

REUSE OR LOSE THE GASKET?



Dear Half-Mast,

I need your help settling an argument. Whenever we have to open the hull power distribution unit (HPDU) on an M1A2 SEP tank for maintenance, I think we should replace the cover gasket, NSN 5330-01-355-6398. Some of the other mechanics in my unit say as long as the gasket isn't damaged, it's OK to reuse it.

The HPDU is very expensive to replace, so it seems to me that a \$25 investment for a new gasket is worth the money. What do you say?

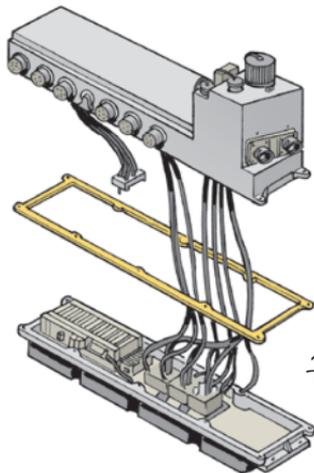
SSG M.S.H.

Dear Sergeant M.S.H.,

I say you hit the nail on the head! My contacts at TACOM tell me that a lot of these HPDUs have been failing because of leaky gaskets. And that's usually due to a mechanic reusing the seal instead of replacing it.

Remember, water and electronics don't mix. That gasket needs to be replaced any time the seal is disturbed or the HPDU is opened. You'll find the gasket replacement procedure in WP 0122 in TM 9-2350-388-40-1 (Feb 09).

Now get out there and spread the news!



Always
replace
gasket
when
HPDU is
opened

Half-Mast