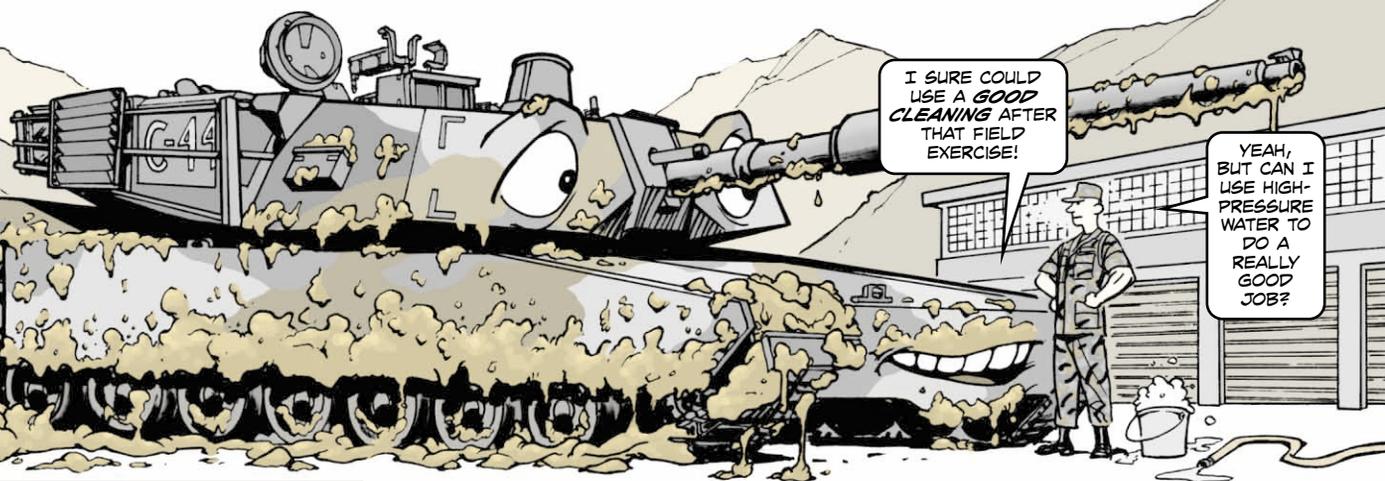


HIGH-PRESSURE WATER, YES OR NO?



Dear Half-Mast,

When cleaning our M1A1 tank after a field exercise, we've been told it's OK to use high-pressure water by some folks, while others say it's definitely off limits.

Can you give us the real low-down?

SSG P.S.J.,

Dear Sergeant P.S.J.,

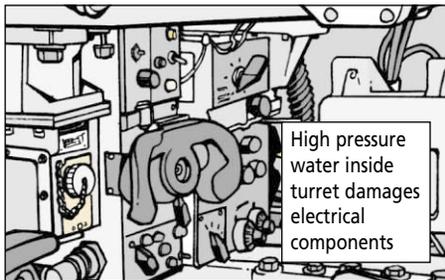
Sure can. The answer is yes...and no. Some parts of the tank are off limits while others are OK for high-pressure water or steam. Let me explain.

Inside the Turret

You should **never** use high-pressure water or steam inside the turret or driver's station. It forces water inside high dollar line replaceable unit (LRU) components.

The water creates electrical shorts, corrodes connectors and receptacles, ruins circuit cards and generally causes all kinds of expensive havoc.

If the inside of your turret needs cleaning, use a nylon bristle brush and a bucket of soapy water to clean it. Rinse with clean water from a bucket and make sure the drain valves are open so water can drain out of the hull.



Use bucket of soapy water and brush for cleaning



Don't use the brush on electrical components. Instead, wipe them down with a damp—not soaking wet—cloth. Be careful not to get water into electrical connectors.

See Step 12 under Cleaning and Lubrication in your -10-1 TM's PMCS for more information.

Outside the Turret

It's OK to clean the outside of the tank with steam or water as long as you follow the precautions spelled out in Step 13 under Cleaning and Lubrication in your -10-1 TM's PMCS.

Pay special attention to Item 13e, which says to close all open hatches, grilles, and access doors. Although not specifically stated, this means you should also activate the turret's inflatable seal to protect the race ring from water damage.

An uninflated seal allows water, dirt and other contaminants to be forced inside the race ring. Grease is washed away and corrosion starts. That leads to damage to the springs, ball bearings, and race ring.

The inflatable seal is found on most M1 and M1A1 tanks and on some M1A2 tanks. If your tank doesn't have the seal, **do not** use high-pressure water or steam around the race ring area.

Don't forget to grease the race ring monthly with WTR, too. That keeps corrosion away and the race ring turning smoothly.

Half-Mast

