

# Tips from the Rechargeable Front

Dear Half-Mast,

During our 6-month mission in Kosovo, we estimate the 3/504th Parachute Infantry Regiment saved more than a half million dollars by using rechargeable batteries instead of relying solely on lithium batteries.

Here are a few things we learned about rechargeable batteries that need to be considered before units deploy:

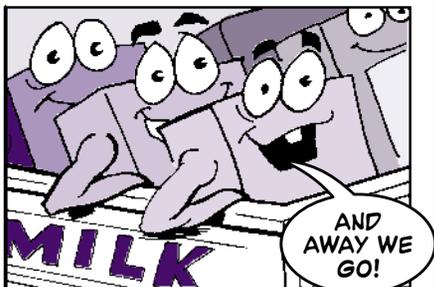
- Make sure you replace all BB-390 and BB-388 batteries that cannot be charged to full capacity after 2 hours of uninterrupted charging (13.25 volts per section).



- Test all your chargers and adapters. Replace the bad ones. A good time to isolate both of these problems is during the training cycle preceding your deployment.



- Pack the batteries for transportation in milk-type crates to prevent damage.



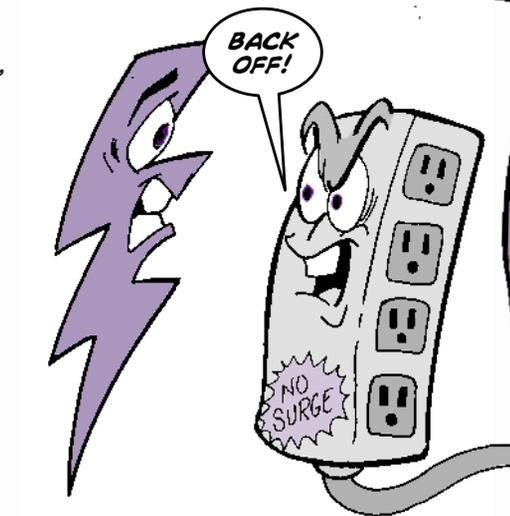
- Pack enough portable radios, pre-charged rechargeable batteries, chargers and J-6518/U multistation adapters to establish your battalion level nets immediately upon arrival.
- Plan for the possibility that your only immediate power supply for recharging batteries might be using the PP-8444A/U charger connected to your vehicle. That means having enough J-6363, 24-volt vehicular cables, NSN 5940-01-427-9395, on hand to meet your needs.



Convert all PP-8444/U chargers, NSN 6130-01-427-9604, to PP-8444A/U, NSN 6130-01-443-0970, by having your DS replace the power supply board or order a new charger.

The power supply board in the PP-8444/U operates on 90-125 volts AC. Since overseas you're going to run into 220-volt power, you'll need to use a voltage converter...and they don't work well with the chargers! In short order, the power supply board in your PP-8444/U will burn up.

The replacement power supply board in the PP-8444A/U operates on 100-250 volts AC, so you won't need that converter.



- Bring high-capacity voltage surge protectors for all electronic systems including your chargers because you're going to encounter some major league voltage spiking.

SFC Brook Reinhold  
3/504th Para Inf Regt  
Ft Bragg, NC

Dear Sergeant Reinhold,

Super job, Sergeant. You and the soldiers of the 3/504th get a well-deserved pat-on-the-back.

For more on rechargeable battery equipment and how to determine field requirements, see our March issue, PS 568.

*Half-Mast*