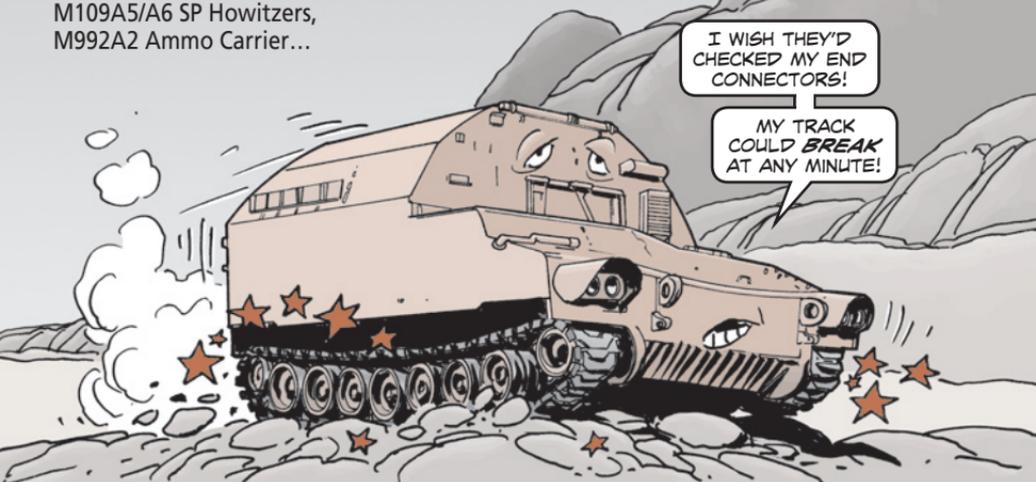


M109A5/A6 SP Howitzers,
M992A2 Ammo Carrier...



PREVENT END CONNECTOR PROBLEMS

Mechanics, the T-154 track used on howitzers and ammo carriers has a clamp style end connector that relies on a specific torque to apply the proper clamp load to the track pins. This clamp load is what keeps the end connector in place. Without it, the track can literally come apart.

Don't think more is better, though. Applying too much torque to the end connector bolt will overstress the bolt and the end connector. That leads to stress cracks which can cause the end connector to fail and lead to a broken or thrown track.

The end connector bolts are wet-torque items, so apply a lubricant to the threads before torquing. With the end connectors at the 12 o'clock position over the idler wheel, make sure the bolts are torqued to 380-420 lb-ft and you should have no problems with them breaking or coming loose.

Eyes Open, Crewmen!

You need to do your part during PMCS, crewmen. Look closely at each end connector for a loose bolt or cracks around the bolt head. Notify your mechanic if you find any.

And don't forget to check the inside end connectors. They can loosen and crack just as easily as the outside ones.

