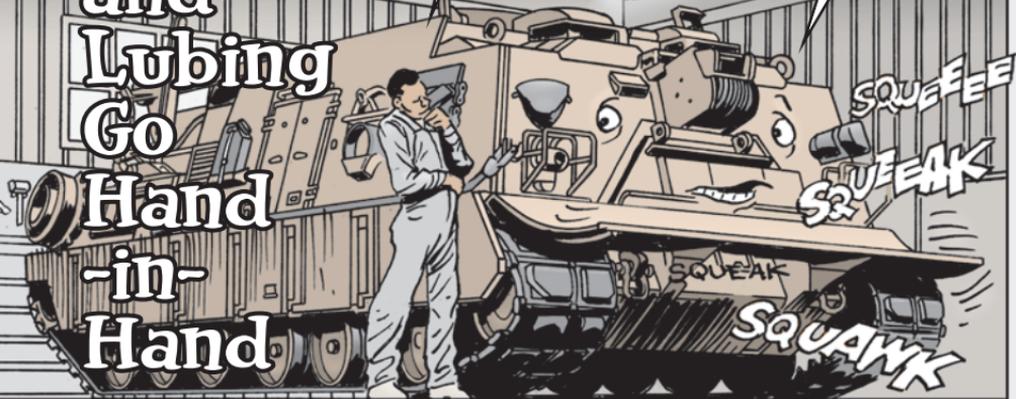


# Cleaning and Lubing Go Hand -in- Hand

I DON'T  
GET IT!

I JUST  
LUBED  
YOUR  
SPADE  
LOCK  
YESTERDAY!

YEAH, BUT  
YOU DIDN'T  
CLEAN IT  
FIRST!



**M**echanics, the spade lock on M88-series recovery vehicles needs more than lube to keep it working right. You have to give it a good cleaning, too.

The spade lockpin gets coated with dirt, mud and sand. As the lockpin goes up and down, that gunk gets pulled inside the mechanism. Pretty soon, you have a spade that won't lock or release.

Clean and lube the mechanism like this:

1. Clean off the worst of the dirt, mud, sand and old grease with a rag. Loosen any hard-to-remove gunk by scrubbing it with a nylon brush like NSN 7920-00-061-0037.
2. Wipe the spade lockpin again with a clean cloth. If dirt still shows on the cloth, keep cleaning.
3. Once the mechanism is clean, apply a very light coat of GAA to the exposed part of the spade lockpin. If you're in a desert environment, skip this step. In the desert, grease just attracts more sand.
4. Pump GAA into the grease fitting on the right side of the pin housing quarterly. Old, dirty grease will start coming out of the relief valve. Keep pumping until you see new grease, then wipe the old grease off the relief valve.
5. Operate the spade lock a few times. That ensures the lube is spread evenly throughout the entire mechanism.

