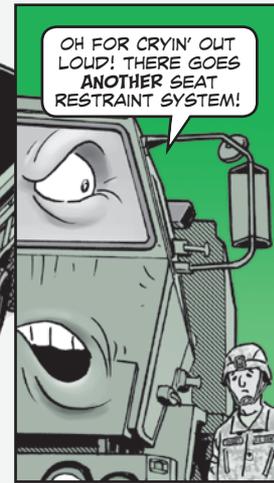


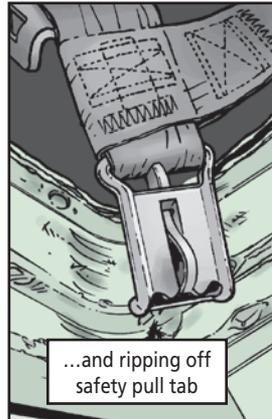
SHOW RESTRAINT WHEN CLOSING THE DOOR



Dear Editor,

Here at Ft Leonard Wood, MO, we're seeing a lot of driver's side restraint systems damaged on M1157A1P2 LTAS FMTVs.

If the driver doesn't make sure the four-point seat belt is inside the cab before shutting the door, the belt's restraint latch gets slammed between the door and door jam. This not only damages the door and jam, but the heavy doors often ruin the safety pull tab (latch guard) on the restraint latch.



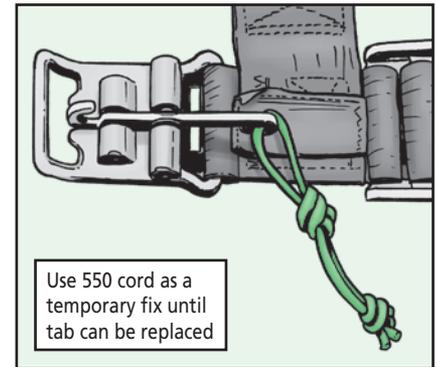
According to the before operations PMCS checks in TM 9-2320-333-10, any part of the restraint system that is missing or damaged makes the vehicle NMC.

A new restraint system, NSN 2540-01-528-1903, costs about \$260. But we've found a better solution. If the safety pull tab is the only part damaged, units can get a replacement from Mastercraft, Inc., for just \$12.95. Just order on a DD Form 1348-6 using PN 500976-443 and CAGE 3UKX4. That PN also includes the screw and nut to hold the pull tab in place.

Of course, the best fix would be for operators to make sure the vehicle's seat restraint is clear of the door before closing it.

As a quick field-fix, you can use some 550-cord to serve as a temporary pull tab. Make sure you tie a knot in the middle of the cord so it doesn't wrap around the latch. Then get the tab replaced when you get back to the motor pool.

James S. Carmack
TACOM FMX/Engineer Support
Ft Leonard Wood, MO



Editor's note: Thanks for a great tip. TACOM liked your idea so much they're getting an NSN assigned to the pull tab. Until that happens, you can also order the tab by calling the manufacturer at (360) 740-8894. Or send an email to:

lizard@mastercraftsafety.com