

# COLD WEATHER CAN CAUSE LEAKS

THE HYDROSTRUT ASSEMBLY IS LEAKING LIKE A SIEVE!

HOW ARE WE EVER GONNA RAISE THIS HOWITZER?



**C**rewmen, if you're operating your M777A2 howitzer in very cold conditions, keep an eye on the suspension hydrostruts.

Units at Ft Wainwright, AK, noticed Class III leaks coming from the hydrostrut vent ports when they tried to raise howitzers that had been stored outdoors in temperatures below -10°F.

Turns out there's a slight problem between the hydraulic fluid and the hydrostrut piston seal, NSN 5330-99-679-8380. Over time, the seal loses its elasticity, especially in extremely cold weather. That can create leaks when the thermometer takes a nose dive.

If you notice a Class III leak at the hydrostrut vent valve, stop trying to raise the howitzer immediately. Lower the howitzer to the ground using the suspension levers and take the following action:

1. Deploy the wheel arm assemblies into the raised position, like it says on Page 2-124 of TM 9-1025-215-10 (Jun 06 w/Ch 3, Jul 08).
2. Return the wheel arm assemblies to the towing position (Page 2-175).
3. Try to build pressure with the suspension pumps, then relieve the pressure using the suspension levers.

Repeat these steps several times. That should energize the seals and help stop the hydraulic fluid leak. Once you're finished, make sure you check the suspension oil fluid level. If it's low, notify your mechanic.

In most cases, hydrostrut leaks will stop by themselves when temperatures warm up. So keep this in mind before going beyond crew-level maintenance.

You'll find the complete scoop in TACOM Maintenance Action (MA) message 09-032:

[https://aeps2.ria.army.mil/commodity/mam/tacom\\_wn/ma09-032.html](https://aeps2.ria.army.mil/commodity/mam/tacom_wn/ma09-032.html)

