

M120/M121 Mortar...

# HANDLING MISFIRES SAFELY

THREE SOLDIERS LOST THEIR LIVES IN 2002 HANDLING MISFIRES ON THE M120/M121 MORTAR AND ANOTHER LOST A HAND.

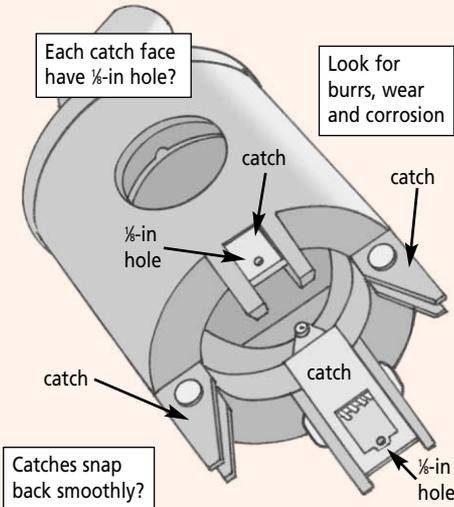
IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT MISFIRE ACCIDENTS, TACOM-ROCK ISLAND HAS REVISED THE PMCS AND THE MISFIRE PROCEDURES IN TM 9-1015-250-10.



## Before You Go to The Field

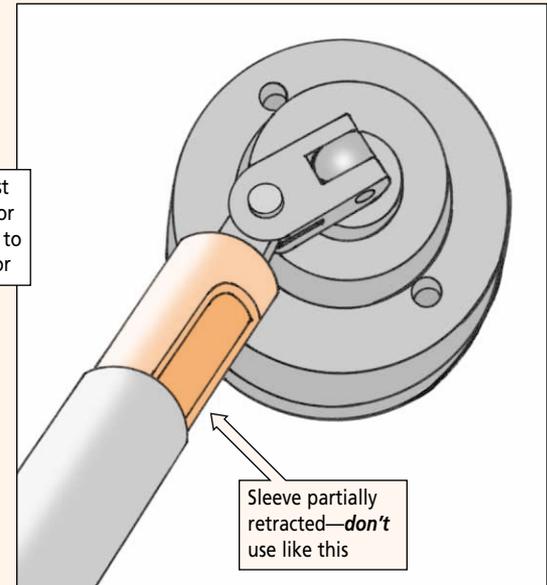
As part of your BEFORE PMCS, thoroughly check out the cartridge extractor. Add these checks to the PMCS on Page 2-36:

- Make sure the cartridge extractor catches have a 1/8-in hole in each of the four catch faces. The holes means the extractor is the latest model. If any of the 4 catches don't have the hole, the extractor is an older model and should **not** be used. Turn in the extractor for replacement.
- Inspect the cartridge extractor catches for burrs, wear, and corrosion that could prevent the extractor from working right. Push down each of the 4 catches and release it. It should spring smoothly back into place. If you spot problems, don't use the extractor. Get it repaired or replaced.



- Attach the extractor to the staff assembly. If the extractor doesn't attach firmly and completely to the staff, it's not usable.

Prior to use, sleeve must fully cover the connector and extend all the way to the link on the extractor



## Changes to Misfire Procedure

TACOM SAFETY OF USE MESSAGE (SOLIM) 2-004 IS CHANGING THESE STEPS IN TM 91015-250-10.

UNTIL YOU GET THE SOLIM AND CAN UPDATE YOUR TM, USE THESE STEPS...



**Para 5, Page 2-115:** "When the mortar is cool, gunner places the safety mechanism (2) on SAFE (S showing) and shouts 'the safety is on SAFE'."

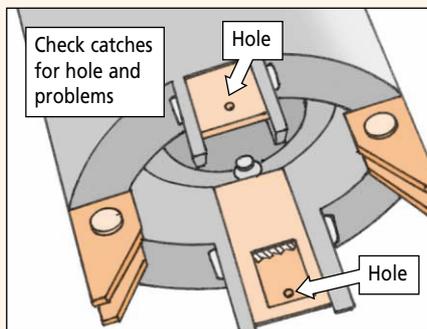
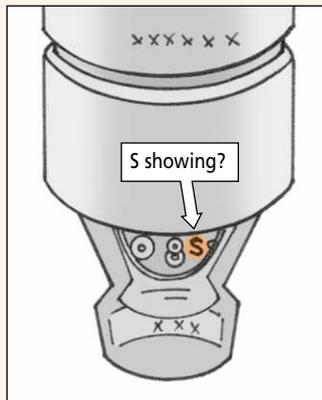
**Para 6, Page 2-116:** "The assistant gunner physically confirms that the safety mechanism is on SAFE (S showing). Squad leader confirms actions of the gunner and assistant gunner and checks the selection switch is on SAFE."

"If the assistant gunner agrees the safety is on SAFE, he shouts 'safety on SAFE'. The squad leader confirms the actions of the assistant gunner and gunner and the misfire procedures continue."

**Para 7, Page 2-116:** "Gunner removes sight and sight extension. Assistant gunner removes and stows blast attenuator device (BAD) (M121 only). Squad leader confirms action of the gunner and assistant gunner."

**Para 8, Page 2-117:** "Make sure each cartridge extractor assembly catch face has a 1/8-in hole. If the extractor catches don't have the holes, don't use the extractor. Assistant gunner inspects cartridge extractor catches for burrs, wear or corrosion that would prevent it from doing its job. Assistant gunner makes sure each extractor catch moves freely and snaps back in position. Problems? Don't use the extractor. Go to Para 13, Page 2-121 and use the barrel tip method to remove the misfired cartridge. The squad leader confirms the actions of the assistant gunner."

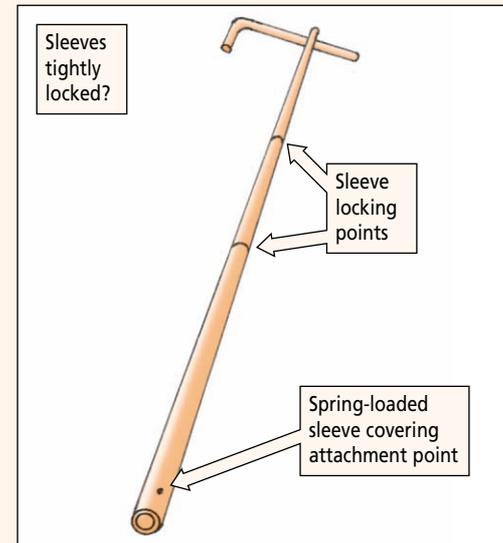
"Assistant gunner attaches the cartridge extractor securely to the extended artillery cleaning staff assembly (4). Squad leader confirms actions of the assistant gunner."



## Para 9, Page 2-117:

"Make sure the artillery cleaning staff assembly section sleeves (5) are all tightly locked so that the staff assembly will not extend or retract. If the section sleeves cannot be tightly locked, then the cartridge extractor assembly is non-mission capable. Don't use it. Proceed to Para 13, Page 2-121 and follow the barrel tip method to remove the misfired cartridge. Squad leader confirms actions of the gunner and assistant gunner."

The rest of the misfire procedure stays the same.



## Practice Makes Perfect



Armorers and NCOs, before you go to the field again, train the crews with these new PMCS and misfire procedures. Every 6 months, personally inspect the cartridge extractors. In the field, have each mortar crew daily rehearse the misfire procedure using the dummy round and cartridge extractor.

Never fire unless at least one fully functional cartridge extractor is available at each firing point.

Check with your pubs clerk to be sure your TM account is up-to-date so that you will receive the TM change that includes this new information. Also be on the lookout for an MWO that will have stickers and decals to help you safely use the extractor. See your TACOM logistics assistance representative for details.