

W3: M249

Part One-Maintain an M249

Based on:

071-COM-4025-Maintain an M249 Machine Gun

071-COM-4026-Perform a Function Check on an M249 Machine Gun

Task: Clear, Disassemble, Assemble, and Perform a Functions Check on an M249 Machine Gun.

Condition: You are a member of a team that has just returned from a mission, and you have been directed to conduct maintenance on your Machine Gun.

Standard: Correctly clear and completely disassemble the M249 Machine Gun, matching the groups with the correct nomenclature within three minutes. Correctly assemble and perform functions check on the M249 Machine Gun within three minutes. Clear and Perform a Functions Check will be performed in sequence.

Requirements: An M249, on a flat surface, with the bipod legs extended. Starting configuration for weapon will be free of ammunition, on FIRE, with bolt forward. Basic maintenance tools. Target/safe direction for Candidate to point weapon. Material/flat surface that will prevent Candidate from losing parts to weapon with appropriate nomenclature group labels. Photos of parts with nomenclature labels will be available in training area. Use separate weapon for Part One and Two, ensuring to have enough for your projected number of candidates.

Clear and Disassemble:

Candidate will start from a standing position with the weapon resting on the flat surface.

1. Clear the weapon.
 - a. Point weapon in a safe direction. Ensure safety is on FIRE.
 - b. With the right-hand palm up, pull and hold the charging handle completely to the rear. While still holding the charging handle, place the weapon on SAFE.
 - c. Return the charging handle forward to the locked position.
 - d. Look away from the feed tray cover. Squeeze the cover latches and open the feed tray cover assembly upwards to open it. Remove ammunition belt and any loose links in the feed tray if present.
 - e. Conduct a five-point safety check. Check the feed pawl assembly under the feed tray cover assembly; check the feed tray assembly; lift the feed tray assembly and inspect the chamber; inspect the magazine well; inspect the space between the bolt face and the chamber as well as the space under the bolt and operating rod.
 - f. Lower and close the feed tray cover assembly ensuring it securely locks.
 - g. With the right-hand palm up, pull and hold the charging handle completely to the rear. Place the weapon on FIRE.
 - h. Press the trigger with the left hand and ease the bolt forward with the right hand until it locks in the forward position. Release the trigger.
2. Disassemble weapon into the following groups, ensuring all parts are on the correct nomenclature labels.
 - a. Driving spring and return rod transfer mechanism assembly. Separated.
 - b. Bolt, slide, and piston assemblies. Separated.
 - c. Heat shield, gas regulator, barrel.
 - d. Handguard and receiver assembly.
 - e. Buttstock and buffer assembly.
 - f. Trigger mechanism assembly.
 - g. Gas cylinder.
 - h. Bipod.

Time will stop when the Candidate returns to the standing position with all parts of the weapon on the flat surface.

Assemble and Perform a Functions Check:

Candidate will start from the last position in the previous task.

1. Assemble the weapon.
2. Perform a functions check.
 - a. Point weapon in a safe direction. Ensure safety is on FIRE.
 - b. With the right-hand palm up, pull and hold the charging handle completely to the rear. While still

holding the charging handle, place the weapon on SAFE.

c. Squeeze the trigger. The weapon should not fire.

d. Place the weapon on FIRE.

e. Press the trigger with the left hand and ease the bolt forward with the right hand until it locks in the forward position. Release the trigger.

Time will stop when the Candidate returns to the standing position with the weapon on the flat surface.

Part Two-Operate an M249

Based on:

071-COM-4025-Maintain an M249 Machine Gun

071-COM-4027-Load an M249 Machine Gun

071-COM-4029-Correct Malfunctions of an M249 Machine Gun

071-COM-4028-Unload an M249 Machine Gun

Task: Clear, load, fire until a stoppage occurs, perform immediate action, expend remaining ammunition, unload, and clear an M249 Machine Gun.

Condition: You are a member of a team conducting combat operations. You have a stoppage while engaging targets with your machine gun.

Standard: Correctly perform all steps, in sequence, within 30 seconds.

Requirements: An M249 Machine Gun and blank adaptor with blank ammunition; at least three good blank rounds, followed by one expended round, and three more good rounds. Starting configuration for the weapon will be free of ammunition, on FIRE, with the bolt forward. A target/safe direction for the Candidate to point the weapon. The weapon can alternatively be mounted on a vehicle or other type of fighting position. Hearing protection (part of the EIB uniform) must be worn when firing.

Candidate will start in the prone position not touching the weapon.

1. Clear the chamber area.
 - a. Point weapon in a safe direction. Ensure safety is on FIRE.
 - b. With the right-hand palm up, pull and hold the charging handle completely to the rear. While still holding the charging handle, place the weapon on SAFE.
 - c. Return the charging handle forward to the locked position.
 - d. Look away from the feed tray cover. Squeeze the cover latches and open the feed tray cover assembly upwards to open it. Remove ammunition belt and any loose links in the feed tray if present.
 - e. Conduct a five-point safety check. Check the feed pawl assembly under the feed tray cover assembly; check the feed tray assembly; lift the feed tray assembly and inspect the chamber; inspect the magazine well; inspect the space between the bolt face and the chamber as well as the space under the bolt and operating rod.
2. Load the weapon.
 - a. Can't the M249 to the right.
 - b. Place the first round of the belt, with the open side of the links facing downward, in the feed tray groove against the cartridge stop.
 - c. Hold the ammunition belt in place on the feed tray with your left hand and close the feed tray cover assembly with your right hand.
3. Place the weapon on FIRE and engage your target.
4. Take immediate action to correct a failure to fire.
 - a. Keep the M249 on your shoulder. Pull the charging handle (right hand/palm up) to the rear.
 - b. Observe the ejection port to see if a cartridge case, belt link, or round ejects. **If nothing ejects, lock the bolt to the rear and proceed to clear the M249.**
 - c. If a cartridge case, belt link, or round ejects, push the charging handle forward.
 - d. Squeeze the trigger and continue to engage your target. **Proceed to clear the weapon if it does not fire.**
5. Unload and clear the weapon.
 - a. Point weapon in a safe direction.
 - b. If the bolt is forward, ensure the safety is on FIRE before moving the bolt/operating rod assembly. If the bolt is fully locked to the rear, ensure the safety is on SAFE and proceed to (step e).
 - c. With the right-hand palm up, pull and hold the charging handle to the rear and place the weapon on SAFE.
 - d. Return the charging handle forward to the locked position.
 - e. Look down and away from the feed tray cover. Squeeze the cover latches and open the feed tray cover assembly. Remove ammunition belt and any loose links in the feed tray if present.
 - f. Conduct a five-point safety check. Check the feed pawl assembly under the feed tray cover assembly; check the feed tray assembly; lift the feed tray assembly and inspect the chamber; inspect the magazine well; inspect the space between the bolt face and the chamber as well as the space under the bolt

and operating rod.

- g. Lower and close the feed tray cover assembly ensuring it securely locks.
- h. With the right-hand palm up, pull and hold the charging handle to the rear. Place the weapon on FIRE.
- i. Press the trigger with the left hand and ease the bolt forward with the right hand until it locks in the forward position. Release the trigger.