

# A MECHANIC'S PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN

HEY, PM STEVE -- WE HAVEN'T EVEN HAD CHOW YET--AND YOU'RE RUNNING LIKE YOU'RE TRAINING FOR THE OLYMPICS!

YOU KNOW HOW I DO, RAMOS.



I HEAR YOU GOT BACK FROM AFGHANISTAN LAST YEAR.

YOU HEARD RIGHT.



HEY, MAN, I'VE BEEN TO IRAQ A FEW TIMES, BUT NEVER TO AFGHANISTAN. NOW MY UNIT'S ON ALERT...

...AND I GOTTA GET MY MECHANICS READY TO GO.

YOU'RE SPEAKING MY PM LANGUAGE, RAMOS. CONTINUE.





I HEARD YOUR OLD UNIT HAD A 95% READINESS RATE!

THAT'S **CRAZY**. HOW'D YOU DO IT?

IT WASN'T JUST **ME**, MAN. IT WAS A **TOTAL TEAM EFFORT**.

OUR SUCCESS STARTED **BEFORE** WE DEPLOYED TO AFGHANISTAN.



IT'S A LONG STORY...TELL YOU WHAT.

LET'S FINISH THIS RUN AND MEET IN THE CHOW HALL LATER. I CAN FILL YOU IN OVER BREAKFAST.

ALL RIGHT, THEN.



LATER, IN THE DINING FACILITY...

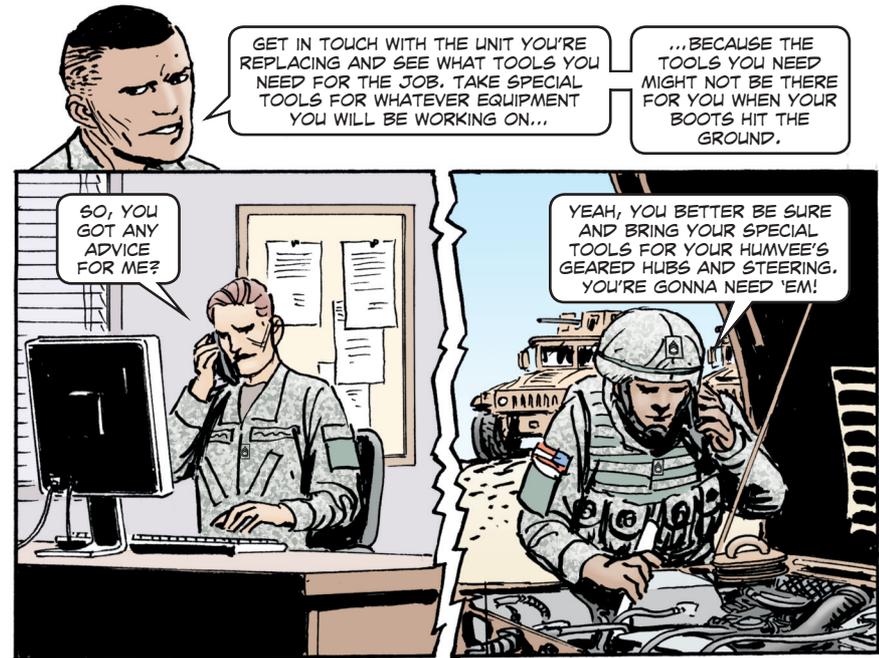
LET'S SIT HERE, RAMOS.

OKAY, PM STEVE.



I'M GONNA GIVE YOU SOME TIPS THAT SHOULD HELP YOUR UNIT HAVE A HIGH READINESS RATE IN AFGHANISTAN.

I'M ALL EARS, MAN.



GET IN TOUCH WITH THE UNIT YOU'RE REPLACING AND SEE WHAT TOOLS YOU NEED FOR THE JOB. TAKE SPECIAL TOOLS FOR WHATEVER EQUIPMENT YOU WILL BE WORKING ON...

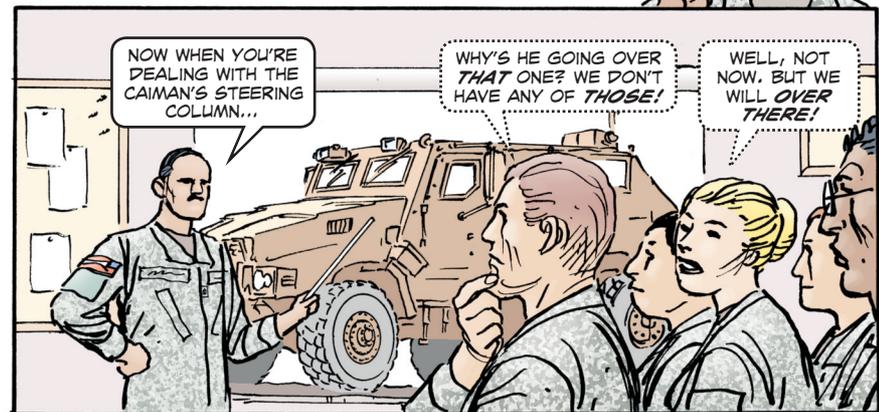
...BECAUSE THE TOOLS YOU NEED MIGHT NOT BE THERE FOR YOU WHEN YOUR BOOTS HIT THE GROUND.

SO, YOU GOT ANY ADVICE FOR ME?

YEAH, YOU BETTER BE SURE AND BRING YOUR SPECIAL TOOLS FOR YOUR HUMVEE'S GEARED HUBS AND STEERING. YOU'RE GONNA NEED 'EM!

TRAIN YOUR MECHANICS ON MRAP MAINTENANCE **IN ADVANCE**. GET THEM FAMILIAR WITH WHATEVER MODELS THEY WILL DEAL WITH OVER THERE.

IN FACT, FIND OUT WHAT TYPES OF VEHICLES YOU'LL FALL IN ON PERIOD! THEN MAKE SURE YOUR MECHANICS KNOW HOW TO **FIX** THEM-**AND** HOW TO **RECOVER** THEM.



NOW WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE CAIMAN'S STEERING COLUMN...

WHY'S HE GOING OVER **THAT** ONE? WE DON'T HAVE ANY OF **THOSE**!

WELL, NOT NOW. BUT WE WILL **OVER THERE**!

GET RECOVERY TRAINING FOR THOSE VEHICLES IN ADVANCE, TOO. SURE, YOU CAN TRAIN AFTER YOU GET IN COUNTRY...

...BUT THAT JUST PULLS PERSONNEL YOU'LL NEED TO CARRY OUT YOUR MAINTENANCE MISSIONS. AVOID THAT IF YOU CAN.



HAVE A GOOD TAMMS PERSON DOING YOUR SUPPLY, TOO. MAKE SURE HE KNOWS THE RIGHT CODES TO USE AND IS REALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE HE HAS TO USE, LIKE SAMS.

THAT'LL REALLY SQUARE YOU AWAY.



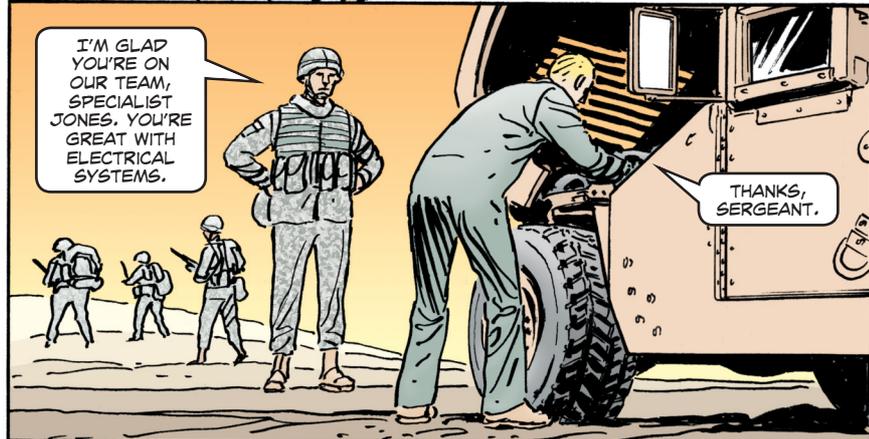
I'VE GOT A SAMS QUESTION.

ASK SMITTY, HE'S THE BEST SAMS GUY AROUND!



OH, AND HERE'S A GOOD ONE... KNOW YOUR MECHANICS! KNOW WHAT EACH PERSON ON YOUR MAINTENANCE TEAM IS CAPABLE OF DOING.

USE THEIR STRENGTHS TO BUILD A BETTER TEAM.

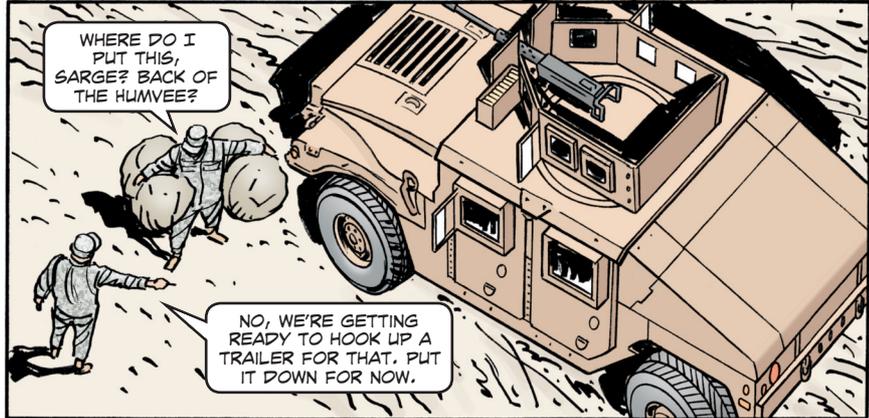


I'M GLAD YOU'RE ON OUR TEAM, SPECIALIST JONES. YOU'RE GREAT WITH ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS.

THANKS, SERGEANT.

WHEN YOU GO OUT IN TEAMS, INSTEAD OF OVERLOADING YOUR HMMVV WITH EQUIPMENT, PULL A TRAILER. THAT'LL SAVE THE SPRINGS ON THE HMMVV.

JUST USING ONE TRUCK IN THE CONVOY FOR PULLING A TRAILER FULL OF EXTRAS WORKED FOR US.



WHERE DO I PUT THIS, SARGE? BACK OF THE HUMVEE?

NO, WE'RE GETTING READY TO HOOK UP A TRAILER FOR THAT. PUT IT DOWN FOR NOW.



DUE TO HIGH OPTEMPO AND CONSTANT DEMAND ON VEHICLES, ANNUAL SERVICES WERE PERFORMED ON EACH VEHICLE SEMI-ANNUALLY. WE SAVED TIME AND EQUIPMENT FOLLOWING THIS PLAN.

PLUS, WE ELIMINATED THE NEED FOR THE QUARTERLY OR SEMI-ANNUAL SERVICES.



DOING ANNUAL SERVICES MORE FREQUENTLY REALLY KEEPS OUR READINESS RATE HIGH!

SOME UNITS IN AFGHANISTAN HAD TO GO ON MISSIONS FOR SEVERAL DAYS AT A TIME. THEY TOOK EMBEDDED MAINTENANCE TEAMS AND REPLACEMENT PARTS WITH THEM ON ALL MISSIONS.

THERE WAS NO TELLING WHEN THEY COULD GET SUPPORT FROM OTHER UNITS ALONG THE WAY, SO THE MECHANICS HAD TO BE RESOURCEFUL.



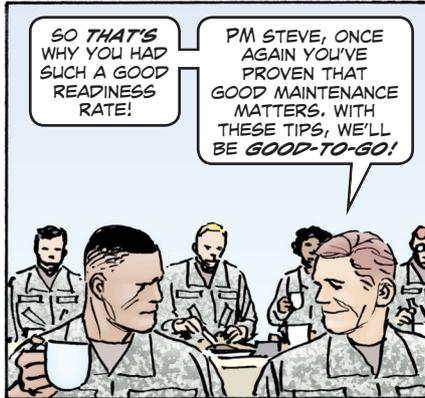
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING ON THIS MISSION? SHOULDN'T YOU BE BACK AT THE MOTOR POOL DRINKING COFFEE? HAR HAR HAR!

LAUGH ALL YOU WANT, IF ANYTHING CONKS OUT, YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU'VE GOT MECHANICS WITH YOU!



YEARS OF WEAR AND TEAR ON CRITICAL, MISSION-ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT CAN BE AS HARMFUL AS THE ENEMY.

SO JUST MAKE SURE YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR EQUIPMENT AND YOUR EQUIPMENT WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.



SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAD SUCH A GOOD READINESS RATE!

PM STEVE, ONCE AGAIN YOU'VE PROVEN THAT GOOD MAINTENANCE MATTERS. WITH THESE TIPS, WE'LL BE GOOD-TO-GO!

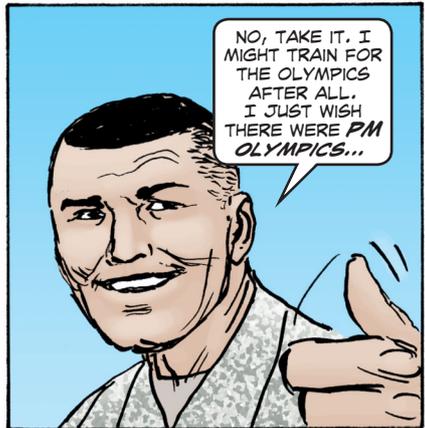


KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT HELPS. HOLLA IF YOU NEED MORE PM HELP WHILE YOU'RE OVER THERE.



WILL DO.

YOU GONNA EAT THAT LAST BISCUIT?



NO, TAKE IT. I MIGHT TRAIN FOR THE OLYMPICS AFTER ALL. I JUST WISH THERE WERE PM OLYMPICS...



MISSIONS CAN FAIL BECAUSE OF VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS.



IF YOU'RE A MECHANIC GOING TO AFGHANISTAN, OR IF YOU LEAD MECHANICS WHO WILL GO TO AFGHANISTAN, USE PM STEVE'S INFO.



AFTER ALL, DOING GOOD PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE WILL HELP YOU FEEL SAFE ENOUGH TO *STAKE YOUR LIFE* ON YOUR *EQUIPMENT!*