

## **M153 CROWS - M240B / M249 MG "TOP-SIDE" PHYSICAL CLEARING PROCEDURES**

For Training Use Only - (Refer to TM 9-1090-219-10)

**This clearing procedure involves BOTH the GUNNER and Truck Commander (TC), it is not a "gunner only" procedure. Participation by the TC is KEY to preventing a negligent discharge (ND)**

1. **Gunner:** Ensure the "ARMED" switch on the Fire Control Unit (FCU) / Display and Control Panel (DCP) / Weapon Station Control Panel (WSCP) is in the "DOWN" position and the **Red Safety Cover** is down. **TC: VERIFY.**
2. While at the clearing barrel, the **TC: instructs the Gunner to put the CROWS into "Remote Safe"** (by flipping the "Remote Safe" switch up then returned to the down position).  
Once the system is in the Remote Safe mode, **BOTH Gunner and TC verifies** that the "Disabled" LED light is out in the Remote Safe field and "Remote Safe" is displayed on the lower right of the FCU/DCP.  
**TC: Go "top-side: and physically inspect the weapon station to ensure that the bolt on the weapon is being electronically held to the rear."**

### **CAUTION**

**Always keep clear from weapon station when any command is given to the gunner.**

3. **TC:** Once "Remote Safe" is verified, the **TC then removes the black elastic** band from around the charging handle and then follows the clearing procedures IAW [FM 3-22.68](#)\* for the Crew Served Weapon, Chapter 3: M240B Machine Gun and Chapter 1: M249 Machine Gun (attached to this PDF).
  - a) **TC:** While holding the resistance on the cocking handle, move the safety to the Safe Position by pushing it to the right until the **red ring is not visible.** (The **Gunner can only place the weapon on safe with the bolt locked fully to the rear.**)
  - b) **TC:** Return and lock the cocking handle to the forward position. (Task will not be able to be accomplished due to weapon being in Remote Safe.)
  - c) **TC:** Raise the cover and feed mechanism assembly, and conduct the four (M240B) or five (M249) point Safety Checks for brass, links, and/or ammunition:
    - 1) Check the feed pawl assembly under the feed cover.
    - 2) Check the feed tray/ tray assembly.
    - 3) Lift the feed tray/ tray assembly and inspect the chamber.
    - 4) Check the space between the face of the bolt and chamber: (M240B) as well as the space under the bolt and operating rod assembly (M249) Check the space between the bolt assembly and the chamber.
    - 5) (M249) Insert two fingers of left hand into magazine well to extract ammunition or brass.

### **WARNING**

**If a weapon jam occurs during mission/enemy contact keep weapon pointed at the enemy and complete the IMMEDIATE ACTION: "CHARGE THE WEAPON AND ATTEMPT TO FIRE." If it will not fire then REMEDIAL ACTION must be completed.**

**REMEDIAL ACTION (Steps 2 thru 5 of "Top Side" Physical Clearing Procedure.), should be conducted before movement (if possible/safe). Keep weapon pointed at the enemy/target; and when able; move to cover.**

- 1) Place CROWS System switch on "SAFE," 2) Activate "REMOTE SAFE," 3) Go topside, clear the weapon, reload, get back inside, 4) Deactivate "REMOTE SAFE," 5) Place the CROWS System switch on "FIRE" 6) Attempt to fire.

**Be advised: rough road conditions could possibly clear the jam and cause the bolt to go forward thus causing a ND.**

- c) **TC:** Close the cover and feed mechanism assembly, and move the safety to the "F" position. (TC then instructs Gunner to disable the Remote Safe by returning "Remote Safe" switch to the upward position in order to perform next clearing task)
  - d) **TC:** With his right hand, palm up, returns the cocking handle to the rear position.
  - e) **TC:** Press the trigger and at the same time ease the bolt forward by manually riding the cocking handle forward.
  - f) **TC:** After all ammo is cleared from the weapon and the barrel and the bolt is in the forward position; the TC then instructs the gunner to power down the CROWS by pressing the "POWER" button ONLY.
4. **TC: Return black elastic band to charging handle (only if weapon is staying mounted on weapon station.)**

### **NOTE**

**The TC is to make sure that the Gunner is NOT to return the "Remote Safe" to the down position before the system is powered "OFF" because this action will lock the bolt to the rear position once the system is powered "OFF."**

5. **Gunner:** Once the system is powered "OFF" then the "Remote Safe" switch is returned to the down position.

- FM 3-22.68, CREW SERVED WEAPONS:  
[http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/DR\\_pubs/dr\\_a/pdf/fm3\\_22x68.pdf](http://armypubs.army.mil/doctrine/DR_pubs/dr_a/pdf/fm3_22x68.pdf)
- TM 9-1090-219-10:  
<https://forums.army.mil/SECURE/CommunityBrowser.aspx?id=1788176&lang=en-US>