



The Weakest Link!

Stick a magnet or a knife in your ACU pocket and take a walk to your AN/ASM-189 and -190 electronic vans. The van's tailgate chain may have a weak link and you need to find it!

The last link of the chain—the one that joins the chain to the tailgate—might be aluminum. If it is, it just might fail! This could cause a soldier to take a tumble to the ground and be hurt.

See if the magnet is attracted to the link. If it is, the link is steel and you're in good shape. Or you can use the knife and try to make a slight scratch in the link. If it scratches easily, it's aluminum!

A link that is not welded closed is another sure sign of trouble. Check all the links for gaps.

Replace an aluminum link with a steel riveted link, NSN 4010-01-218-6340.

While you're checking this last link, check them all for rust and other signs of weakness. You might want to run that magnet over all the links just in case. Only standard welded links and the steel riveted hammer-lock type that you should use as a replacement link are authorized to be in the tailgate chain.

One other thing: don't shoot yourself in the foot by using tape or other bolts to hold the support chain together. Every link should be steel and strong.

