

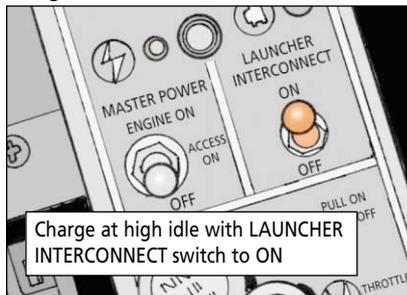
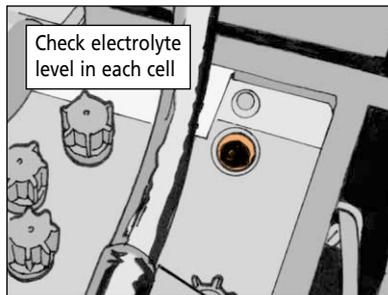
GET A CHARGE OUT OF CHARGING

YIKES!
WITHOUT
LM POWER,
I CAN'T
FIRE BACK!

The MLRS' launcher module (LM) is only as effective as the batteries and charging systems onboard. If the LM batteries aren't in good shape before you go to the field, or aren't given a chance to recover after use, you'll come up short on power—maybe at a critical time.

PMCS

Before you go to the field, check the battery electrolyte level in each of the battery cells. If it's low, get your mechanic to add distilled water. Then run the engine at high idle—1,200 to 1,400 rpm—for 15-20 minutes with the LAUNCHER INTERCONNECT switch turned on to recharge the batteries.

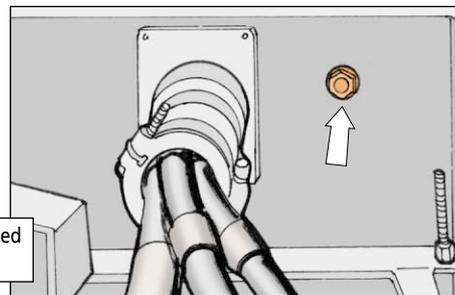


Next, check for corrosion around the battery terminals and clamps. Your mechanic can clean away corrosion with a mixture of baking soda and water.

Gently tug at the battery post connections to see if they are loose. Get your mechanic to tighten loose ones.

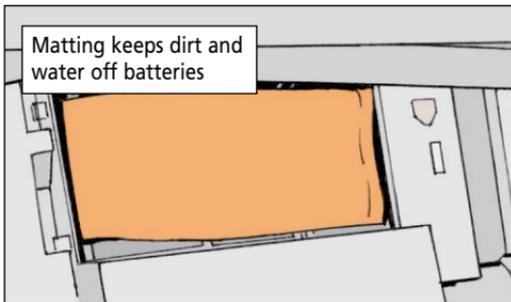
Just because new batteries have been installed is no reason to assume they're fully charged. Run the engine at high idle for 15-20 minutes with the LAUNCHER INTERCONNECT switch on to charge 'em.

Eyeball the gaskets that go under the eight bolts that hold the battery and electronics boxes together. If the gaskets are missing or damaged, water gets into the boxes and causes corrosion and electrical problems.



Before closing the battery box, give the batteries some extra protection by covering them with rubber matting. Matting keeps water and dirt off the tops of the batteries.

NSN 9320-01-168-1513 brings a 7½-ft long sheet of matting. Just cut it to fit the battery box.



In the Field

Even with perfect batteries and a charging system that's working right, you can operate on battery power alone for only 20 minutes. So operate the LM with the engine running at high idle as much as possible. That'll provide enough juice to recharge the batteries and run the LM.

Check the batteries' electrolyte levels daily in the field. Operating with a high load requirement can dry out the batteries fast.



In the Motor Pool

Don't let your MLRS sit idle for long periods. At least weekly, run the engine at high idle for 30 minutes with the LAUNCHER INTERCONNECT switch on to keep the carrier and LM batteries charged.

During semiannual maintenance, you and your mechanic need to pull all the LM batteries and check the battery box for corrosion. If you spot any, rub it off with a wire brush and spot paint the bare area with zinc chromate primer, NSN 8010-00-515-2208.

When the primer dries, coat the box with corrosion preventive compound, NSN 8030-01-134-6513, before reinstalling the batteries.

