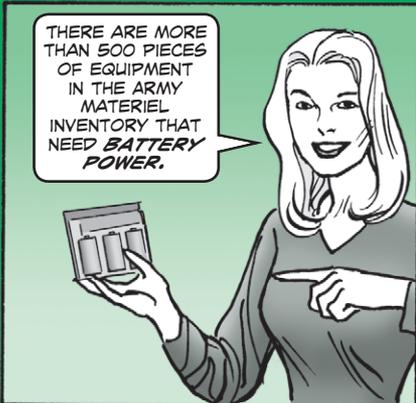
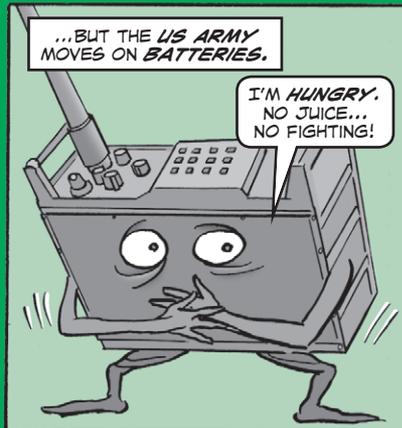


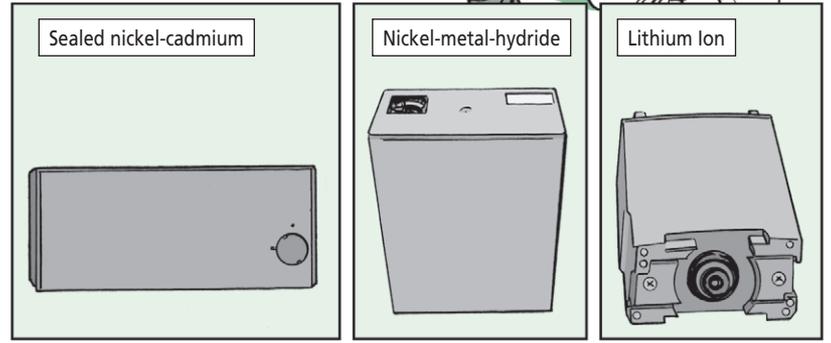
It's Elementary!



So, if you're a commo equipment user, maintainer or repairer, you need to know some battery basics. Here are a few of those basics:

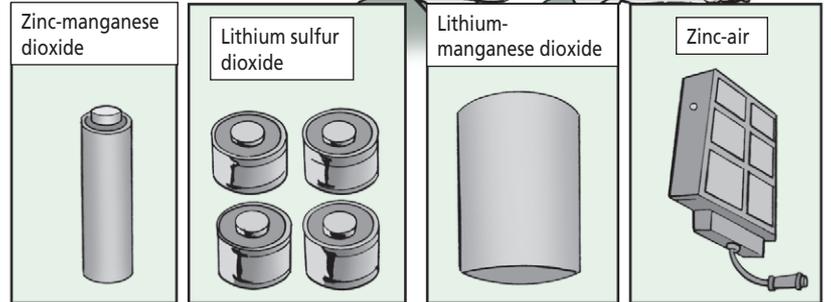
Communications batteries are either rechargeable or non-rechargeable. Rechargeables are reused after being recharged by a battery charger. Non-rechargeable batteries are sometimes called primary batteries, but that name isn't used by the Army. They're also known as "throw-aways" or disposable, because they are used once and discarded.

THE **RECHARGEABLE** BATTERIES FOUND IN PORTABLE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT START WITH **BB-** AND ARE...



If you need info on charging these batteries, visit the battery support website: <https://lrcteams.monmouth.army.mil/QuickPlace/ipm/Main.nsf>

THE **NON-RECHARGEABLE** BATTERIES FOUND IN PORTABLE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT START WITH **BA-** AND ARE...



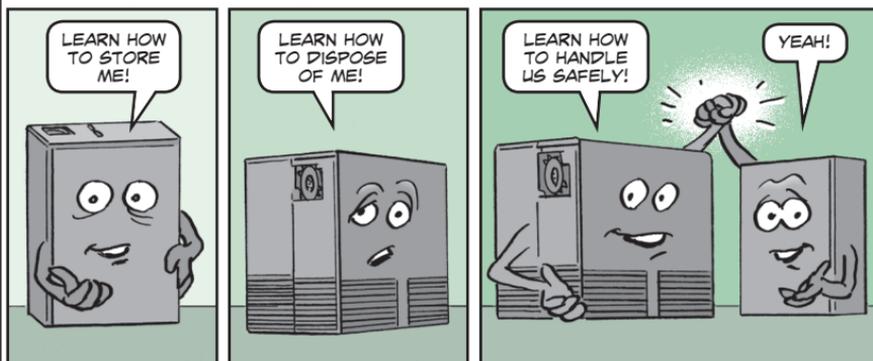
In both types of batteries, the first element listed indicates the anode—the negative electrode—of the battery and the second element the cathode—the positive electrode.

It is important to know the composition of the battery you're using in order to handle it and dispose of it right. Some batteries are considered hazardous material and you must take special precautions when handling and disposing of them. Other batteries may explode or burn when mishandled. Once you know the kind of battery you're dealing with, look it up in TB 43-0134. The TB will give you specific precautions and restrictions.

Sulfur-dioxide used as the cathode in the lithium sulfur-dioxide batteries is toxic. Its fumes in high concentrations can cause paralysis and worse. However, when there is sulfur-dioxide venting into the air, you'll know it. It stinks like rotten eggs!



Lithium, used as the anode in lithium-sulfur dioxide, lithium-manganese dioxide and lithium-ion, is highly reactive and capable of bursting into flames when wet or exploding when burned. The lithium in the lithium batteries is stored inside hermetically sealed cells to prevent reactions with moisture.



Batteries are everywhere and because they are so commonplace, we abuse them and ignore basic maintenance. Spend some time learning about the batteries you use in your commo equipment. Learn how and where to store them. Learn how to dispose and handle them safely. Learn when rechargeables are the way to go or when non-rechargeables make the most sense. Ensure all your rechargeables are charged at least once every six months. If not, you could lose their best performance. So, use them or lose them.



For questions on non-rechargeables, email Patrick Lyman:

[@us.army.mil](mailto:patrick.lyman@us.army.mil)

For questions on rechargeables, email Don Brockel:

[@us.army.mil](mailto:don.brockel@us.army.mil)

