

# Getting the Best Out of Bearings

If bearings in your main rotor hub are failing, chances are the first failure was in preventive maintenance. When the grease doesn't do its job in the grease-lubricated main rotor hub, the bearing will groove the race and fail.

The preventive maintenance key is keeping fresh grease in the hub. Fig 1-5 of TM 55-1520-228-23-1 gives a lube interval of every 25 hours, but you should think of that as the maximum interval. There are many factors, like climate and soil, that could lessen the interval.

If you operate in a hot, sandy area, for example, that interval may need to be as low as 10 hours.

Preventing failures is what PM is all about. If you're wearing out bearings and races, ask your commander to lower that 25 hours to 20 hours. Watch your repair record. Reduce time until you're getting maximum performance out of the bearings.

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