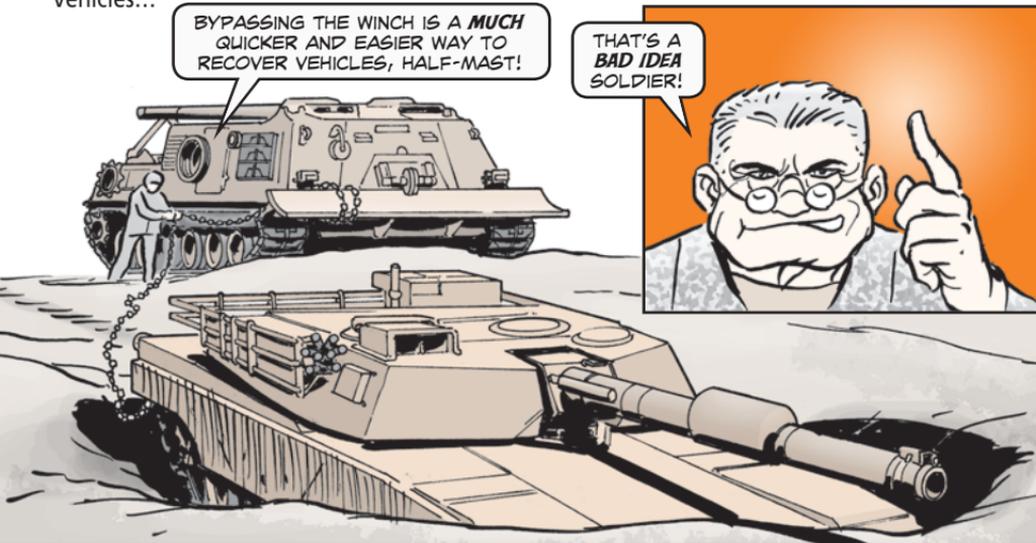


Don't Bypass the Winch



During recovery operations, each part of your M88 has its specific role to play. For example, the spade is used to stabilize your M88 so the winch can pull out a stuck or disabled vehicle. It's when you start taking shortcuts that problems happen.

Some operators think it's quicker and easier to bypass the winch altogether. They wrap one end of a chain around the spade and attach the other end to the disabled vehicle. Then it seems like a simple matter of backing up their M88 to recover the disabled vehicle.

That's a really bad idea for two reasons. First, the spade's not meant for recovery. The strain can snap the spade's lock pin and damage the hydraulics. Second, you have no idea how strong that chain is. If it snaps under the pressure, it will recoil like a whip, damaging your recovery vehicle and possibly injuring or killing anyone who might be in its path.

That shortcut ends up taking longer and could be more painful than you bargained for. So stick to the winch for pulling and use the spade for its intended purpose.