

Whatsamatta,

Wow often do M252 mortar crews ponder this question when they get to the range? Too often, and usually because the M252s sat ignored in the arms room for months. Here are a few things you armorers can do to make sure your M252s are ready to hit the range.



Breech Plug

A loose breech plug ruins accuracy and causes misfires and fatal accidents. If you can turn the plug by hand, or if you spot discoloration around the plug, it needs tightening. Use your wrenches to tighten the plug in the tube. If the seal's shot, replace it.

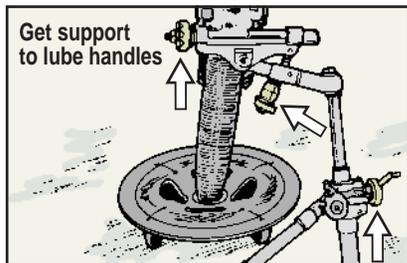


If the plug still won't stay tight, turn in the tube. Forcing the plug tighter will damage the tube.

Look for erosion around the firing pin, too. If you spot any, the tube needs to go to support.

Handles

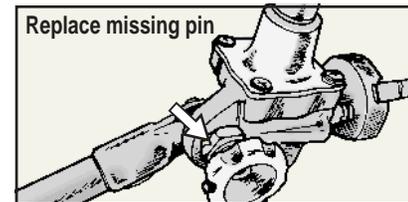
Rotate the traversing, elevating and cross-leveling handles to check for binding. Support lubes these assemblies during the semiannual services, but



Mortar?

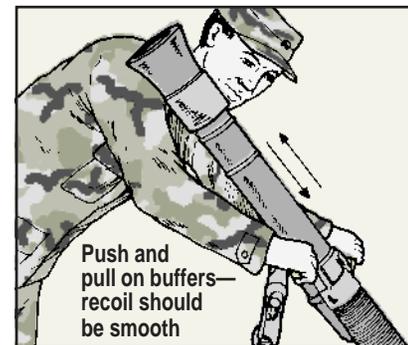
sometimes they need more lubing. If binding handles are forced, the mortar mount can be damaged. Support needs to clean and lube binding handle assemblies.

Eyeball the locking leg knob and locking nut for the cotter pin. No pin means the knob or nut can work loose and the M252 collapses during firing. Replace a missing cotter pin.



Buffers

Water gets in the mount buffers and corrodes the spring. Bad springs mean the buffers can't handle the shock of firing, which causes the barrel clamp to slip. Test for bad springs by pushing down and pulling up on the buffers. They should move smoothly back into position with no free travel.



If they don't, have support take apart the buffers to clean and lube the springs and other parts with GPL.

Locking Ring

A loose locking ring means the blast attenuator can fly off during firing. Spot a loose ring by looking for shiny spots between the attenuator cone and the ring.

Cure a loose ring by staking the locking ring into the groove recess of the attenuator cone with a punch. But do that no more than three times. After that, staking does no good, so send the tube to support.



Bipod Strap

The rivets that hold the strap pop off easily. No rivets means no strap and no way to lock the legs during travel. Check for missing or loose rivets. If you find any, get support to replace them.

