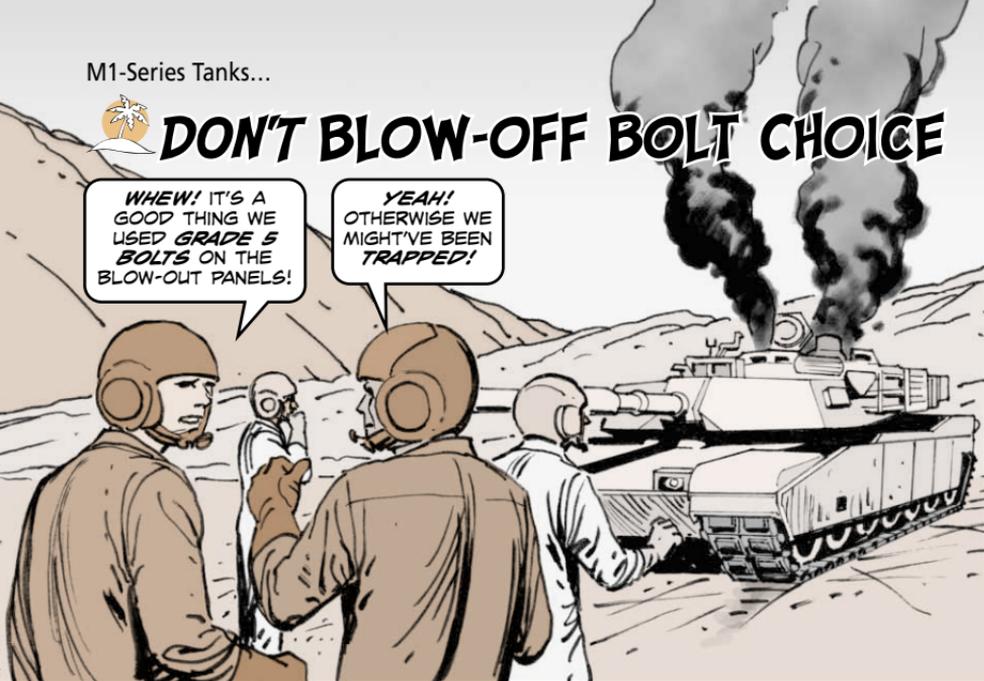




DON'T BLOW-OFF BOLT CHOICE

WHEW! IT'S A GOOD THING WE USED **GRADE 5 BOLTS** ON THE BLOW-OUT PANELS!

YEAH! OTHERWISE WE MIGHT'VE BEEN TRAPPED!



The blow-off panels on your M1A1 tank are designed to blow clear if the ammunition in the turret bustle explodes.

That's exactly what happened to a tank that took an RPG and mortar round hit to the blow-off panels during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Because the panels worked, the trapped driver was able to escape without injury.

The key to blow-off panel success is using Grade 5 bolts. Using any other bolt—Grade 8, for example—may not allow the panels to blow.

So how do you tell? Look at the head of the bolt. If it has three dashes, it's a Grade 5 bolt.

There are three different blow-off configurations for the M1A1 tank. So use the right Grade 5 bolt for each.

Configuration 1 has separate stand-alone blow-off panels and uses Grade 5 bolt, NSN 5305-01-345-1246. Configurations 2 and 3 have blow-off panels that are part of the ammo rack. Ammo rack, NSN 2590-01-331-6170, takes Grade 5 bolt, NSN 5305-01-340-5652. Use Grade 5 bolt, NSN 5305-01-385-6814, if your tank has the commander's ammo rack, NSN 2590-01-428-7013, or loader's ammo rack, NSN 2590-01-439-8620.

The blow-off panels for the M1A2 and M1A2 SEP tank also use Grade 5 bolt, NSN 5305-01-385-6814.

Three dashes?
It's a Grade 5 bolt

