

Ken Nickeson

From: Charles Milazzo
Sent: 11/03/2005 07:57:56 PM
To: snipersonline@list1.netnet.net
CC:
BCC:
Subject: Re: [snipersonline] Failure to fire

Trent,

This is not as uncommon as a lot of folks think. When the rifle has been cleaned and checked as you have already done, and no cause found, failure to fire is usually a result of the bolt handle not being in the fully closed position when the trigger is pressed. Normally when the bolt is closed and the trigger pressed, the trigger releases the sear, which then releases the striker to move forward into the primer, with enough force to cause the primer to fire. But, if the bolt isn't fully closed, the cocking lug of the striker encounters the cocking cam or ramp on the bolt, which impedes the strikers progress toward the primer. Some of the energy normally imparted to the primer, that would cause it to fire, is transferred to the cocking ramp, thus closing the bolt and masking the cause of the problem. The amount of that energy redirection varies according to the degree the bolt handle is lifted out of battery. The fact that you didn't have any dent at all in the primer indicates the bolt handle was pretty far out of battery. This can occur at any time, but I see it most often during training sessions where rapid follow ups, position, movement to a hide before firing, or switching over from spotter to sniper is being trained or practiced. To avoid it, make a habit of always checking to be sure the bolt is fully closed before attempting to fire your rifle. I have seen and heard stories of some very seasoned shooters that have been caught by this all to easily occurring problem.

Hope that helps some,

Charlie

warhorse6@aol.com wrote:

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Recently our sniper team was conducting our monthly training and I had something happen to me that I have never encountered before. I had a failure to fire with a live round. I immediately conducted a malfunction drill and the second round went off. I then recovered my round and observed that the primer did not have any sign of a dent from the firing pin. I then finished conducting training and fired approximately 32 rounds with out any further problems. After training I cleaned my rifle and disassembled my bolt. To my surprise I did not find anything wrong with it. Initially I thought my firing pin may have broken. The firing pin spring on my Remington 700 is the factory original and it is placed on the firing pin so tightly that it has curves from the compression. I then took the bolt to a local gunsmith and he said this is the norm with most rifles. Just wondering if any of you have experienced this problem or could offer any explanation? I have heard of ammunition having an abnormally hard primer, however, I do believe that there would be some type of mark if this were the case.

Trent Lebo
MSP/ S.T.A.T.E.

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