

Friend or Foe?

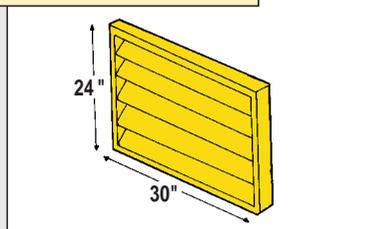
Combat is dangerous enough without having to worry about being shot at by someone on your own side. That's where combat identification panels (CIPs) come in.

What are CIPs?

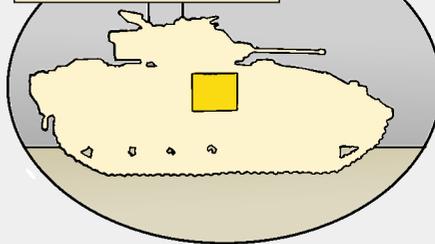
CIPs are 24 x 30-in panels that are covered with a special thermal tape. When mounted on the front, back and sides of a vehicle, the panels are seen as a contrasting "cold spot" when viewed through a thermal-imaging device.

That tells a gunner if the vehicle is friendly or unknown.

CIPs measure 24 x 30 inches



Panels will appear as 'cold spot' through thermal viewer



The panels mount to the vehicle using bolts, hook-and-pile tape, or mounting frames. The back side is painted with CARC, so you can turn the system on or off by simply turning the panels.

How Do You Get CIPs?

CIPs are being fielded initially as free-issue items. They come in kits that include from three to five panels, depending on the vehicle. The kits are available in green or tan to match the camouflage colors for individual vehicles. All mounting hardware is included with the kits.

CIPs Can Tell

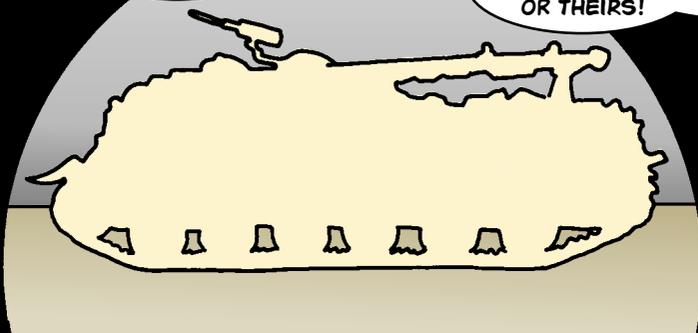


AFTER INITIAL FREE DISTRIBUTION, UNITS MUST ORDER CIP REPLACEMENTS THROUGH NORMAL SUPPLY CHANNELS. HERE ARE THE NSNs FOR THE KITS...

Vehicle	Green, NSN 5180-01-	Tan, NSN 5180-01-	Vehicle	Green, NSN 5180-01-	Tan, NSN 5180-01-
M1A1/A2 Tank	394-7838	394-2534	D5B Tractor	400-1810	400-1809
M2A1/M3A1 Bradley	398-5167	398-7198	Fox NBC Vehicle	398-5174	398-5173
M2A2/M3A2 Bradley	398-5169	398-5170	M1025, M1026, M1043, M1044 HMMWV	398-7193	398-7195
MLRS	398-5172	398-5171	M966, M1036, M1045, M1046 HMMWV	398-7189	398-7190
M113A2 FOV	398-5166	398-5164	M996, M997 HMMWV	398-7187	398-7188
M113A3 FOV	398-5165	398-5168	M1037, M1042, M1097 HMMWV	398-7191	398-7192
M88A1 Recovery Vehicle	394-2530	394-2531	M998, M1038 HMMWV (2-dr cab w/side mounted antennas)	411-2566	411-4393
M578 Recovery Vehicle	421-7067	421-7060	M998, M1035, M1038, M1097, M1109 HMMWV (w/o side antennas)	406-0481	398-7194
AVLB	392-1565	392-1566	Avenger	398-7196	398-7197
M992A2 Ammo Carrier	398-5177	398-5178			
M109A2-A5 SP Howitzer	398-5176	398-5175			
M109A6 Paladin	398-5179	398-5180			
SEE	398-5161	398-5163			
M9 ACE	399-6773	399-6774			

SHOULD WE FIRE?

WAIT! I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S OURS OR THEIRS!



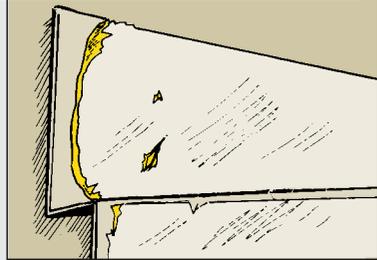
During initial fielding, units are also given a compact disk that provides mounting instructions, an NSN list of individual replacement parts, replacement procedures, care and maintenance, and thermal images of CIP-installed vehicles.

Once you have the CIPs installed, keep them in good shape with PMCS.

Before Operation

- Eyeball the CIPs to make sure they're securely attached to the vehicle. If you see bends in the CIP brackets, try to straighten them. Report panels that are missing or can't be repaired.
- Check the painted surface of the panels for damage. Spot paint with CARC if needed. Never paint over the thermal tape.
- Inspect the panel for loose, missing or peeling thermal tape. Loose tape should be repaired using adhesive, NSN 8030-00-753-5004. Replace missing green tape with NSN 8135-01-390-7410 and tan tape with NSN 8135-01-392-2928. Each NSN brings a 3³/₄-in x 150-ft roll of self-adhering thermal tape.

Repair or replace damaged thermal tape



- Keep the panels clear of dirt, dust, mud and sand. Use a soft, clean cloth

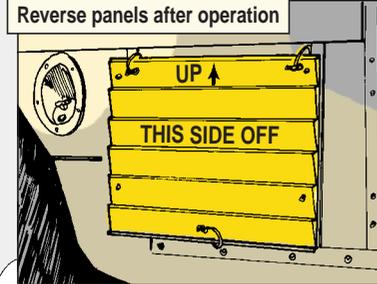
to wipe off the panels. If the tape's covered, you won't project a good image—in more ways than one.

- If the panels are mounted using hook-and-pile tape, make sure it is securely attached to the vehicle. The tape should be clean and free of debris.

During Operation

When operational conditions allow, make the following checks:

- Report any missing or damaged CIPs.
- Replace any missing thermal tape.
- Wipe the panels with a soft, clean cloth. The panels will need cleaning



more often in dusty environments to ensure a strong thermal signature.

After Operation

- Report any missing or damaged CIPs.
- Repair minor damage to the brackets, panels or panel inserts.
- Replace any missing or damaged thermal tape or hook-and-pile tape.
- Wash the CIPs with low-pressure water. Then dry them with a soft, clean cloth.
- Reverse the panels so the CARC side faces out.

- Remove the panels before washing your vehicle. High-pressure water can knock the CIPs off and damage them.

More Info

User's Guide No 95-3, *Combat Identification Quick Fix Devices*, provides information on training and techniques for vehicles equipped with CIPs. To get a copy, write to:

HQ TRADOC
TRADOC Program Integration Office-
Combat Identification
Attn: ATCD-Q (Mike Brown)
Ft Monroe, VA 23651-5000

Or call DSN 680-3475 or (257) 727-3475. Or send an e-mail to:

brownm2@monroe.army.mil

MORE INFORMATION
ON CIP. CALL THE CIP
ITEM MANAGER AT TACOM.
CALL DSN 786-7210 OR
(810) 574-7210.

