

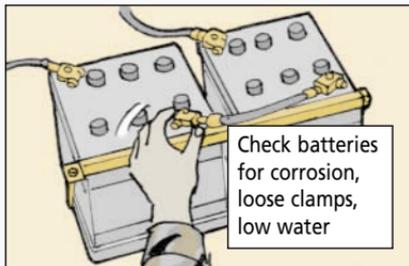
DON'T BE LEFT POWERLESS



Being unable to launch Patriot missiles because the launcher has no power will not earn you gold stars from your CO. But that's the situation too many Patriot crews run into because they've neglected the 15-KW generators for the launcher. Don't be powerless because of lack of PM.

Regular PMCS is the best way to empower the launcher generators. At least every two weeks, check the generators' batteries for loose clamps, corrosion, and low water in the cells.

After you've finished, start the generators and let the batteries recharge for an hour. Report missing fan guards. The guards prevent sliced-off fingers. If the generators sit idle for weeks with no attention, count on the batteries going dead.



When you shut down the generator, remember to shut off the panel lights. If the lights are left on, the batteries can be drained by the lights. Also remember to turn the dead crank switch to OFF at shut-down. That prevents accidental cranking of the generator during PMCS, which could electrocute somebody or slice off fingers.

But remember at startup, the dead crank switch must be turned to NORMAL. Otherwise, nothing will happen when you try to crank up the generator. This is not mentioned in the startup procedure in TM 9-6115-643-10, so you might want to make a note.

