



WINNING THE GREAT *BREECH RUST* DEBATE

Dear Half-Mast,

We've been having a lot of trouble lately with breech corrosion on our M777A2 towed howitzers. Specifically, the spindle and obturator pad are turning up coated with rust!

I think the problem is that the spindle and obturator pad aren't being removed for cleaning and lubing after the howitzer is fired. But others in my unit argue that since the lube instructions on Page 3-5 of TM 9-1025-215-10 don't say anything about removing the components, it's unnecessary.

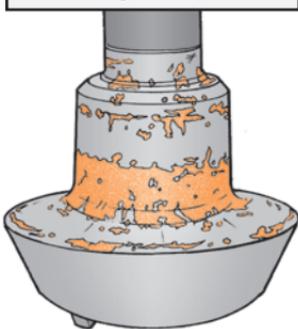
What do you say, MSG Half-Mast? Can you resolve this argument?

SSG J.C.B.

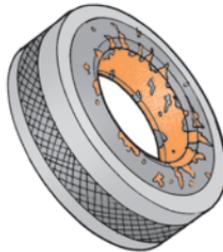
Dear Sergeant J.C.B.,

In this case, you win the argument, Sergeant! While the TM doesn't specifically tell you to remove the spindle and obturator pad for cleaning, that is what was intended. In fact, the TM is scheduled to add removal of the components for cleaning and lubing at the next update.

If not removed for cleaning and lubing, both spindle...



...and obturator pad will rust



By the way, the M198 towed howitzer and M109A6 Paladin have the same breech configuration and both have had the same rusting problems. In their case, however, the lubrication instructions already say to remove the spindle and obturator pad for cleaning after firing.

Half-Mast