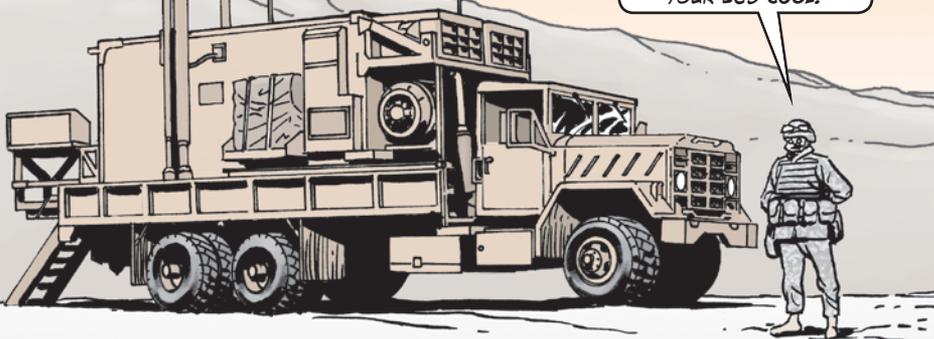


Keep ECS A/C A-OK



LISTEN TO THESE COOL IDEAS FROM FT BLISS ON HOW TO KEEP YOUR ECS COOL!

Dear Editor,

Through our experience keeping the Patriots at Ft Bliss primed for action, we've come up with a few ways to ensure the engagement control station's (ECS) air conditioning stays A-OK:

Run one A/C unit at a time.

The ECS has two A/C units, but running them both at the same time actually hurts their effectiveness. Running both causes back pressure to build up in the van, which means the units work harder and against each other. A very good way to help the units last is to run the units one at a time. Just alternate them every two hours.

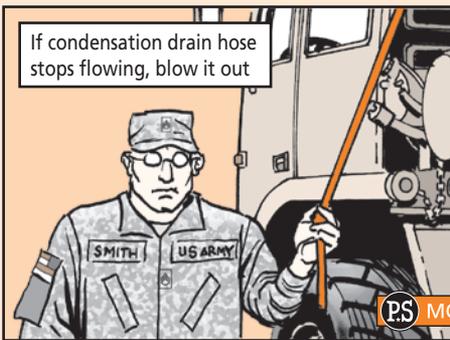
Check that condensation is draining out of the A/C units at least daily.

If condensation can't properly drain, the A/C will eventually shut down and that shuts down the ECS. If any kind of work has been done on the A/C, make sure the elbow fittings where the drain hoses connect point down. If they don't, condensation can't drain properly. For the same reason, check that the drain hoses aren't kinked.



HEY! WE DON'T NEED BOTH A/C UNITS RUNNING.

ONE AT A TIME WILL DO JUST FINE!



If condensation drain hose stops flowing, blow it out

PS MORE

But sometimes a drain hose plugs up and the condensation backs up. The easiest fix is to suck on the end of the hose to clear it, which of course isn't very sanitary. So instead, disconnect the drain hose and blow it out with an air hose.

CW2 Michael Smith
SGT Joshua Rogers
SPC Nicholas Griffin
2/43 ADA
Ft Bliss, TX

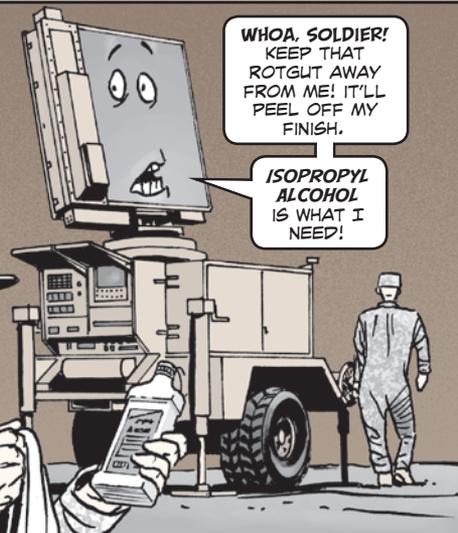
Editor's note: You've just made things much cooler for the ECS with your cool suggestions.



Sentinel Radar System...



HERE'S THE RUBBING ALCOHOL! I'LL HAVE YOU CLEANED UP IN A JIFF!



WHOA, SOLDIER! KEEP THAT ROTGUT AWAY FROM ME! IT'LL PEEL OFF MY FINISH.

ISOPROPYL ALCOHOL IS WHAT I NEED!

Dear Half-Mast,
On Page 59 in PS 712 (March 12), you said to use only isopropyl alcohol to clean inside the Sentinel's compartments. Rubbing alcohol shouldn't be used because it removes the protective coating on the compartments' walls, which leads to corrosion and arcing. What I find confusing is that rubbing alcohol is mostly isopropyl. Please clarify this.

SFC James Bishop
CAARNG
Stockton, CA

Dear Sergeant Bishop,
We are always glad to clarify. Rubbing alcohol does indeed contain 70 percent isopropyl. It's the acetone that makes up the other 30 percent that causes the problem. Acetone is what strips off the protective coating.

TM 9-1430-Sentinel (1 Apr 2010) says to use technical isopropyl alcohol, NSN 6810-00-753-4993, for cleaning because it's 70 percent isopropyl and 30 percent water. No acetone, no problem.

Half-Mast