

(H) Research will

- (1) Establish a recommended assembly torque on the tube nut.
- (2) Test the effect of an "O" ring buffer between the tube nut and the fore-end.
- (3) Test the effect of a shock ring between the fore end assembly and the gas cylinder to reduce recoil loading of the tube during firing.
- (4) Evaluate effect of reduced thread depth on the end tube.

Parts have been modified and samples of each of the experimental assemblies are in test. No definitive results are available at this time. Marketing has established an endurance level of 25,000 rounds for a minimum acceptable product.

Heavy wall tubing has been ordered as a back-up section. Delivery is expected in mid February.