



PACK RIGHT TO FLY RIGHT

Mechanics, you may not think how you load and unload your aircraft is worth much thought, but think again. Loading and unloading incorrectly can damage your aircraft and disrupt the mission.

Prior to packing for a mission, make sure the sound-proofing panel is in place in the aft rear cabin. Sometimes loading begins while the sound-proofing panel is removed. Unfortunately, some things then get tossed into the cabin area with reckless abandon. That puts the exposed wires in harm's way.

The sound-proofing panel doesn't just reduce aircraft noise in the cabin, it also protects delicate wiring from damage. This wiring feeds the AN/ASN-43 gyromagnetic compass, the communication coaxials, and the AN/APR-39 radar signal detecting set connectors.

Exposed wires can be damaged by duffle bags, flight bags, parts boxes, tool boxes and other equipment that gets pushed or thrown up against them.

Damage to the wire connectors in the cabin area means you won't be computing headings or picking up signals from search radar stations or incoming missiles.

Don't put the aircraft or the mission at risk. Just put the sound-proofing panel in place. If the mission requires keeping the sound-proofing panel out, take special care in loading and unloading and don't put objects against the wires that will damage them. Loading and unloading your aircraft should be done with an eye on preventing damage.

