

Patriot  
Missile  
System...

UH-OH! MY  
ECH HANDLE  
IS BROKEN  
AGAIN!

LISTEN UP TO  
THIS FORT HOOD  
SUGGESTION!

# GET HANDLE ON LAUNCHER HANDLE PROBLEMS

Dear Editor,

The Patriot launcher's engagement control handle can be very touchy to work with. If you don't use the right touch, you can break it. Here are a few ways to get a handle on handle problems:

**Keep the handle adjusted.** It's supposed to be adjusted during annual services, but it may need adjusting more often. If you consistently have trouble getting the handle to lock in position, ask your repairman to adjust it. If you force the handle, it will break.

**Don't trust the launcher control unit screen.** The screen may say the handle is in the STOW position when really it isn't. Maneuver the handle until you feel it lock in place. Then you know without a doubt it's in STOW.

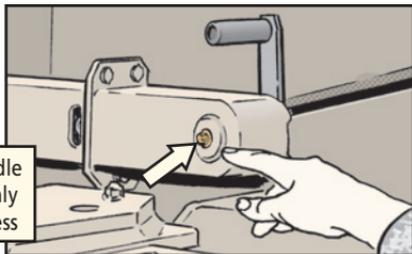
**Check the handle bolt monthly.** Vibration during operations and travel loosens it. Then you'll have trouble getting the handle to lock in place. Tighten the bolt if necessary.

SGT  
SPC  
4-5 ADA  
Ft Hood, TX

Make sure handle locks in STOW



Check handle  
bolt monthly  
for looseness



**Editor's note:** I think Patriot crews can handle your excellent handle suggestions. Thanks.