

## BB-3390A RECHARGEABLE

## RUMORS



**S**ome of you are not giving the BB-390A rechargeable battery, NSN 6140-01-419-8187, a fair shot to do your SINCGARS' power job.

Here are some of the rumors the soldier's grapevine is spreading about the BB-390As.

**RUMOR: THE BB-390As DON'T HAVE ENOUGH LIFE BETWEEN CHARGES. WE'RE ONLY GETTING 3 TO 6 HOURS OF USE OUT OF THEM.**



This is a real problem, but it's easily solved. The BB-390As need a break-in period. If you use them straight out of the box, you'll probably only get about 6 hours of use out of them.

When you get a new BB-390A, fully charge it before the first use with the PP-8444/U charger, NSN 6130-01-427-9604 or PP-8444A/U, NSN 6130-01-443-0970. Use it in garrison or other locations where the battery's first use time of only a few hours will not be too important.

Prior to the next charge cycle, ensure the BB-390A is fully drained in your equipment or by the PP-8448/U discharger, NSN 6130-01-430-3108.

Then recharge the battery.

Repeat the discharge/charge cycle one more time.

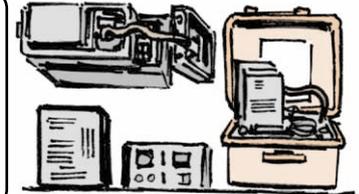
After the next charge, you should start getting 12 to 18 hours of use between recharges.

**RUMOR: IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET A BB-390A FULLY CHARGED. NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU CHARGE IT, THE STATE OF CHARGE (SOC) INDICATOR WILL NEVER SHOW A FULL CHARGE.**

A BB-390A should take about 2 hours to fully recharge. If after 2 hours, the SOC indicator does not show a full charge—at least four out of the five segments lighted—the problem is probably with the indicator, not the battery.

Check the charge with a voltmeter. Use pins 1 & 4 and 2 & 5 to check each 12-volt section of the battery. If you get 13.25 volts or more on each section of the battery, your battery is fully charged and the SOC indicator is damaged.

**RUMOR: THE BA-5590 BATTERY, NSN 6135-01-036-3495, COSTS LESS THAN \$100. ONE BB-390A, A CHARGING UNIT AND AN ADAPTER, NSN 5940-01-427-9110, COSTS MORE THAN \$1,000. IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO SPEND THAT MUCH MONEY.**



The small picture shows it's true that you can get about 15 BA-5590s for the cost of one BB-390A and its necessary rechargeable hardware. But the big picture shows the real cost savings comes from using the rechargeable.

A BA-5590 lasts about 24 hours and then it's dead. A BB-390A can be recharged more than 200 times. Every charge after the first 15 saves your unit the cost of one BA-5590.

Even though there is some cost to recharging, before the BB-390A dies your unit will have saved several thousand dollars for each SINCGARS!

Don't listen to the grapevine and forget the rumors. Give the BB-390A a fair shot to do your SINCGARS power chores. Clinging to the BA-5590 for training and garrison duties is not only costing your unit money, but it's going against the directive on rechargeable battery use in DA memo DALO-SMR, 29 Aug 97.