

THE KEY TO CABLE KEYWAYS

*OWWWW! YOU
NEED TO LINE UP
THE CONNECTOR
KEYWAYS.*

*YOU CAN'T
JUST FORCE
THAT CABLE
ON!*

Dear Editor,

Many of the cables for the Patriot Missile System have keyways in their connectors to ensure the pins go in the right holes. You must line up the cable connector keyway to the keyway of the connector you're plugging it into to get a correct connection.

Unfortunately, it can be very difficult to see the keyways, especially if you're plugging the cables in at night. And that's even with a flashlight.

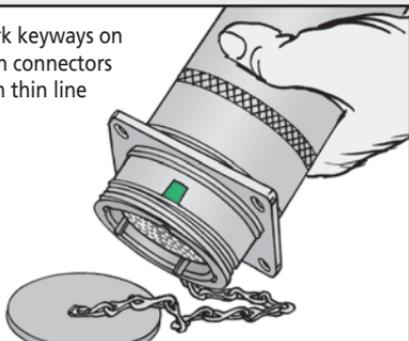
As a result, Soldiers often stick the cable connector on and twist it back and forth trying to line up the keyways. That damages lots and lots of pins every year. Too many times the whole cable must be replaced, which is expensive.

An easy way to help Soldiers find the keyways and prevent pin damage is to mark the keyways on the outside of both connectors with a thin line of bright paint. Yellow would be best. Then all Soldiers need to do is match the two lines to line up the keyways.

The paint will wear off over time so periodically units will need to repaint the lines. But the savings in cables and money are worth the effort.

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Mark keyways on
both connectors
with thin line



*Editor's note: We can line up
behind that excellent suggestion.*