

# MORTAR MATTERS THAT MATTER

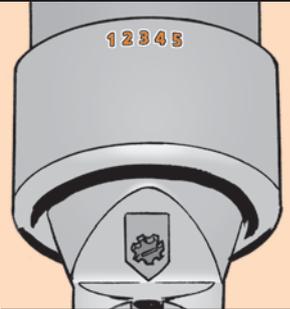
HERE ARE A FEW RULES ALL MORTAR MEN NEED TO REMEMBER ABOUT THEIR M120/M120AI AND M121 MORTARS...

• If you have an M298 cannon with serial number 11729, you need to report it ASAP to the TACOM POC at the end of this article. TACOM Safety of Use Messages 10-21 and 10-27 identified several M298s that may be unsafe and only the one marked 11729 has not been accounted for.

AH-HA! YOU'RE THE INFAMOUS 11729. I NEED TO REPORT YOU.



• The M298 cannon breech cap and cannon tube are a matched-for-life set and shouldn't be switched between cannons. The breech cap's firing pin and the cannon's white line must align for the cannon assembly to lock into the baseplate securely. That's why they're matched for life. The serial numbers are stamped on both the breech cap and cannon tube to help you keep track.



Breech cap and cannon tube must stay together. Check serial numbers to make sure you've got the right ones

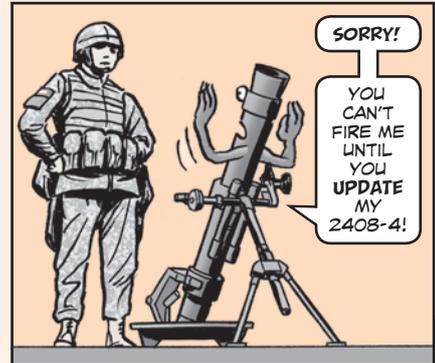
• According to TB 9-1000-247-34, *Standards for Overseas Shipment of Small Arms Equipment*, the M298 tube can't exceed a bore diameter of 4.757 inches for unit deployment or overseas shipment. You can find other info and requirements on 60-, 81- and 120-mm mortars on Pages 48-49 of TB 9-1000-247-34. The TB is on the ETM site:

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/welcom1.cfm>

• The 120-mm mortar systems with LINs M68405 and M68326 and their M120-mm cannons, NSN 1015-01-522-2630, now require Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced (PBUSE) reporting/Unique Item Tracking (UIT). Check with your property book officer for help.

• All mortar cannons must have current *Weapons Record Data* cards, DA Form 2408-4, prior to firing. Soldiers authorized to fill out the card should make sure their Unit Identification Codes (UICs) are current and show only those UICs that they support or are assigned to. For more information on mortars and UICs, see PS 700:

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/archives/PS2011/700/700-19-20.pdf>



## M249 Machine Gun...

# Should Both Barrels Be ID'ed?

Dear Half-Mast,  
There is no requirement in the M249 machine gun TMs for both barrels to be ID'ed for the receiver they are headspaced for. Shouldn't this be an official requirement since it's critical that Soldiers *not* use a barrel that hasn't been headspaced for that receiver?

CW4 J.F.

Dear Chief J.F.,  
Yes, barrel marking *should* be an official requirement. This will be added in the next change to TM 9-1005-201-23&P. The best way to ID the barrels for both the M240 and M249 machine guns is to safety-wire a dog tag underneath the barrel's heatshield. Make sure the wire ends don't stick out where they can poke someone.

You can also paint the number on the barrel. What you *don't* want to do is engrave the number on the barrel. That ruins the barrel's finish, which leads to corrosion and a ruined barrel.

