

BREECH INSPECTIONS NOW SEMIANNUAL

HEY, ISN'T IT TIME FOR YOU TO INSPECT MY M242 GUN?

NAH! YOU HAVEN'T FIRED NEARLY ENOUGH ROUNDS YET!

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DO IT SEMI-ANNUALLY NOW, REGARDLESS OF THE ROUND COUNT!

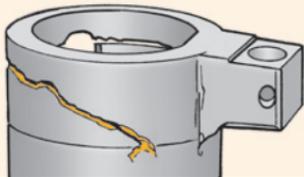
The PMCS tables in TM 9-1005-200-23&P are pretty specific on when to inspect the breech on your Bradley's M242 gun. Only one problem... *it's not enough!*

The standard breech, NSN 1005-01-114-0080, is inspected after reaching 12,500 rounds and then every 2,500 rounds afterward. The enhanced breech, NSN 1005-01-454-0398, is inspected after 25,000 rounds and every 5,000 rounds afterward. No inspections are required before reaching these round counts.

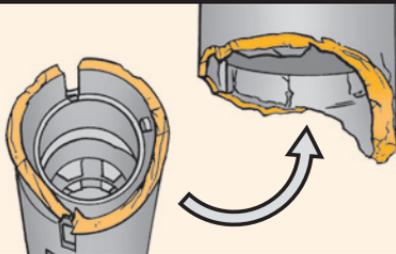
At one unit, a 25mm round exploded in a standard breech that had broken into two pieces during firing. Luckily, there were no injuries, but the M242 was a complete loss.

Testing revealed that a stress crack had developed in the breech and became larger over time. And because there were no firing records available from before the unit received the Bradley, there was no way to tell just how many rounds the gun had fired.

Crack in breech...



...can make it snap in half



For that reason, gun system maintainers are now required to inspect the M242's breech semiannually in addition to the round count inspections. The increased frequency will give inspectors a chance to find any signs of cracking before it results in an accident due to breech failure.

You'll find the inspection procedures in work package 0051 00 of TM 9-1005-200-23&P.