

SANDBAG SAND PROBLEMS



SAND CAN QUICKLY SILENCE YOUR RIFLE, PISTOL, OR MACHINE GUN IN THE DESERT, AS SOLDIERS IN IRAQ CAN TESTIFY.

Sand blows in the muzzle and ejection port and stops moving parts from moving. Even worse, sand mixes with lube and forms a scouring powder that grinds up parts. Eventually, parts must be replaced—or maybe the entire weapon.

You can sandbag sand problems, though, if you follow a few rules:

Clean often. That means **at least daily** in the desert. Even wiping off the outside of your weapon with a clean cloth whenever you have a chance helps. But remember any cleaning that involves taking your weapon apart should be done only out of the blowing sand inside a tent or building. Otherwise, your cleaning won't do much cleaning.

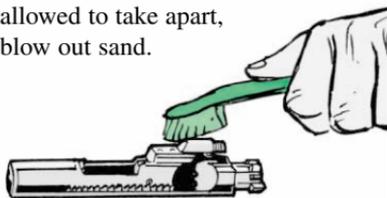


Use rifle covers, muzzle caps, and spare magazine bags as much as possible. Keep the M16/M4's ejection port cover closed and a magazine installed.

Cover mounted machine guns.



Pay special attention to moving parts like the bolt carrier. Wipe and brush them clean. For areas like the trigger assembly that you're not allowed to take apart, blow out sand.



Clean magazines. Magazines jam with sand. Unload and wipe off ammo daily. Run a clean rag through the magazine. But don't put any lube in magazines or on ammo.

Easy on lubing. Corrosion is not much of a problem in the desert, which means you don't need much lube. Lube can attract sand so you want the outside of your weapon dry. Lightly lube only internal parts.