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# AIR WEAPONS BULLETIN

IN-SERVICE WEAPONS SUPPORT DIVISION (CODE 556)

U. S. NAVAL ORDNANCE TEST STATION • CHINA LAKE, CALIFORNIA  
by C. BLENMAN, JR., CAPT, USN, Commander • WM. B. MCLEAN, PH.D., Technical Director

## SIDEWINDER 1A MK 15 AND MK 17 ROCKET MOTORS-- INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE,

THIS INFORMATION IS FOR ALL PERSONNEL WHO USE  
AND HANDLE THE SIDEWINDER 1A MISSILE SYSTEM

Some lot numbers of the Sidewinder 1A Mk 15 and Mk 17 rocket motors are susceptible to corrosion of the fuze contact subassembly. In some extreme cases, the fuze contact plunger becomes so severely corroded that it will not operate.

Before assembly and after disassembly of each Mk 15 or Mk 17 motor to the Mk 303 fuze, it is recommended that the following procedures be followed to ensure that the fuze contact is in working condition:

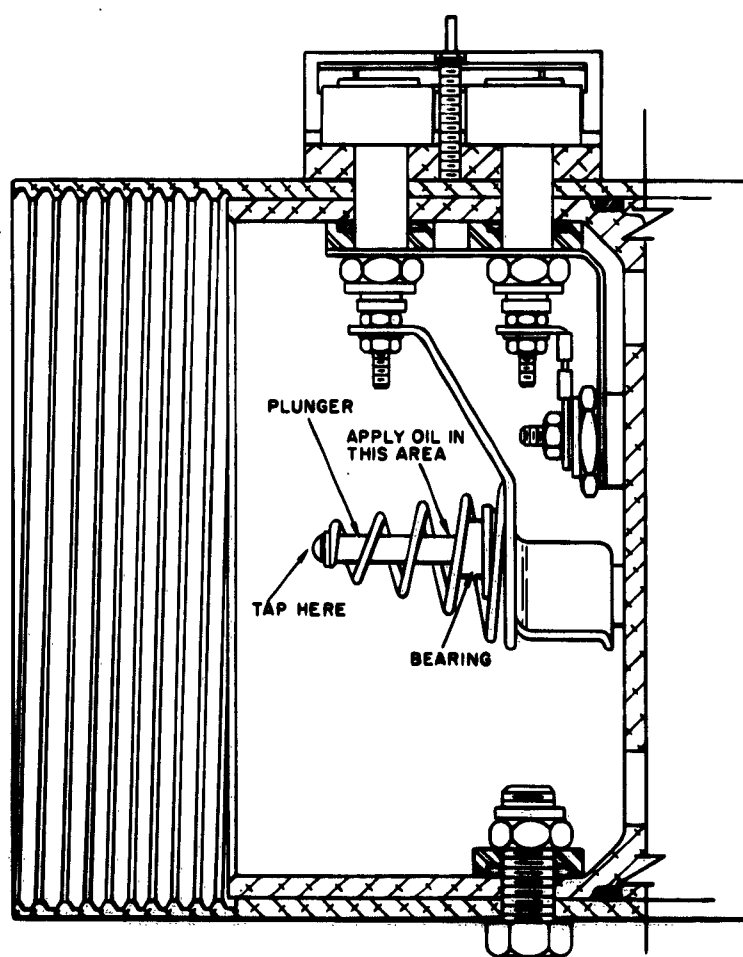
1. Ensure that the motor shorting clip is in place before assembly or disassembly.
2. Visually inspect the contact spring subassembly for corrosion and push the contact plunger to ensure that there is no binding between the plunger and the contact bearing.
3. If there is any indication of corrosion or binding of the contact plunger, REJECT the rocket motor and report the number of defective motors and the ammunition lot number to BuWeps and NOTS.
4. All defective in-service motors should be segregated and returned to a Naval Ammunition Depot for repair.

In case of an emergency need for the motors, the following field fix can be attempted (see figure). Place a drop of rust-inhibiting oil on the plunger adjacent to the bearing. Allow the oil to penetrate for several

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minutes. Wipe off the excess oil and products of corrosion. Gently tap the end of the plunger with a wooden mallet or other nonsparking tool until the plunger moves freely. If the plunger remains bound or is bent, reject the motor. If the plunger moves freely, apply a thin coat of bearing grease (MIL-G-16908, or equivalent) to the plunger shaft adjacent to the bearing.

REFERENCE: Bureau of Naval Weapons spdltr FWAA-27:TJC of 21 March 1961 to distribution list, Inspection and Maintenance of Rocket Motors, 5.0-Inch, Mk 15 and Mk 17.



(For initial distribution, see NOTS TP 3170, No. 1.)