

CROWS...

# PM TO CROW ABOUT

IF YOU FIRE WITH CROWS, YOU DEFINITELY NEED TO CHECK OUT WHAT THESE CROWS EXPERTS SUGGEST!

EVERMORE, EVERMORE WITH PM!



Dear Editor,

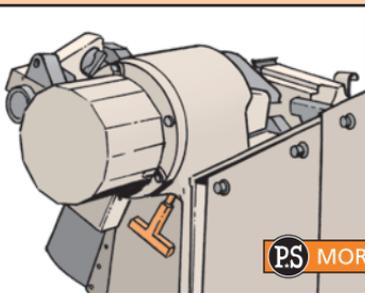
From our experience teaching Soldiers how to use CROWS (common remotely operated weapons station), we offer these tips on how to best make it work:

### *Lock when turned off, unlock for firing*

If the azimuth and transport elevations locks aren't both locked and the sight servo assembly (SSA) clamp properly secured when the CROWS is turned off, it will bounce around during travel. That damages the SSA, which is an expensive repair. Plus it throws off the CROWS' alignment. That hurts accuracy.

But when you are ready to fire, you must be very sure those two locks are unlocked and the SSA clamp is removed. Otherwise, the azimuth release mechanism breaks, which is an expensive repair. So, **lock** CROWS when it's turned off and **unlock** it when you turn it on to fire.

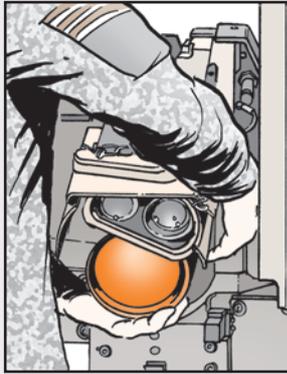
Azimuth and transport locks and SSA clamp must be locked when CROWS is off and must be unlocked before firing.



PS MORE

### Eliminate all play when securing the SSA

It may seem like you've got the SSA secured, but it still may have enough play to be damaged bouncing around during travel. To tighten the SSA, hold it by the thermal imaging module (TIM). Tighten the SSA lower clamp bolt as you gently wiggle the TIM. Once you feel no more movement in the SSA, then tighten the SSA's top bolt while wiggling the TIM. Double-check by trying to move the TIM when you're finished.



Wiggle thermal imaging module as you tighten SSA clamp until all play is gone

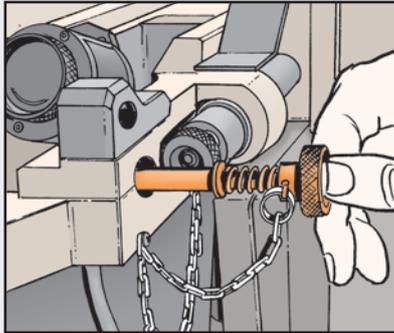
### Lock the SSA pointing down towards the ground for travel

If it's facing up, its lenses are vulnerable to wires, limbs and the elements. After the transport lock is engaged, the SSA should click as it locks in place when it is moved all the way to the downward position.

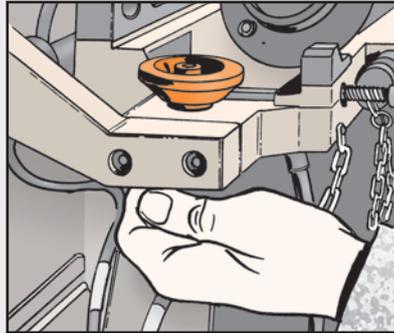
### Protect mounting pins

Don't leave them dangling. The pins will get caught in the mount and be damaged. One broken mounting pin makes CROWS NMC. And they're not cheap to replace.

To fully seat a mounting pin, you must rotate it as you push it in. Once both mounting pins are seated, tug on them to ensure they're secure. Then tighten the straining screw for the soft mount. But when it's time to remove the mounting pins, you must first loosen the straining screw, except for the MK19. Otherwise, you can't remove the pins.



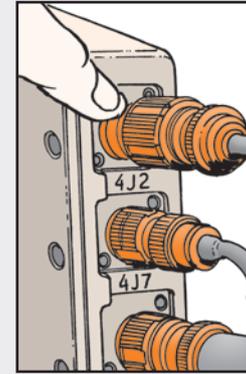
Rotate mounting pins as you push them in



Once mounting pins are secure, tighten straining screw. Before removing mounting pins, you must loosen straining screw

### Check all cables for looseness

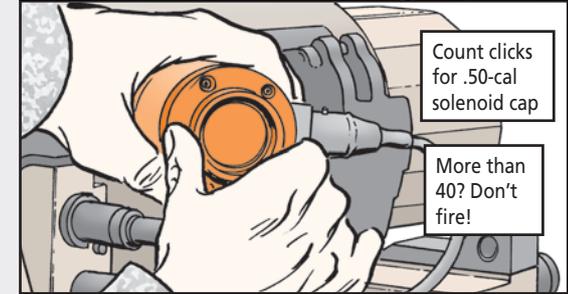
If just one cable is loose, you'll get faults. Don't use just your eyes to check. Some Soldiers think if they can't see the cable connector's red line, the cable is tight. That's not always true. Feel to make sure each cable is hand-tight.



JUST BECAUSE THE RED LINE ISN'T VISIBLE DOESN'T MEAN THE CABLE IS TIGHT. FEEL THE CABLE FOR LOOSENESS.

### Count clicks for .50-cal solenoid

Before you connect the solenoid, count the clicks while you screw the adjustment cap all the way in until it stops. If there are more than 40 clicks, tell your repairman because something is wrong. Don't fire until the problem is fixed or you could have a runaway gun.



Count clicks for .50-cal solenoid cap

More than 40? Don't fire!

### Keep the ammo box and ammo insert cassette clean

If you let dirt and sand collect in them, rain turns the dirt and sand into mud and a real mess. Simply wiping the ammo box and cassette clean daily with a dry cloth is usually enough. If there's a lot of accumulation, blow them clean with low-pressure air.

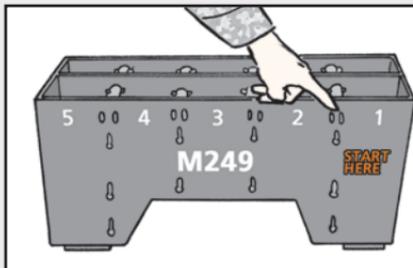


KEEP THE AMMO BOX AND AMMO INSERT CASSETTE CLEAN.



## Load the ammo box like the TM says

Load M2 and MK 19 ammo back and forth until all rounds are in place. For M240 and M249 rounds, fill in each compartment of the box before moving to the next section.



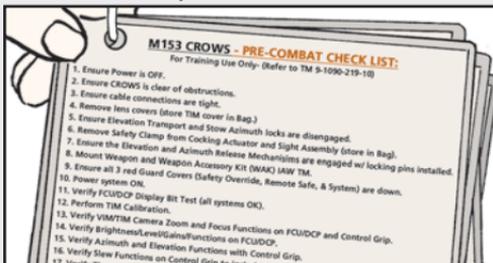
Fill in each section before loading next section for M240 and M249

## Remember ammo limits

For the M249, the maximum number of rounds you can load is 1,600. For the M240, it's 1,000; for the M2, 400; for the MK 19, 96. If you cram in more rounds, you will have firing problems.

## Get PMCS quick reference cards

The cards make it easier to PMCS and operate your CROWS. CROWS training teams can provide the cards, as can your TACOM LAR.



Get PMCS cards

## Get training

Only Soldiers who have been fully trained and certified on the CROWS by an officially trained and certified CROWS instructor should be allowed to use the system. Training teams are available if your unit needs instruction. For more information, contact Nicholas Sultzbach, (973) 724-7515, DSN 880-7515, or email:

[picacrows@conus.army.mil](mailto:picacrows@conus.army.mil)

or Jay Ruark at (573) 563-6245, or email:

[jay.ruark@us.army.mil](mailto:jay.ruark@us.army.mil)

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PS END

YOU GUYS ARE INDEED THE VOICES OF EXPERIENCE. THANKS FOR THE EXCELLENT TIPS.

