

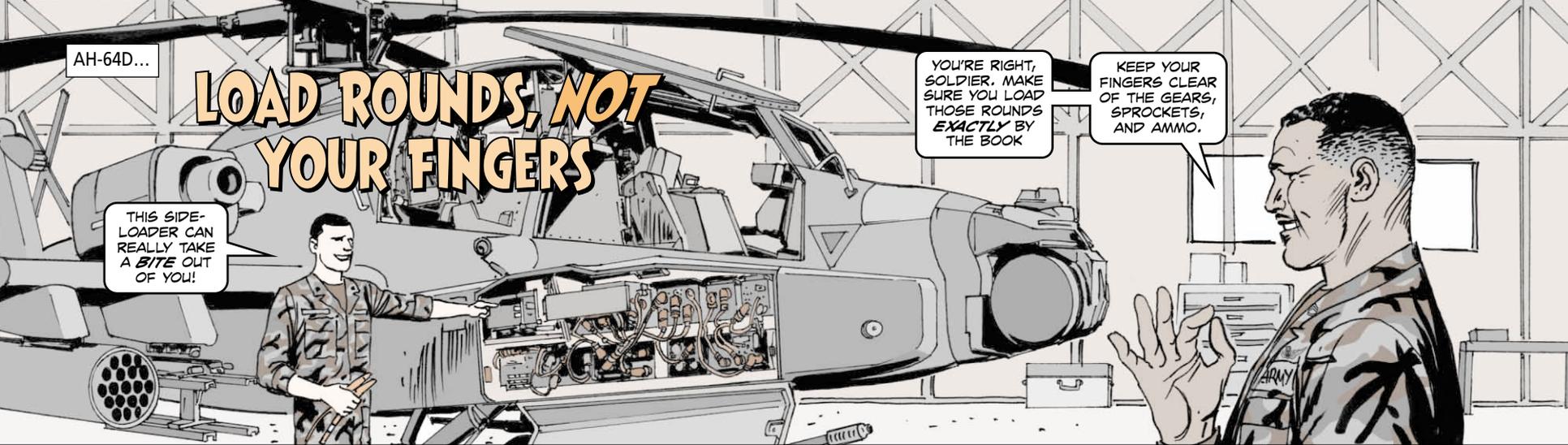
AH-64D...

LOAD ROUNDS, NOT YOUR FINGERS

THIS SIDE-LOADER CAN REALLY TAKE A BITE OUT OF YOU!

YOU'RE RIGHT, SOLDIER. MAKE SURE YOU LOAD THOSE ROUNDS EXACTLY BY THE BOOK

KEEP YOUR FINGERS CLEAR OF THE GEARS, SPROCKETS, AND AMMO.



Dear SFC Blade,

We have a problem with soldiers getting their fingers caught in the side-loader while loading 30mm ammo on the Apache.

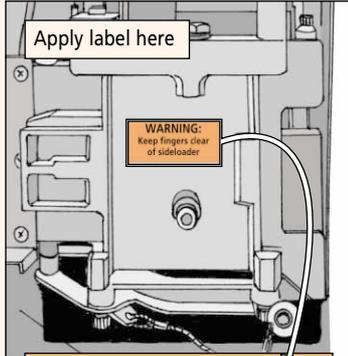
During field exercises, because of the rapid pace of the forward area ammo refueling point (FAARP) operations, soldiers don't always pay attention to the warnings or cautions in the IETM about the side-loader.

The lip inside the loader is damaged when the declutching block is inserted wrong. When ammo trays are damaged, rounds won't load correctly and may fall out.

In either case, the armament soldiers use a finger to push the round into the loader while uploading and then CRUNCH... their finger gets smashed between the round and the loader.

We've come up with a way to remind soldiers to keep their fingers out of harm's way. We made a warning label out of sticker paper with black lettering and placed it on the side-loader as a reminder. It says, "WARNING: Keep fingers clear of side-loader."

SSG William Popplo
2/101 Avn
Ft Campbell, KY



WARNING:
Keep fingers clear
of side-loader

Dear SSG Popplo,

Good idea, especially when you're hustlin' to load ammo. Remember, keep fingers clear of the side-loader gears, sprockets and ammunition. Head off loading problems by never using damaged ammo trays and correctly stowing the declutch wedge like the IETM says.

Rotor Blade

Keep fingers within guide tabs, especially when loading loose rounds

