

WRECKER SAFETY FOR

ROUTE CLEARANCE TEAMS

WHEN YOU'RE TASKED WITH A RECOVERY MISSION, YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT **SAFELY.**

AND NOW THAT THE ARMY HAS NEWER AND HEAVIER EQUIPMENT, RECOVERY MISSIONS CAN BE A TOUGHER TASK.

THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR ROUTE CLEARANCE TEAMS IN AFGHANISTAN.

SINCE RECOVERY CAN BE DANGEROUS, IT'S BEST TO GET SOLDIERS TRAINED UP ON RECOVERY OPERATIONS, INCLUDING WRECKER SAFETY—BEFORE THEIR BOOTS HIT THE GROUND IN SWA.

YOU WANT TO DO ALL YOU CAN TO **AVOID** DAMAGING EQUIPMENT AND INJURING PEOPLE.

SOLDIERS NEED TO KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF WRECKER SAFETY.

IN FACT, SOLDIERS WHO ARE HB (RECOVERY OPERATIONS) QUALIFIED SHOULD **ALREADY KNOW** THE IMPORTANCE OF WRECKER SAFETY.

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR ROLE IS IN VEHICLE RECOVERY, HERE ARE A FEW GENERAL REMINDERS TO HELP YOU PLACE **SAFETY FIRST!**

- Follow the advice in safety warnings found in the operator's manuals for both the recovery vehicle and the recovered vehicle or equipment.
- Before starting a recovery, decide which equipment to use and which recovery techniques to apply.
- Make sure the recovery vehicle winches and towing capabilities you'll use are able to recover the disabled vehicle. If overloaded, the recovery vehicle can slide out of control.
- Be aware that winch cables can break and whip into personnel.
- Limit access to the recovery site to only required personnel.
- Use extreme caution while towing.
- Follow recommended towing speeds and maintain safe following distances.

FOR MORE VEHICLE RECOVERY INFORMATION, CHECK OUT FM 4-30.31, **RECOVERY AND BATTLE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND REPAIR.**

