

# What the Heck! How Can You Beat PM?

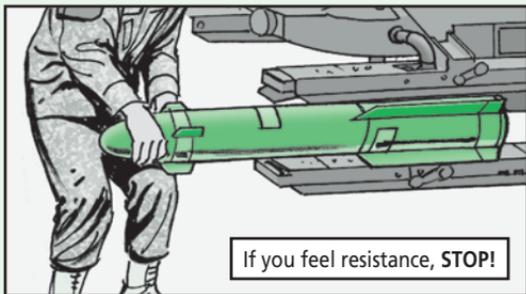
WHAT  
THE  
HECK!

IS THERE ANY  
BETTER WAY TO  
KEEP ME FIRING  
THAN A STEADY  
DIET OF PM?

WE  
THINK  
NOT.

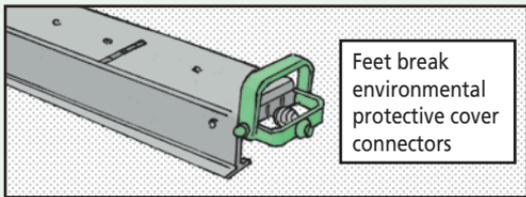
FOR  
INSTANCE...

**Be gentle**—Most of the Hellfire's problems are caused by crews forgetting to be gentle. When you load missiles, don't slam the missiles in place. That can cause all kinds of damage. If you feel any resistance while sliding a missile in place on the launcher, STOP!

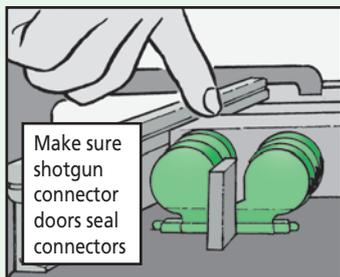


**Check out the connectors**—They could be plugged with dirt. Or the launcher connector covers may not be lifting up like they should. Just don't try to muscle the missile in place.

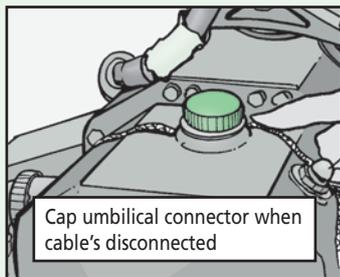
**Keep your feet off the launcher**—If you use it as a ladder, the environmental protective cover connectors or the SAFE/ARM switch soon will be busted.



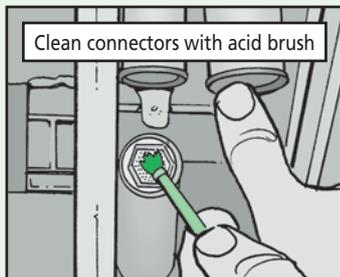
**Seal out dirt and sand**—Loading and firing will be much easier if you prevent dirt and sand from plugging shotgun connectors. With the missiles downloaded, inspect the shotgun connectors to ensure they are free from obstructions and debris. Make sure the doors and seals are in good shape. If the seals are torn, damaged or missing or the door doesn't align properly on the shotgun probes, tell your repairman.



When the launcher is downloaded, the umbilical connector W1J5 on the M299 launcher and W1J1 connector on the M272/M279 launcher are unprotected from dirt and debris. Protect the connector by installing its cap, NSN 5340-01-499-8793. If you've lost the cap, the cleaned cap from a sports drink bottle makes a good substitute until you can get a new cap.

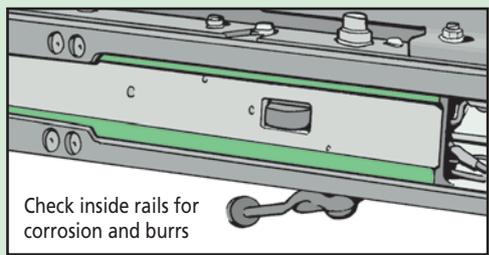


Of course, no matter how valiant your efforts, eventually those connectors are going to get dirt in them. Before a mission, check all wiring harness connectors for dirt. If you spot any, clean the connector with a paint brush and a water-detergent solution. NSN 7930-00-282-9699 gets a good detergent. Use the brush and solution to loosen up any dirt and then flush the connector with clean water. Let the connectors air dry and ensure they are completely dry before loading any missiles.



**Check for burrs and corrosion**—What often causes the missiles to hang up during loading are burrs and corrosion on the inside of the launcher rails. As part of your weekly PMCS, check the rails for burrs and corrosion.

Corrosion can be rubbed off by following the cleaning procedures in TM 9-1425-475-23&P. Never file or sand the launcher. The plating residue can be dangerous if it gets in your lungs. Don't put lube on the rails either. That just attracts dirt and sand.



**Handle latching handle problems**— Sometimes you can load a missile and think you're ready to go. But the missile isn't really locked in and can fall off during flight. That's not an easy one to explain away. After you've loaded the missiles, feel the latching handles for movement. If the handle moves freely, the missile isn't locked in. Slide the missile forward and then try and reset it.



**Troubleshooting help**—The launcher test station (LTS), NSN 4935-01-475-9118, makes troubleshooting much easier and faster. When used with the AN/AWM 101A test set, NSN 4935-01-452-0958, the launcher can be tested off the aircraft and any problems can be fixed right away. Plus you can quickly check all your unit's launchers prior to installing them on the aircraft.

