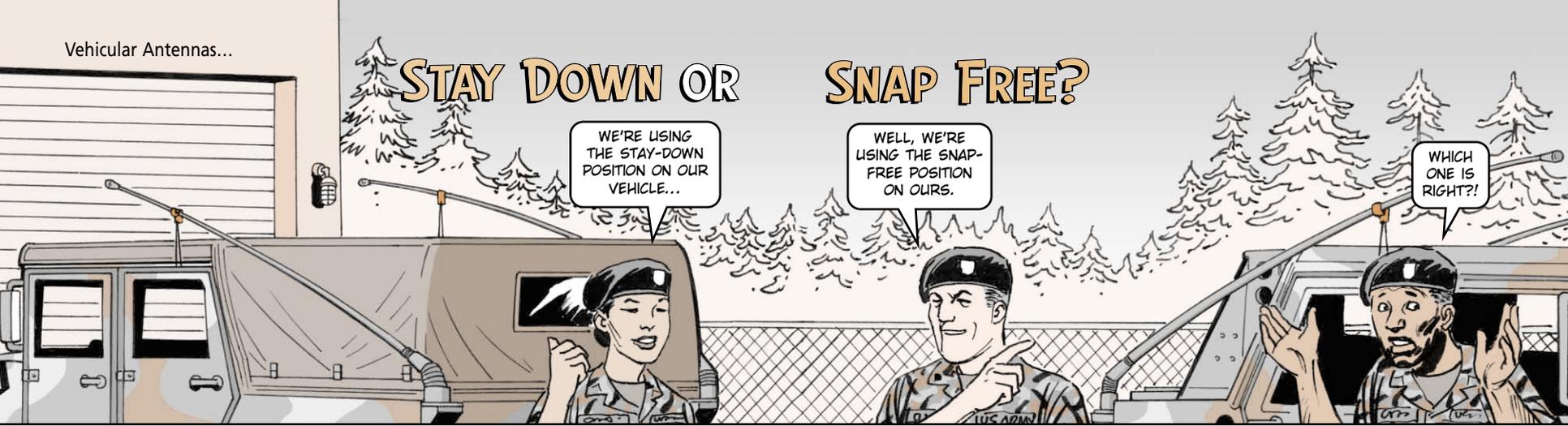


STAY DOWN OR SNAP FREE?



Dear Half-Mast,

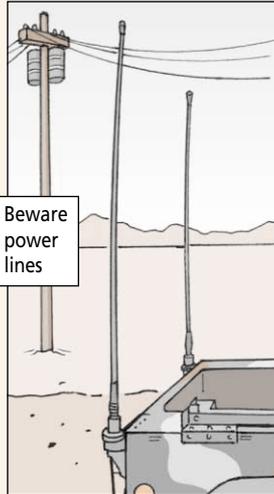
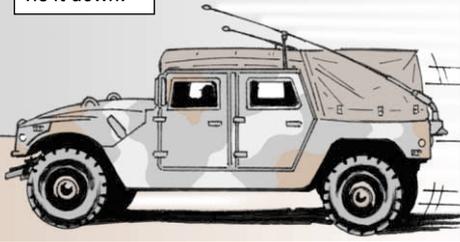
We use both the clamp and the clip to hold down our AS-3900 and AS-1729 antennas. My question is, when do we use the stay-down position and when do we use the snap-free position on the clamp and the clip?

Pvt D.L.A.

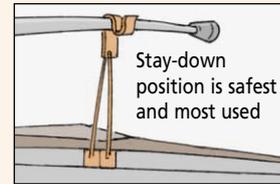
Dear Private D.L.A.,

Even though it decreases your radio's range with the antenna tied down, you should keep a vehicular antenna tied down when you are on the move. Having the antenna waving in the air greatly increases your risk of hitting a power line or an overpass.

On the move?
Tie it down!



The majority of time (and always in garrison) the antenna should be in the stay-down slot of the clip or clamp. You do not want the antenna bouncing free and striking a power line or other overhead obstruction.



Stay-down position is safest and most used

However, the stay-down position does have its own safety problems. If you hit an obstruction with the antenna locked down, the antenna will shatter and could cause serious injury from flying parts.

So, if you are operating in the field away from all overhead obstructions except trees, you can put the antenna in the snap-free position. That way, if you hit a tree limb, the antenna will spring up and not break.

Additional information can be found in TB 43-0129, Safety Requirements for Use of Antenna and Mast Equipment. Read it on the web at: <http://www.monmouth.army.mil/cecom/safety/spub/tb430129.pdf>

As a rule of thumb, though, the safest and by far the most used position should be the stay-down one.

Half-Mast

THIS IS WHY YOU TIE YOUR ANTENNAS DOWN!

