

Say Hi to HIMARS Tips

HERE'S SOME GOOD ADVICE FROM FT SILL.



YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, HALF-MAST!

Dear Editor,

While keeping the HIMARS up and running at Ft Sill, we've come up with a few tips that will help other units.

Keep an eye on the brake line fittings. They're made of plastic or brass and tend to crack. Then the brake lines leak.

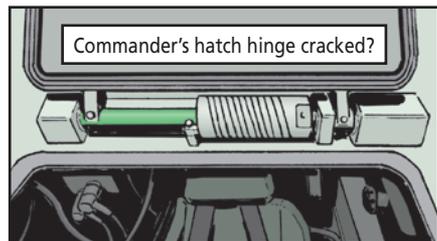
Remember, you can't drive the HIMARS like an MLRS. The HIMARS is a truck, not a track. If you drive it over bushes or rocks, things under the chassis might be damaged. As a general rule, you should drive slow and easy if you're going cross-country.



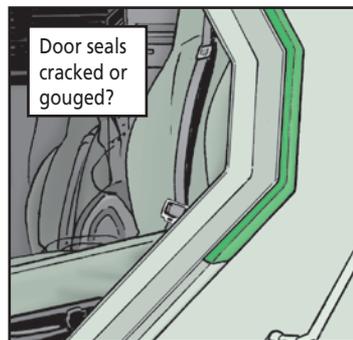
No lifting to tow. The considerable weight of the launcher can bend the frame if HIMARS is towed with its wheels off the ground. HIMARS should be towed with all wheels on the ground at a maximum speed of 30 mph and for no more than 100 miles. If you're towing more than a short distance, remove the drive shafts.

Check the commander's hatch hinge for cracks during PMCS.

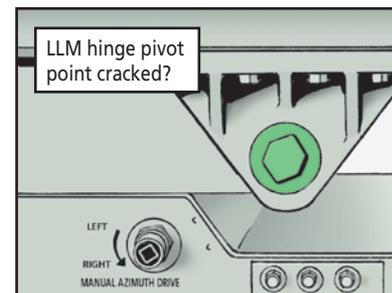
The hinge bar mounting blocks are welded and they sometimes crack. That can make it impossible to seal the cab. During travel, the hatch could suddenly crash down if the hinge breaks.



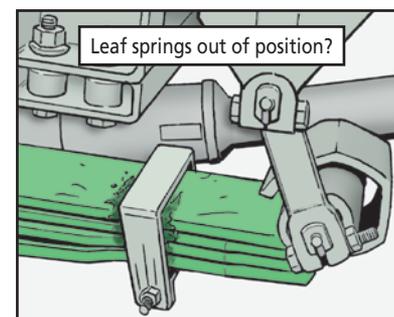
Eyeball the door seals. If they're cracked or gouged, the cab can't seal.



Check the LLM hinge pivot point for cracks. Be sure to inspect both sides of the pivot point. Sometimes cracks look like chipped paint. If the pivot point gets too bad, the launcher could actually separate from the chassis during firing.



Eyeball the position of the leaf springs during PMCS. Sometimes they slip out of position during travel. That can cause the leaf spring container to break, which could ruin the suspension.



Remember HIMARS has its own tire assembly. The HIMARS assembly is aluminum and the FMTV's is steel. Use an FMTV tire assembly only in an emergency and remember to use the steel lug nuts that are part of your BII. It includes one set each of left- and right-side steel lug nuts. Replace the FMTV tire assembly as soon as possible with a HIMARS assembly.

OK, I GOT THE ALUMINUM ONE THIS TIME!



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Editor's note: You just made things easier for HIMARS units, Chief. Thanks.