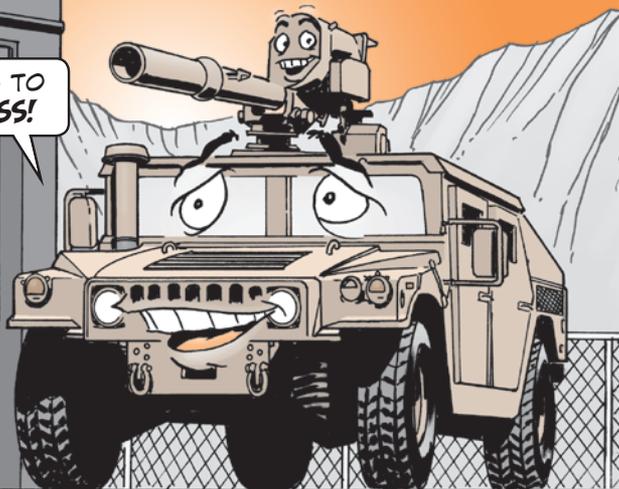


**ITAS HELP RIGHT
HERE, RIGHT NOW!**

THANKS TO
FT BLISS!



Dear Editor,

Through hard experience, we've found this advice will make life so much easier for improved target acquisition system (ITAS) units:

Develop a battery charging program.

The ITAS is powered by the lithium-ion power source, which consists of the lithium battery box (LBB) and two chargers: the lithium AC charger (LIAC) for dismounted charging and the vehicle-mounted charger.

If the LBB is properly maintained, it can power ITAS for at least 14.5 hours. But if it's not charged as a regular part of operations and during monthly PMCS as spelled out in TM 9-1425-923-10, it can become more and more difficult to fully charge or even become inoperable. That's why it's critical crews follow the charging directions in the -10 and keep all LBBs charged.



If you're storing LBBs for longer than 30 days, develop a charging plan to ensure each battery is fully re-charged at least every 90 days. (If a battery hasn't been charged for more than 30 days, it may take longer to fully charge it.)

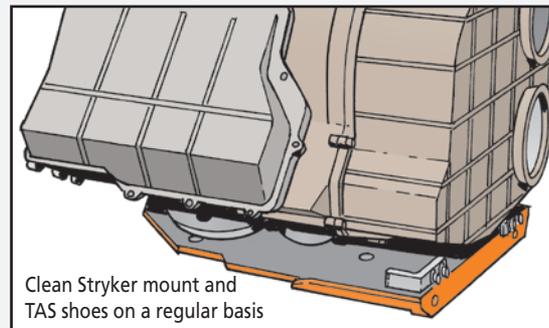
Remember once the BAT, ELEC fault light comes on, it's too late. The battery can't be charged. You must get it replaced and that's expensive. All LBBs must be shipped to depot for repair.

Store LBBs in as cool a place as possible.

Heat can reduce cell life. But if you keep the LBB charged, it will provide needed power at all temperatures.

Remove target acquisition subsystem (TAS) monthly and clean the Stryker mount.

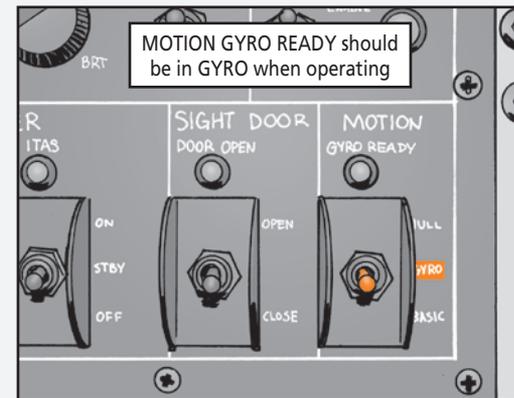
If the TAS is left mounted for long periods, corrosion can form on the mount's rails and make it extremely difficult to remove the TAS without damaging the TAS or mount. That won't be a problem if you monthly remove the TAS and clean the mount rails and the TAS shoes.



Clean Stryker mount and TAS shoes on a regular basis

Keep motion gyro switch in GYRO when operating the modified improved target acquisition system (MITAS).

If the switch is left in BASIC, the gunner's ability to scan, detect and track targets smoothly will be decreased. If there is a drift in the system in AZ or EL without any gunner input, the gyro and motor drive need to be "nulled" (or synched). Hold the gyro switch up until the motion gyro illuminator blinks, which means the gyro and motor drive are nulled. Then verify without gunner input that there is no drift in the system.



CW3 Joseph Peoples
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Editor's note: The ITASes will be much better off if units follow your directions, Chief. Thanks.