



ARE YOU  
READY FOR  
SOME SLING  
LOADING??

**NO!** NOT UNTIL  
YOU SLING  
YOURSELF OVER  
HERE TO SEE IF  
THERE'S SAND IN  
MY HOOKS.

## SAND IN CARGO HOOK

**M**echanics, working in the sandbox is no joke. Sand gets into every nook and cranny and puts extra wear and tear on everything in its path. That's why it's important to inspect everything thoroughly to the nth degree.

For example, the Chinook FWD and AFT cargo hook mechanisms clog with sand frequently and may not operate properly during sling load operations.

They may not close all the way after releasing a load. Then, when you lift off—or during flight—it opens and you lose a load. Or, the hooks may not open normally or even by using the emergency handle. If that happens, tension must be put on the sling to force the hook open. This can put the load at risk and soldiers in harm's way if the clevis comes loose and hits troops standing near by.

Inspect and clean the hooks prior to each operation like it says in Task 16-11 of TM 55-1520-240-23-10. And always perform the cargo hook operational check like it says in Task 16.1.4 of TM 55-1520-240-23-T prior to sling load missions.

Trouble with cargo hooks?  
Inspect, troubleshoot, and clean

