

AIRCRAFT ARMAMENT
HOT WEATHER/DESERT OPERATION

This abbreviated checklist is not to be used as a replacement for the 10 series Tech Manuals or any other PMCS guide.

General: In addition to the normal preventative maintenance service, special care in cleaning and lubrication must be observed where extremes of temperature, humidity, and atmospheric conditions are present or anticipated. Proper cleaning, lubrication, storage, and handling of lubricants not only insure operation and functioning but also guard against excessive wear of the working parts and deterioration of materiel.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR UNUSUAL CONDITIONS

Note: The following instructions should be followed when operating aircraft armament system under unusual conditions such as extreme humidity, salty or wet atmosphere conditions as well as in hot, dusty, and sandy operational areas.

EXTREMELY HOT CLIMATE:

1. In hot climates, the film of oil necessary for operation and preservation will dissipate quickly. Inspect the armament system, paying particular attention to all hidden surfaces such as guides, recessed, spring seats, swivels, and like places where corrosion might occur and not be quickly noticed. Perspiration from the hands is a contributing factor to rusting because it contains acids and salts. After handling materiel, clean, wipe dry, and restore the oil film.

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PECULIAR GROUND SUPPORT EQUIPMENT:

1. Use relief valves installed in peculiar ground support equipment to release heat-induced pressure build-up.

APACHE:

1. Protect the M230 Gun and Target Acquisition and Designation Sight/Pilot's Night Vision Sensor (TADS/PNVIS) from sand and dust by keeping them covered when the aircraft is on the ground. At an absolute minimum, ensure that the M230 muzzle cover is in place. Use the gun bag if available.
2. Minimize the amount of grease applied to the ammunition handling system chutes and rails, and to the M230's chain. Excess grease will trap blowing sand and dust and degrade system operation. Even with minimal grease applied, it will be necessary to periodically wipe the system down to remove dust laden grease and reapply a light, fresh coat.
3. At minimum, quarterly, clean dirt and debris from the ammunition storage magazine.
 - a. Remove both 90 degree end turns and the partition from one end of the magazine.
 - b. Remove all 180 degree end turns from the opposite end of the magazine.

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EXTREMELY HOT CLIMATE (continued):

2. Clean and oil the bore of the machine guns more frequently than usual. Rapid temperature changes cause a moisture condensation film to form on unpainted metal, resulting in rust. When this moisture film occurs on unpainted metal parts of the weapon, wipe briskly until thoroughly dry and coat with general-purpose lubricating oil (PL special) as required to prevent rusting.

OPERATION IN HUMID OR SALTY ATMOSPHERE:

1. Inspect mechanism frequently when operating in moist areas. When the system is active, clean and lubricate bore and metal surfaces more frequently than prescribed for normal service.
2. Moist and salty atmospheres have tendency to emulsify oils and grease and destroy their rust-preventative qualities. Inspect all parts frequently for corrosion. In humid or salty atmospheric conditions, keep the weapons stowed inside the vessel as much as possible.
3. When the subsystem is inactive, cover unpainted surfaces with a film of general-purpose lubricating oil (PL special) and keep the weapons and mounts covered as much as possible.

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APACHE (continued):

c. Clean dirt and debris from the ammo storage magazine using compressed air.

WARNING: Compressed air used for cleaning purposes shall not exceed 30 PSI.

4. Depending upon the environmental conditions in your area of operation, it may be necessary to increase your preventative maintenance checks and services by decreasing the time interval between services. Time interval reductions will vary with your unit's particular situation.

BLACKHAWK AND CHINOOK

1. Stow weapons inside the aircraft during non-operational periods and whenever practical.
2. Clean and lubricate frequently.
3. Do not over lubricate.
4. Cover weapons whenever practical.

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OPERATIONS IN WET ATMOSPHERE CONDITIONS:

1. In hot, wet climate, lubricate and inspect more frequently. Lubricate your system before a mission as prescribed in the Technical Manual lubrication instructions. Upon return from the mission, complete cleaning and lubrication service. Exercise particular care to be sure all dirt and mud is removed and the weapon is thoroughly dry before lubricating. Keep armament mount assemblies and components dry. Keep the weapons and mounts covered as much as possible when not in use.

HOT, DUSTY, AND SANDY AREAS:

1. In hot, dusty, and sandy areas, you need to inspect, clean, and lubricate more frequently. Lubricate your armament system as prescribed in the Technical Manual Lubrication instructions. Keep armament mount assemblies covered as much as possible to help keep sand and dust out of moving parts.

ROCKET LAUNCHERS & ROCKET PODS

1. Use environmental covers (Remove Before Flight).
2. If pods are not covered, clean more frequently.
3. Do not over lubricate.

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KIOWA WARRIOR:

1. Cover weapons whenever practical.
2. Clean and lubricate frequently.
3. Do not over lubricate.

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