

M777A2 Towed
Howitzer...



Go Smooth on Tube Lube

Dear Half-Mast,

I've noticed that a lot of the gun tubes on our M777A2 howitzers have started losing their finish. Is it okay to spray some dry film lubricant on the worn spots to help keep corrosion from setting in?

SFC H.J.P.

Dear Sergeant H.J.P.,

Good question! The finish you see on those gun tubes looks a lot like dry film lubricant. However, it's a **baked-on** finish that's designed to adhere to the metal surface of the gun tube.

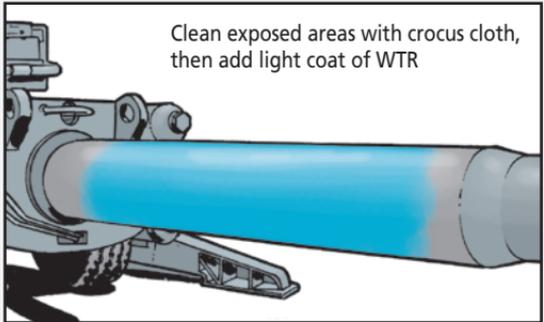
If you use spray-on dry film lubricant, it'll rub off the gun tube surface during firing and gunk up under the chase bearing. That just adds to your problems.

PMCS check 31 in TM 9-1025-215-10 is pretty specific about how to handle those worn spots. Clean the exposed area with crocus cloth and then apply a light coat of WTR to keep rust from setting in.

If you work in a desert environment, however, you'll have to go one step further.

WTR attracts sand like a magnet. So before firing the gun, wipe off all the WTR with a cloth. If you don't, the sand and WTR gunk up inside the chase bearing. That's like rubbing the cannon down with sandpaper every time the gun is fired—not to mention the wear and tear on the seals.

When you're finished firing and the gun tube's cooled down, remember to put on more WTR.



Half-Mast