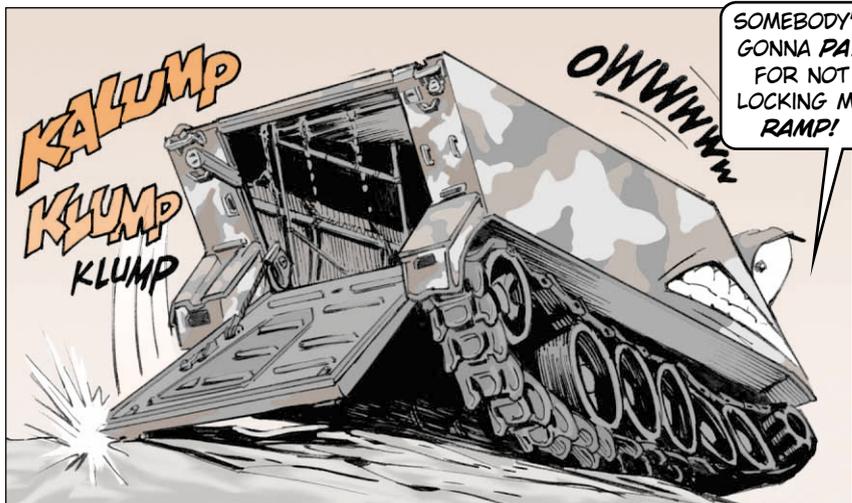
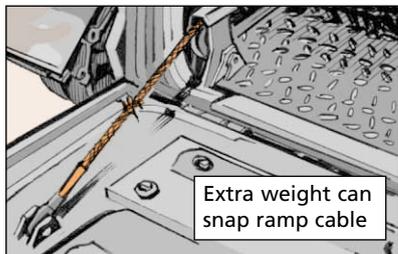


KEEP RAMP READY



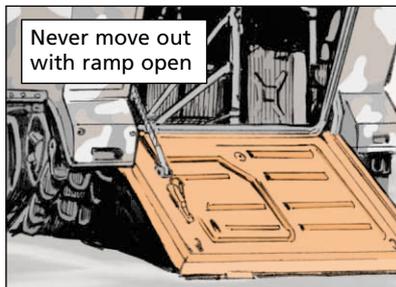
Crewmen, if you want the ramp on your M113-series carrier to work on the battlefield, take good care of it now.

* Never store equipment on the ramp. It's not a storage rack for tent poles, concertina wire and camouflage nets. The ramp is heavy enough as it is. Extra weight will just break the ramp cable or damage the hydraulic pump.



Extra weight can snap ramp cable

* Don't move the carrier while the ramp is down or not fully locked. That warps the ramp so it won't seal, breaks the locks and damages the hinges.



Never move out with ramp open

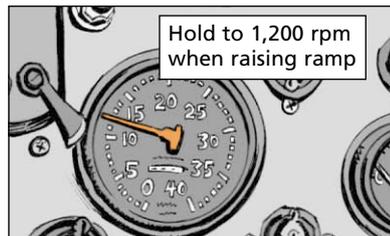
Moving with an open ramp can also break the ramp cable and damage the pump. So make sure the ramp is fully up and locked before you move out.

* Lock the ramp door, too. An unlocked door will fly open suddenly when the ramp is lowered. That breaks the door's hinges and can ruin the ramp's hydraulics.



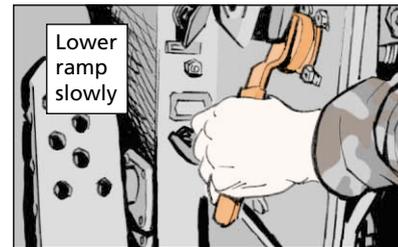
Make sure door is locked before lowering ramp

* Don't race the engine to raise the ramp faster. It takes 15-20 seconds to raise the ramp at 1,200 rpm. It'll go up quicker at higher rpm—if the ramp pump survives, that is. Go slow and save the pump.



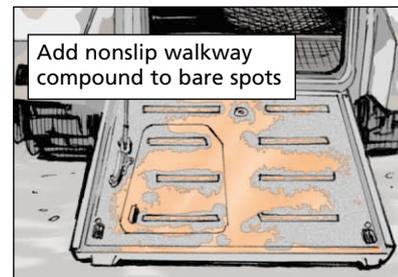
Hold to 1,200 rpm when raising ramp

* Never drop the ramp too hard or on uneven ground. That puts a strain on the hinges, pump and cable. Once again, slow and steady is the way to go.



Lower ramp slowly

* Eyeball the ramp's nonslip coating. A worn surface makes for tricky footing, especially in wet weather.



Add nonslip walkway compound to bare spots

Recoat a worn ramp like this:

1. Wash the surface thoroughly with soap and hot water. Use a nylon scrub brush to remove dirt, grease and loose paint. Rinse with hot water to further cut grease and oil.
2. Let the ramp dry completely.
3. Use a paint brush—such as NSN 8020-00-245-4516—to apply nonslip walkway compound to all the bare patches. NSN 8010-00-141-7838 gets a gallon of the olive drab compound.
4. Allow the compound to dry for 24 hours before stepping on it.

