

Mortar, Artillery, Armor Cannons...

# PMCS Critical to Cannon Safety



A RECENT CANNON FAILURE THAT RESULTED IN A DEATH AND INJURIES EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF DOING A THOROUGH PMCS OF YOUR MORTAR, ARTILLERY OR ARMOR CANNON **BEFORE** YOU FIRE.

IF YOU BRUSH OFF PMCS, YOU BRUSH OFF THE SAFEGUARDS THE PMCS PROVIDES YOU AND YOUR CREW.

BESIDES, FIRING CHECKS ARE **MANDATORY**.

Use your system's -10 TM to do a step-by-step PMCS. Don't try to do PMCS by memory. You'll miss something, maybe even something critical.

Next, make sure you have a current, signed DA Form 2408-4, *Weapons Record Data Card*. If the card isn't kept up-to-date, the cannon could be fired past the point when its tube should have been replaced. That's dangerous. When you're through firing, update the card so it stays accurate.



**WAITAMINIT!** THIS CARD HASN'T BEEN FILLED OUT IN **MONTHS!**

THIS HOWITZER MAY **NOT** BE SAFE TO FIRE!

If you need help with 2408-4, see PS 688:

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/archives/PS2010/688/688-02-05.pdf>

If the 2408-4 has been lost or if you suspect it's inaccurate, refer to TM 9-1000-202-14, *Cannon Tube Evaluation*, for instructions.

Armorers and crew members need to ensure their cannon tubes have been evaluated by support per TM 9-1000-202-14, *Cannon Tube Evaluation*, and that the information has been added to the cannon's DA Form 2408-4. Same goes for the required borescope/pullover gauging by support.

Commanders need to check that all the required PMCS and gauging of their units' mortars are being done and recorded since they are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the 2408-4s and the safety of their Soldiers.

If you have any questions about mortars, contact TACOM's Joe Schmidt at DSN 786-8783, (586) 282-8783, or email:

[joe.schmidt@us.army.mil](mailto:joe.schmidt@us.army.mil)

Questions about armor? Contact TACOM's Gordon Bieri at DSN 793-2189, (309) 782-2189, or email:

[gordon.bieri@us.army.mil](mailto:gordon.bieri@us.army.mil)

Questions about M109-series artillery? Contact TACOM's Gary Rogers at DSN 793-0030, (309) 782-0030, or email:

[gary.s.rogers@us.army.mil](mailto:gary.s.rogers@us.army.mil)

Questions about 155mm-series artillery? Contact TACOM's Marty Nelson at DSN 793-7852, (309) 782-7852, or email:

[marty.nelson@us.army.mil](mailto:marty.nelson@us.army.mil)

Questions about 105mm-series artillery? Call TACOM's Mario Nieto at DSN 793-8512, (309) 782-8512, or email:

[mario.nieto1@us.army.mil](mailto:mario.nieto1@us.army.mil)



M16-Series Rifle,  
M4/M4A1 Carbine...

# HOW DO I GET A PRACTICE BOLT?



YEAH, LET'S  
ASK HALF-MAST.  
A PRACTICE  
BOLT *WOULD*  
BE GOOD FOR  
TRAINING.

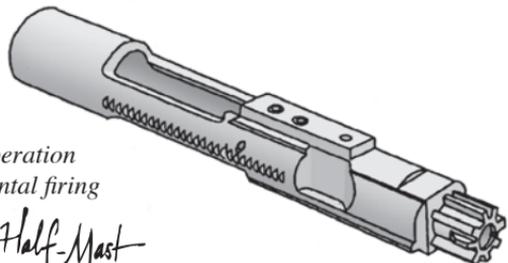
Dear Half-Mast,

How do I get a practice bolt for firing M862 plastic training rounds from an M16 or M4/M4A1?

R.M.

Dear R.M.,

You need the M2 practice bolt, which comes with NSN 1005-01-184-4041 and costs a little less than \$80. The M2 bolt converts the weapon from gas operation to blowback and prevents accidental firing of a real round.



*Half-Mast*