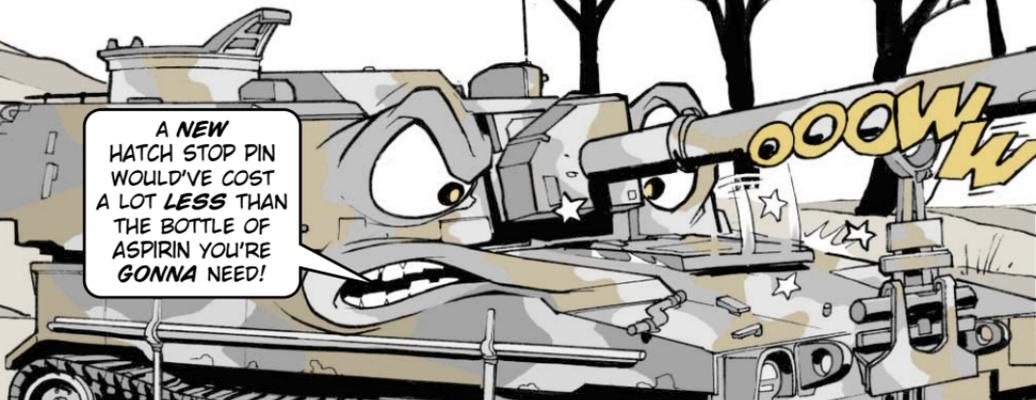


Treat Hatch Pin with TLC



Easy does it when you swing open the driver's hatch on your Paladin. If you use more force than necessary, you'll snap the small pin that holds the driver's hatch stop in place.

That snapped pin makes your howitzer NMC because the hatch can no longer be secured. Item 77 of the PMCS table in TM 9-2350-314-10 gives the NMC low-down.

Don't be tempted to use an unauthorized field fix to keep the hatch stop in operation, either. If you're one of those drivers who thinks you can substitute a cotter pin or nail to keep your Paladin off the NMC list, think again.

Those quick fixes aren't made for the job. If they last long enough, the hatch stop, NSN 2510-00-774-6550, is damaged and has to be replaced. And if the quick fix gives out...well, let's just say you don't want your head in the way of an unsecured hatch.

So take it easy on the original pins by opening the hatch gently. Then, if one of the pins gets lost or broken, replace it with NSN 5315-00-584-1731.

Some units keep a few extra pins on hand. They don't cost much—less than \$1 each—and you'll be able to keep your howitzer FMC by immediately replacing any broken pins.

