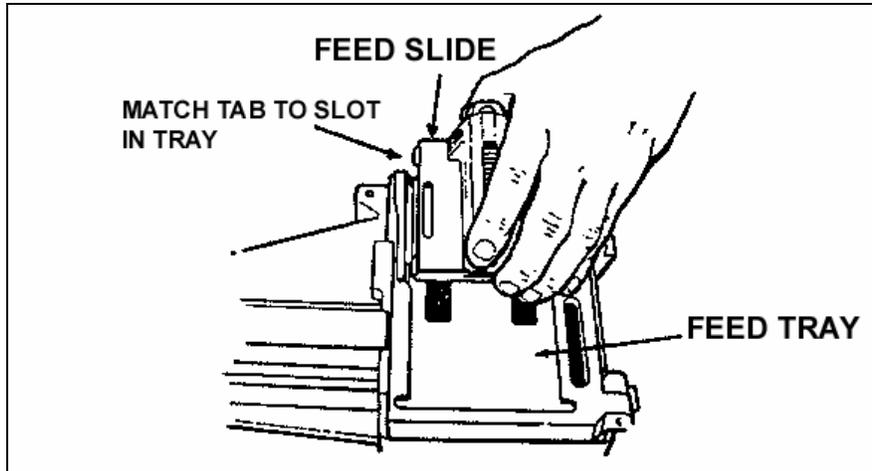
- (d) Take the secondary drive lever from the slide assembly, and allow the feed slide and tray assembly to close.
- (3) Take off the top cover assembly by following these procedures:
  - (a) Hold the top cover straight up with one hand.
  - (b) Pull the top cover pins from both sides (Figure 2-12).
  - (c) Lift the top cover assembly straight up and off.



**Figure 2-12. Top cover assembly.**

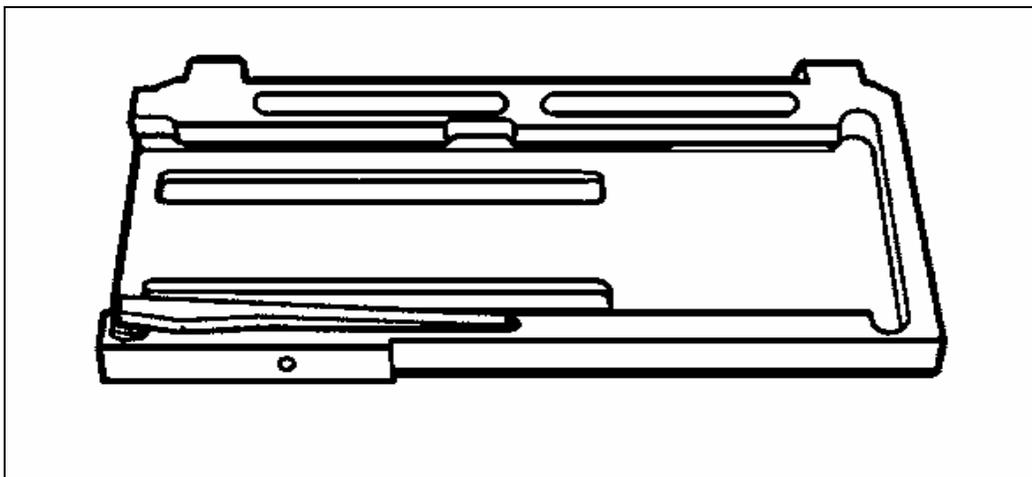
(4) Take out the feed slide assembly and separate the feed slide from the feed tray by following these procedures:

(a) Align the tabs on the feed slide with the slots in the feed tray and lift them straight up (Figure 2-13).



**Figure 2-13. Feed slide assembly.**

(b) Take out the feed tray by lifting it straight up (Figure 2-14).

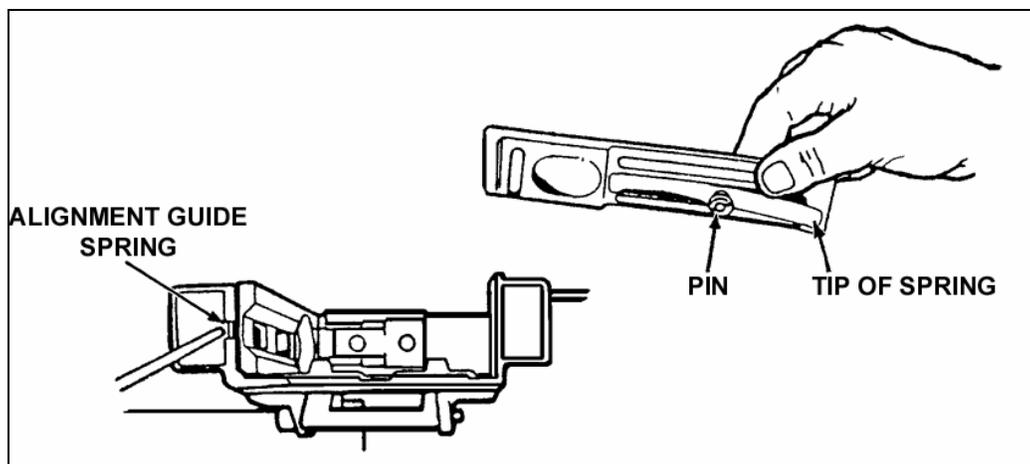


**Figure 2-14. Feed tray.**

(5) Take off the alignment guide by following these procedures:

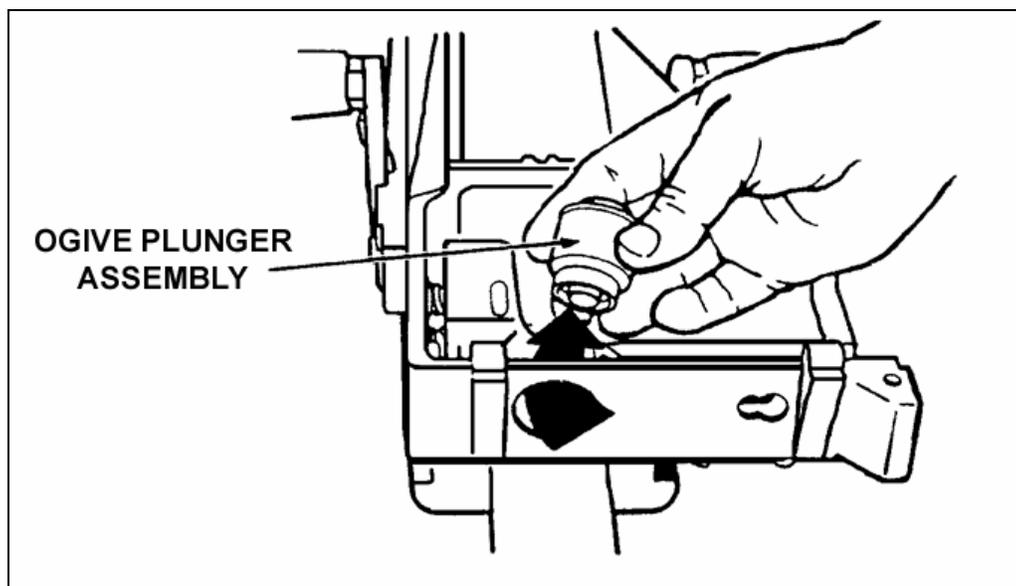
(a) Depress the tip of the alignment guide spring with the secondary drive lever or a cleaning rod section.

(b) Slide the alignment guide out of the receiver by pulling the assembly slightly rearward (Figure 2-15).



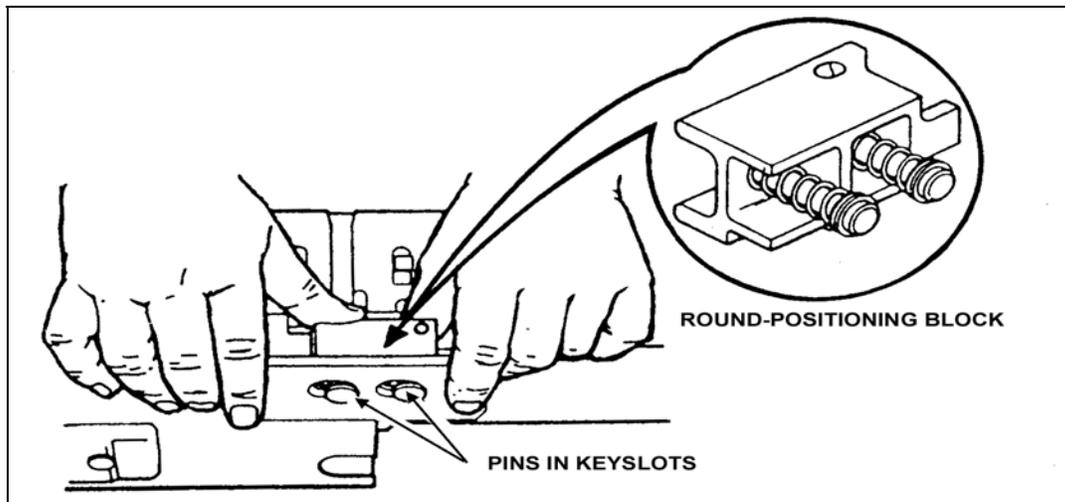
**Figure 2-15. Alignment guide.**

(6) Take out the ogive plunger by pulling it out through the inside wall of the receiver (Figure 2-16).



**Figure 2-16. Ogive plunger.**

(7) Take off the round-positioning block by following these procedures:  
(a) Push the round-positioning block into the side of the gun.  
(b) Slide the round-positioning block forward.  
(c) Release the round-positioning block forward from the keyslots in the receiver wall (Figure 2-17).



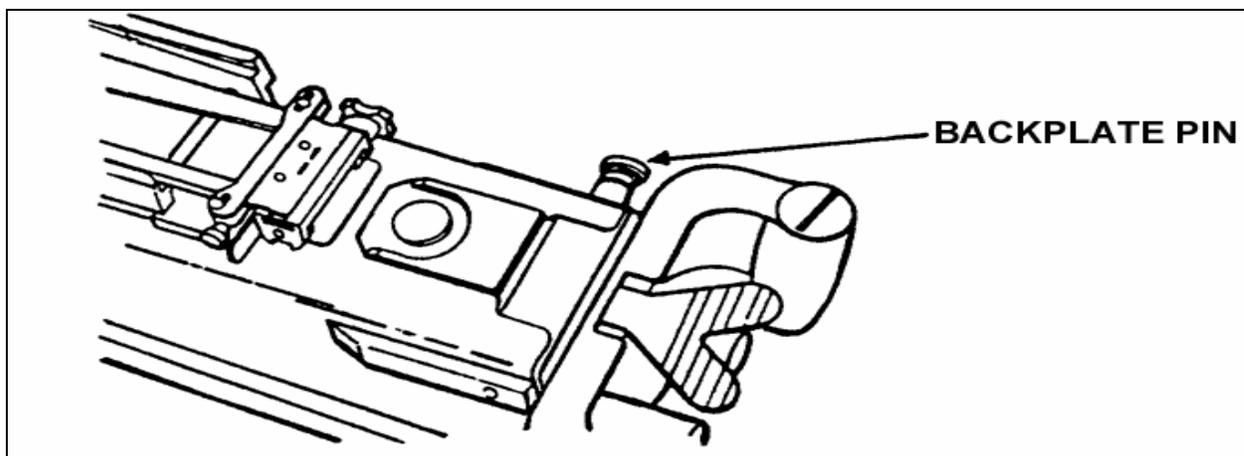
**Figure 2-17. Round-positioning block.**

- (8) Take out the bolt and backplate assembly by following these procedures:

**WARNING**

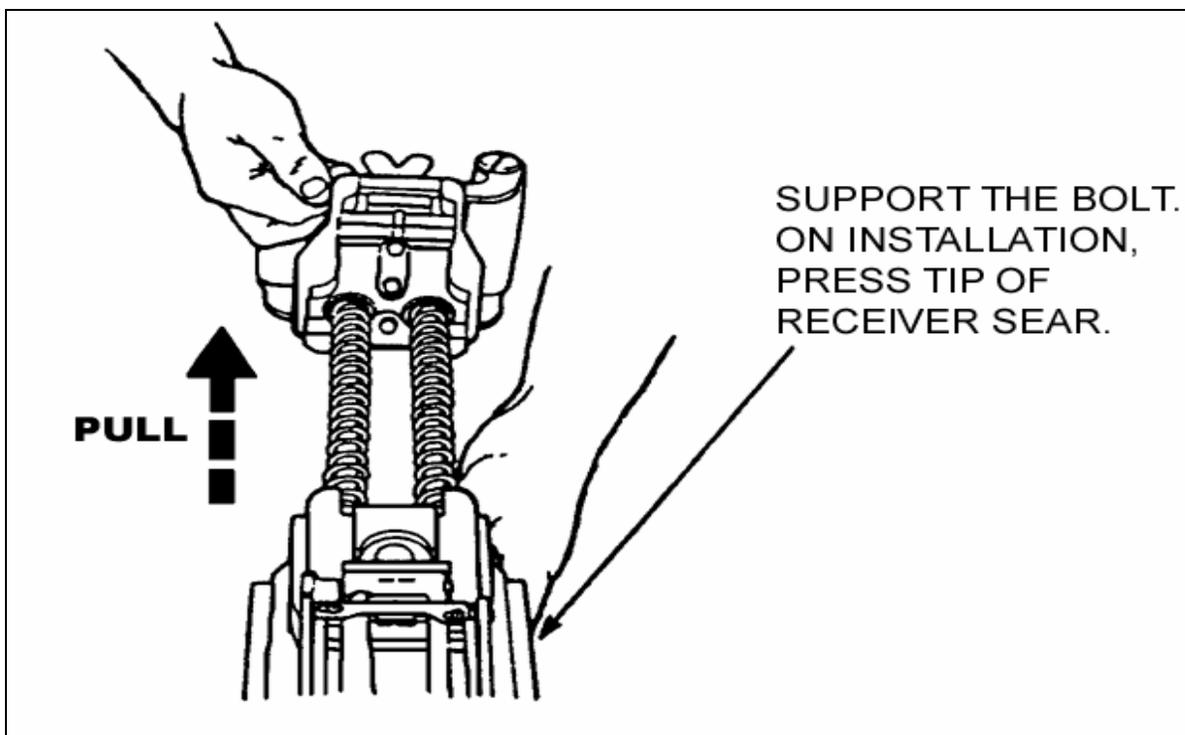
The backplate is under extreme pressure when the bolt is in the rear position. To avoid serious injury, ensure the bolt is forward before removing the backplate pin.

- (a) Place the safety switch in the F (FIRE) position.
- (b) Take out the backplate pin using the rim of a spent cartridge case or metal link.
- (c) Pry outward on the pin lip and remove the pin with the fingers (Figure 2-18). If the pin cannot be removed with the fingers, hit the small end of the pin with the secondary drive lever until the pin comes loose.



**Figure 2-18. Backplate pin.**

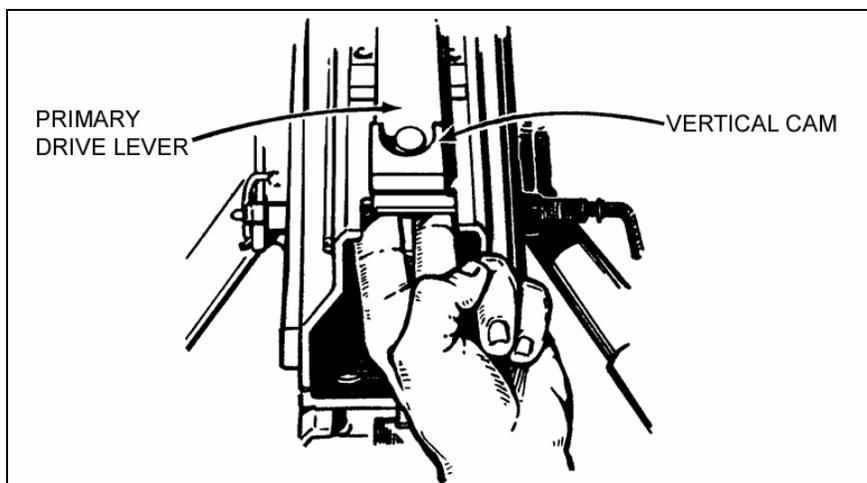
- (d) Grasp the control grips with both hands and lift up slightly to disengage the backplate from the locking lugs in the receiver.
- (e) Pull the bolt and backplate assembly to the rear.
- (f) Once the bolt clears the sear, catch the bolt in one hand to prevent damage to the backplate assembly (Figure 2-19).



**Figure 2-19. Removal of bolt and backplate assembly.**

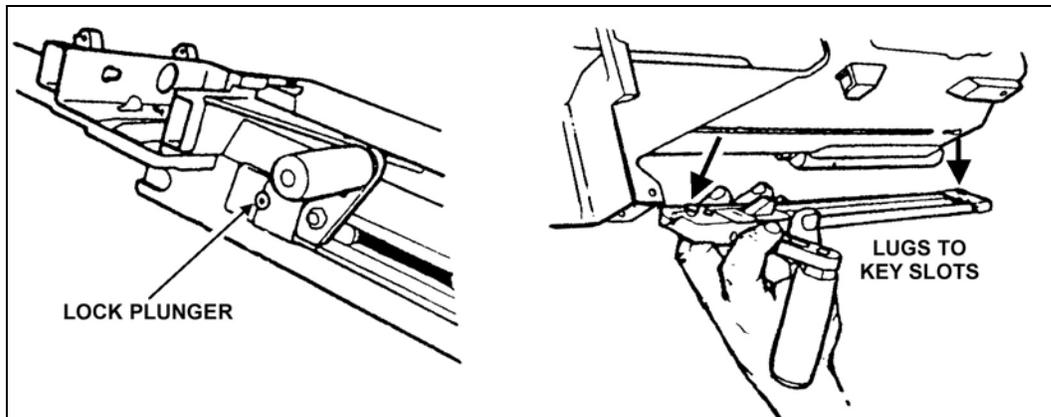
- (9) Take off the primary drive lever and vertical cam.
- (a) Grasp the primary drive lever and vertical cam with one hand and ensure they do not fall when released.
- (b) Reach under the top of the receiver and locate the drive lever lock.
- (c) Slide the lock one-quarter of an inch to the rear.
- (d) Press down on the primary drive lever pivot post, which releases both the primary drive and vertical cam.
- (e) Pull the primary drive lever from the front of the weapon and the vertical cam from the back (Figure 2-20).





**Figure 2-20. Primary drive lever and vertical cam.**

- (10) Take out the charger assemblies from both sides by following these procedures.
- Place the charger assemblies in the upright position.
  - Using a metal link or spent cartridge case, retract the lock plunger at the base of the charger arm.
  - Slide the charger housing rearward to disengage the lugs from the keyslots in the receiver.
  - Lift the charger assembly away from the receiver (Figure 2-21).



**Figure 2-21. Charger assemblies.**

- (11) Take off the sear assembly by following these procedures:
- Turn the MK 19 on its side or upside down.
  - Move the safety selector switch to F (FIRE), and use the rim of a spent cartridge case to lift up the sear lock plunger.
  - At the same time, squeeze the sear and rotate the sear assembly (left or right) until you can no longer hold the sear (Figure 2-22).

(d) Release the plunger, and apply downward pressure to the sear assembly. (A spring in the sear will push the sear away from the receiver preventing further turning of the sear.)

(e) With the sear pressed flush to the receiver, continue to turn the sear until you hear a metallic click.

(f) Place the safety selector switch on S (SAFE) and continue to rotate the sear until it is at a 90-degree angle to the receiver.

(g) Lift the sear straight off the receiver.

(h) Place the safety switch in the S (SAFE) position.

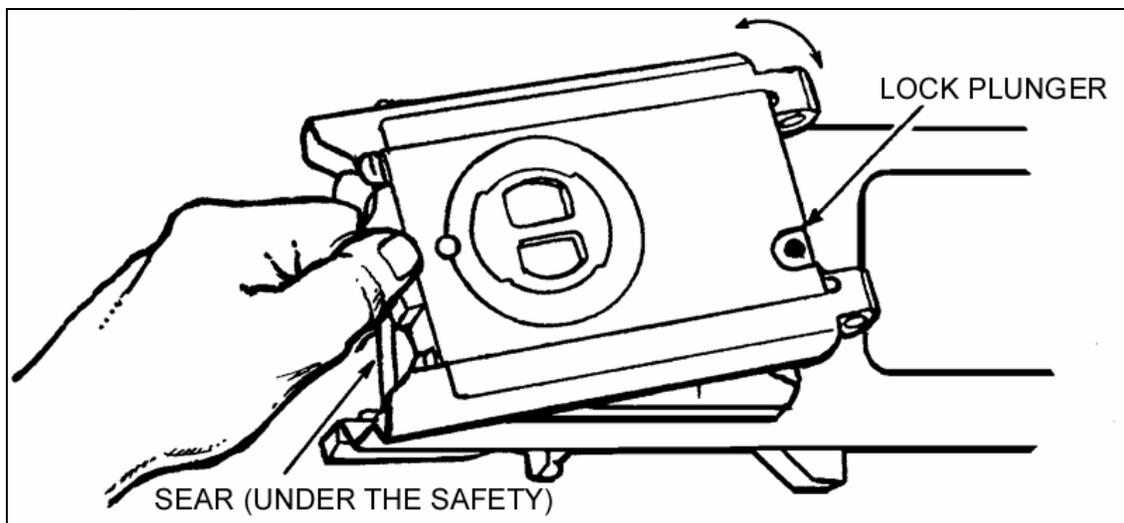


Figure 2-22. Sear assembly.

b. **Assembly.** To assemble the gun, replace the groups in the exact reverse order in which they were taken off. Be sure the components are lubricated prior to reassembly.

(1) Install left and right hand charger assemblies by following these procedures:

(a) Turn receiver upright.

(b) Rotate charger handle to the forward straight-up position.

(c) Line up lugs on charger with slots in receiver rail. Insert charger lugs into slots.

(d) Hold charger tightly against rail. Slide charger forward until it locks in place.

(2) Install round-positioning block. Insert pins into the slots on the receiver and slide the block forward until the pins lock into the small sections of the holes.

(3) Install the ogive plunger assembly. Insert ogive plunger as shown in Figure 2-16.

(4) Install alignment guide assembly by following these procedures:

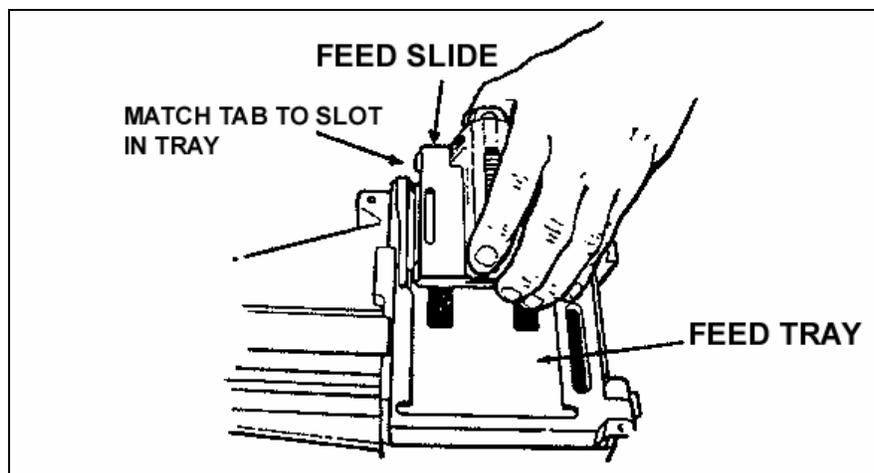
(a) Position the alignment guide assembly so that the pin is lined up with the slot in the feeder wall.

(b) Hold the alignment guide against the front wall and slide the alignment guide into the receiver until it locks or 'clicks.'

(5) Install feed tray and feed slide assembly by following these procedures (Figure 2-23):

(a) Place tray into top of feeder, recessed side up. The tabs on the feed slide should align with the slots on the feed slide tray.

(b) The hinge pinholes on the tray should line up with the hinge pinholes on the receiver.



**Figure 2-23. Feed slide assembly.**

- (6) Install top cover assembly by following these procedures:

**CAUTION**

To avoid breaking the crosspin, be sure it is fully inserted into the receiver before closing the top cover.

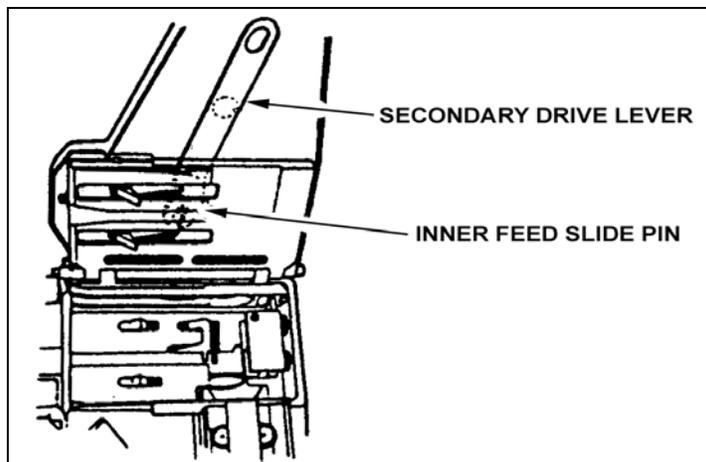
- (a) Feed tray should be in place resting on the receiver.
- (b) Place the top cover on the receiver with the hinge pinholes in line with the receiver lug end feed tray hinge pinholes.
- (c) Hold top cover at a right angle to the receiver so that the key slots are aligned. Insert top cover pins on both sides. Ensure the crosspin is fully inserted then rotate the top cover fully open.

- (7) Install secondary drive lever by following these procedures (Figure 2-24):

**CAUTION**

If the secondary drive lever is not properly engaged with the feedslide pin, the gun will not fire.

- (a) Rotate the feed slide assembly and tray upward.
- (b) Engage forked end of secondary drive lever with the feed slide pin.
- (c) Press raised pivot post through hole in top cover.
- (d) Press secondary drive lever against top cover until it locks in place.



**Figure 2-24. Installation of the secondary drive lever.**

- (8) Install vertical cam assembly by following these procedures:

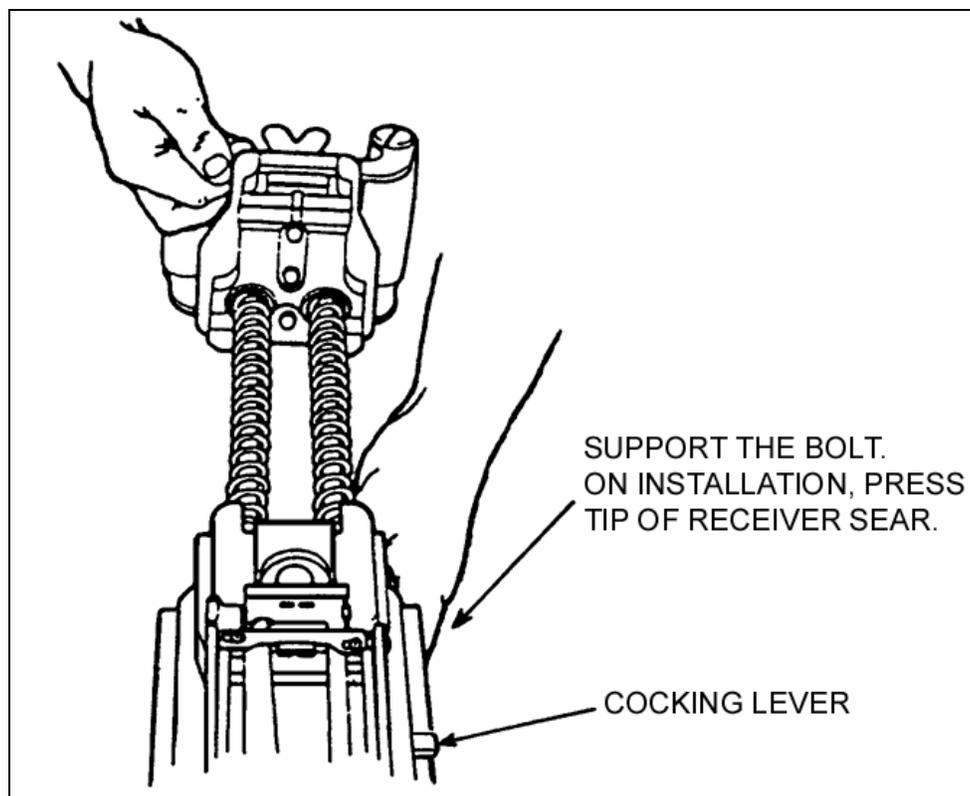
**CAUTION**

Do not damage vertical cam by hitting it on the inside of the receiver.

- (a) Slide vertical cam assembly through rear of receiver. Raised portion should slide over the top of the receiver. Drive lever lock should be underneath.
- (b) Engage forked end in the notch.
- (9) Engage primary drive lever by following these procedures:
  - (a) Hold vertical cam assembly in place and slide primary drive lever into receiver and rest the front end on the feed area.
  - (b) Slide drive lever lock rearward and engage pivot post of lever through holes in receiver and vertical cam.
  - (c) Slide drive lever lock (on the vertical cam just beneath top of receiver) forward.
- (10) Install bolt and backplate assembly. With the sear assembly on the gun, assemble bolt and backplate using the following procedure (Figure 2-25):

**CAUTION**

Before inserting assembly, put cocking lever in forward position.



**Figure 2-25. Installation of the bolt and backplate assembly.**

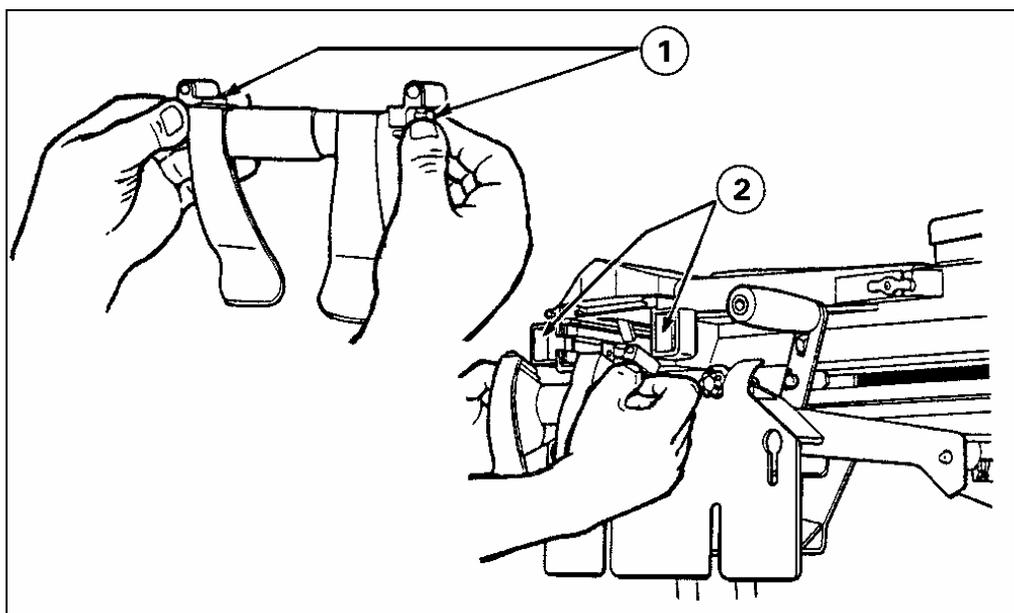
- (a) Place safety in F (FIRE) position.
- (b) Ensure that the cocking lever is forward and align the bolt at the rear of the receiver and slide the receiver forward until it stops.
- (c) Press down on the bolt release, slide the bolt slightly forward, and remove hands from the bolt release.
- (d) Continue to slide the bolt forward until it stops again.
- (e) Again, press down on the bolt release, slide the bolt slightly forward, and remove hands from the bolt release.
- (f) Continue to slide the bolt forward until it reaches its most forward position.
- (g) Seat the bottom of the backplate into the slots on the bottom of the receiver.
- (h) Insert backplate pin to lock assembly in place.
- (11) Install sear assembly by following these procedures:
  - (a) Turn receiver over on its top.
  - (b) Place sear housing on the receiver and line up sear housing assembly at a right angle to the barrel centerline.
  - (c) Put safety on F (FIRE) position.
  - (d) Press down and rotate the sear assembly until it locks in place.
- (12) Install feed throat assembly by following these procedures:
  - (a) Squeeze the plungers, and align the pins with the holes in the receiver.
  - (b) Release plunger to reattach feed throat.

**NOTE:** Ensure the safety switch is in the F (FIRE) position so the sear can be easily depressed.

**2-5. LOADING PROCEDURES**

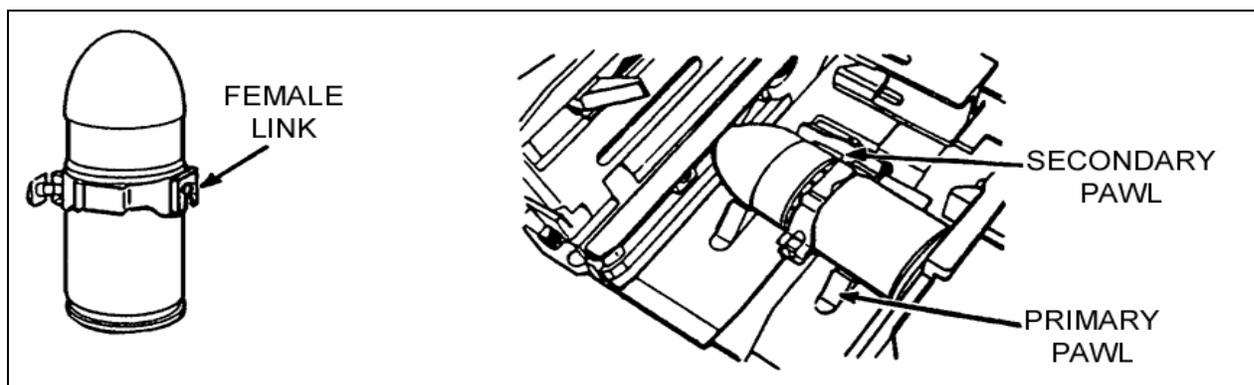
Before loading, the gunner should ensure the MK 19 is on S (SAFE) and the bolt is in the forward position.

- a. Before loading, use the following procedures:
  - (1) Attach the feed throat by squeezing the spring-loaded pins on the feed throat (Figure 2-26).
  - (2) Insert the feed throat on both sides of the feeder.
  - (3) Ensure that the feed throat points down.



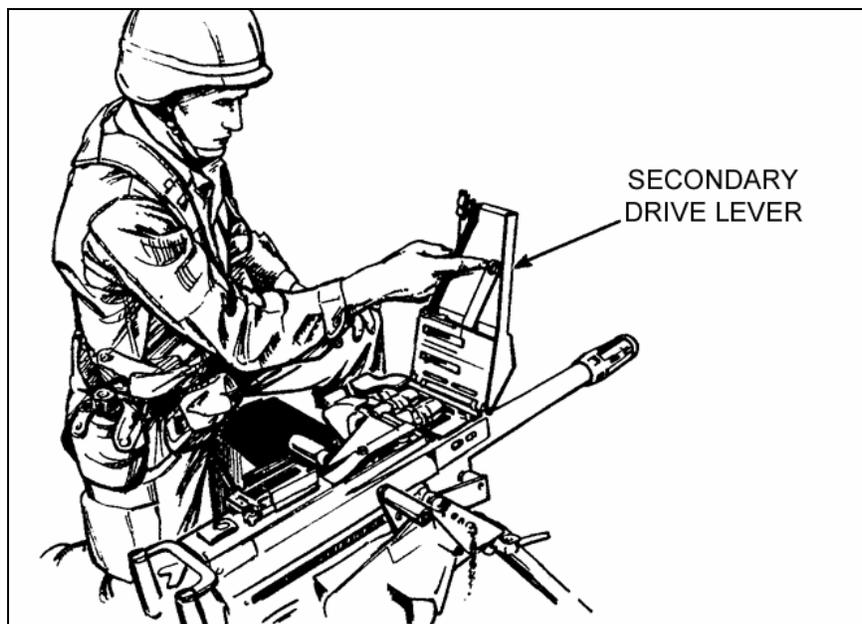
**Figure 2-26. Attachment of feed throat.**

- b. When loading, use the following procedures:
  - (1) Insert the first round into the feeder (female link first) (Figure 2-27).



**Figure 2-27. Loading of first round.**

- (2) Push the round across the secondary feed pawl. To move the feed slide to the left, push the secondary drive lever to the right (Figure 2-28).
- (3) Close the cover.



**Figure 2-28. Positioning of feed slide assembly.**

- (4) Grasp the charger handles with the palms down.
- (5) Press the charger handle locks in.
- (6) Rotate the handles down and pull them sharply to the rear.
- (7) Return the charger handles forward to their original upright position, after locking the bolt to the rear.

**CAUTION**

Failure to completely pull the bolt to the rear may result in the misalignment of the M16A2 links on the round, which causes the round to feed improperly.

- (8) Place the safety switch on F (FIRE) and press the trigger. The bolt slams forward and grasps the first round in the bolt extractors.
- (9) Grasp, unlock, and turn charger handles down, and lock the bolt to the rear again.
- (10) Ensure the safety switch is on S (SAFE).
- (11) Return the charger handles to their original upright position. The MK 19 is now ready to fire.

## 2-6. MALFUNCTIONS, STOPPAGES, AND CORRECTIONS

A malfunction is a failure of the weapon to function properly. Neither defective ammunition nor improper operation of the gun by a crewmember is considered a malfunction of the MK 19. A stoppage is any interruption in the cycle of operation caused by faulty action of the weapon or ammunition. Appendix C, Stoppages, Malfunctions, Immediate Actions, and Remedial Actions, provides inspections, corrective actions, and emergency actions of malfunctions and stoppages. For more information on troubleshooting common malfunctions and stoppages, refer to TM 9-1010-230-10.

## 2-7. CARE AND CLEANING

The MK 19 requires preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS) and lubrication before, during, and after firing. It should be checked and cleaned daily when used and not fired, and weekly if not used. For more detailed guidance on the care, cleaning, and PMCS for the MK 19, refer to TM 9-1010-230-10.

a. **Cleaning and Lubrication.** Several types of lubricants can be used on the MK19. High friction areas of the gun have a protective coating and care must be taken to prevent its removal. Listed below are authorized lubricants, and other information about lubricating and cleaning the MK19.

(1) **Authorized Lubricants.** These are the authorized lubricants used on the MK 19:

(a) Lubricant, arctic weather, automatic weapons (LAW).

(b) Lubricating oil, semifluid, automatic weapons (LSA).

(c) Lubricating oil, semifluid, automatic weapons, temperate (LSAT).

(d) Rifle bore cleaner (RBC). RBC should be used sparingly only in the bore and when necessary.

(e) Grease, molybdenum disulfide (GMD).

(2) **Use of Lubrications.** The following is general guidance on the use of lubricants on the MK 19.

(a) Never mix lubricants on the MK19. If you change lubricants or do not know for sure which lubricant is currently applied to the MK19, completely clean off all old materials before you apply a new lubricant.

(b) Never use cleaner lubricant petroleum (CLP) on a MK19. It gums up moving parts instead of lubricating them.

(c) Apply a heavy coat of lubricant and do not wipe it off.

(d) In cold weather, 0 degrees F to -25 degrees F, use LSAT, GMD, or LAW.

(e) In extra cold weather, -25 degrees F and below, use LAW.

(3) **High Friction Areas.** The under side of the primary drive lever, the vertical cam assembly, the bolt (where it rides on the rails), and the area where the feed slide and feed slide tray connect have been treated to prolong the life of the MK 19. Special care is required during cleaning and maintenance to prevent damage to the coating. CLP, acids, and abrasives should never be used on the MK 19 because they will remove the protective coating.

b. **General Cleaning and Lubrication Instructions.** The following is general guidance for the cleaning of the MK 19.

(1) Wipe or brush off dirt and grime.

(2) When lubricating the weapon, give extra attention to the feed pawls, the cocking lever rails, the pivot posts on the primary drive lever, and the bolt assembly.

(3) Lubricate each part. Give special care to those hard-to-get spots.

(4) Work in the lubricant by moving the parts.

c. **When to Clean, Lubricate and Inspect the MK 19.** Clean and inspect the gun thoroughly. Report all worn, burred, defective, or missing parts to your armorer or support maintenance. In general, lubricate and clean the MK19 as follows:

(1) Always clean and lubricate the gun after firing.

(2) Clean and lubricate the gun daily if it is used but not fired.

(3) Clean and lubricate the gun weekly if the weapon is stored.

d. **Inspections.** Several parts of the MK 19 should be checked whenever possible. These include:

(1) The vertical cam. Check closely for smoothness.

(2) The gap between the charger assemblies and the receiver.

(3) All parts for wear, cracks, missing items, and abnormal shapes.

## 2-8. OPERATION UNDER ADVERSE CONDITIONS

The MK 19 is a robust weapon and designed to operate over a wide range of weather conditions but additional care is required when the temperatures are hot or cold, and the conditions are wet, sandy, or icy.

a. During *hot, wet, or salty air conditions* follow these procedures:

(1) Inspect the weapon more frequently for signs of rust.

(2) Keep gun as moisture-free as possible.

(3) Field strip, clean, and lubricate more often to preserve metal and prevent rust.

(4) Use a generous second coat of lubrication for extra protection.

b. During *hot, dry, sandy, or dusty conditions* follow these procedures:

(1) Do not lubricate the entire exposed metal surfaces as this will only collect dust and sand.

(2) Clean the weapon thoroughly and lubricate only the moving components.

(3) Extreme heat dries up lubricant. Clean and lightly lubricate the moving components of the weapon more frequently.

c. During *cold, icy, or snowy conditions* follow these procedures:

(1) Prior to using cold-weather lubricant, be sure to clean off all existing lubrication. From 0 degrees F to -25 degrees F, use either LSAT, GMD, or LAW. At temperatures -25 degrees F and below, use LAW.

(2) If the weapon 'sweats,' dry and lube the parts before taking the weapon outdoors and apply a light second coat to provide protection.

(3) Cover weapon if left outside.

(4) If possible, thoroughly clean, dry, and lubricate the weapon in a warm place.

(5) If the weapon is brought indoors, keep it away from direct heat.

(6) Perform functional checks and lubricate daily to help prevent corrosion.

## 2-9. DESTRUCTION

Only the commander can direct the destruction of the MK 19. There are several ways to destroy it. Methods include destruction by mechanical means, burning, gunfire, demolition or disposal. Use the same methods to destroy equipment. However, ammunition must be handled differently. The best way to destroy ammunition is to fire it. Otherwise, dispose of it by burial, dumping it in a body of water, or using the demolition method.

**WARNING**

**Ammunition must never be scattered (this may result in a hazard to friendly soldiers), burned (HE and HEDP rounds may explode), or destroyed mechanically.**

a. **Mechanical Method.** If possible, use the mechanical method to destroy MK 19s and equipment. There are three ways to do this:

(1) Smash them. Using a sledgehammer or some similar heavy tool, damage the MK 19s so that they cannot be used.

(2) Bend the MK 19s' guide rods over the receivers.

(3) Take off (or out) the same part from each of the MK 19s. If a different part is taken from each gun, new MK 19s may be pieced together.

b. **Burning Method.** To burn equipment or MK 19s, use a fuel source that burns hot enough to take the temper from the metal. For example, use jet propulsion fuel (JP-4), oil, or gas. All friendly soldiers in the area are warned before equipment or MK 19s are bare burned, because a fire will reveal the positions of friendly forces.

c. **Gunfire Method.** This is the least reliable way to destroy MK 19s or equipment. Pile up all of the equipment and MK 19s and use MK 19s, grenades, or rifles to fire on them. They will scatter so check after shooting to see that they are all destroyed.

d. **Demolition Method.** Use an explosive charge such as composition 4 (C4) or any type of HE round. Place the charges so they will completely destroy all the MK 19s and equipment.

e. **Disposal Method.** To dispose of MK 19s and equipment, break them down and either scatter the parts into swamps or marshes, or bury them.