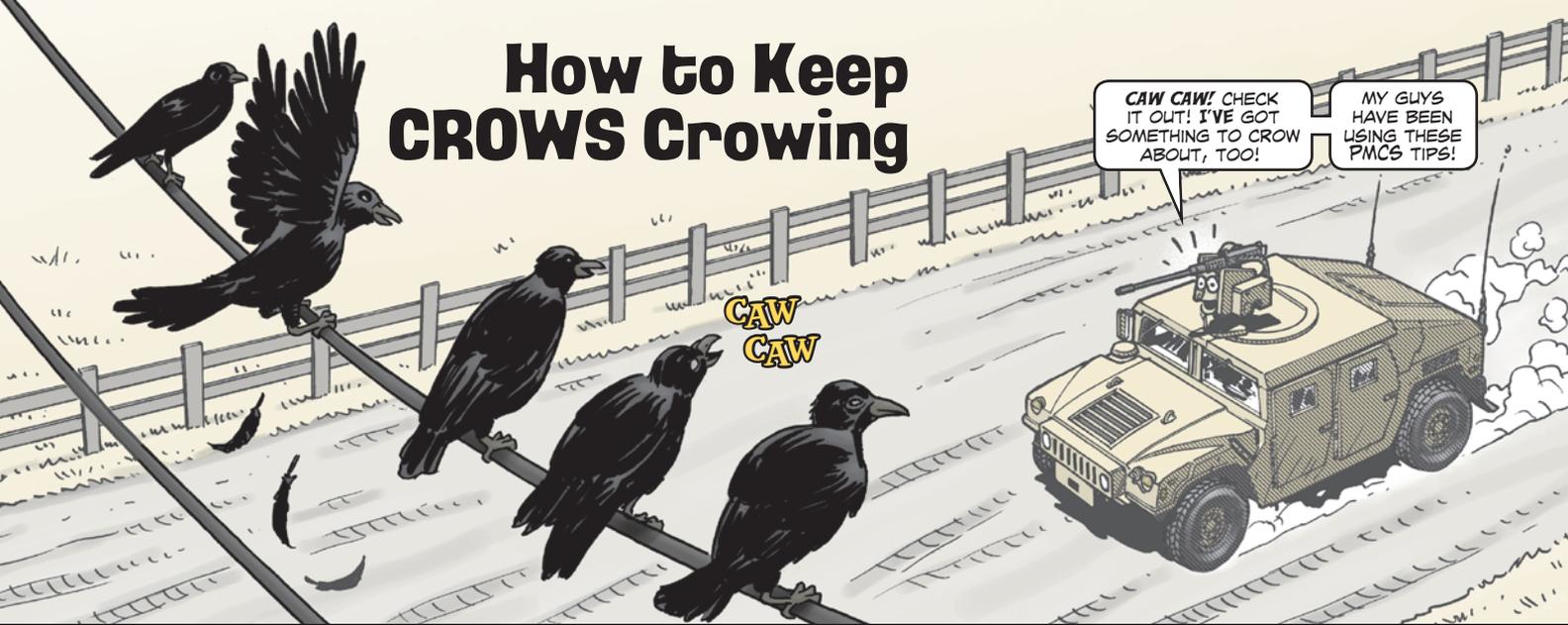


# How to Keep CROWS Crowing



**CAW CAW! CHECK IT OUT! I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT, TOO!**

**MY GUYS HAVE BEEN USING THESE PMCS TIPS!**



**ON THE BATTLEFIELD, CROWS (COMMON REMOTELY OPERATED WEAPONS STATION) CAN DO AN EXCELLENT JOB PROTECTING GUNNERS AND TAKING OUT THE ENEMY.**

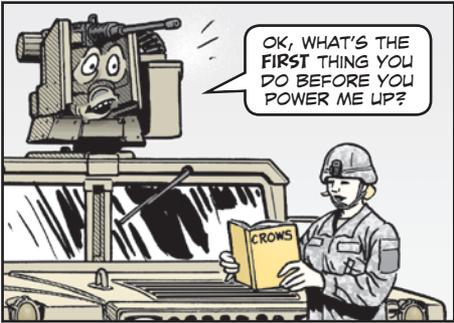
**BUT YOUR CROWS WON'T BE DOING MUCH CROWING IF YOU DON'T REMEMBER THESE TIPS FROM JIM GRAHAM, TACOM LAR AT FT POLK, LOUISIANA.**

**Train, train, train.** First of all, no Soldier should be allowed to touch CROWS unless he's passed the 40-hour CROWS course. If your unit needs CROWS instruction, contact TACOM's Gerrit Allen at (973) 724-2243 or email:

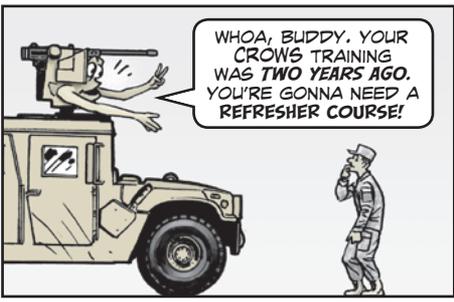
[gerrit.b.allen.civ@mail.mil](mailto:gerrit.b.allen.civ@mail.mil) or Jeffrey Fischbach at (973) 724-9024 or email:

[jeffrey.s.fischbach.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:jeffrey.s.fischbach.ctr@mail.mil)

But if a trained Soldier hasn't operated CROWS in months, he needs a refresher course before he jumps in the operator's seat. The local TACOM LARs or command maintenance training evaluation teams (COMETs) can help with that. Just one CROWS mistake can cost a unit big bucks, so refresher training is well worth the effort.

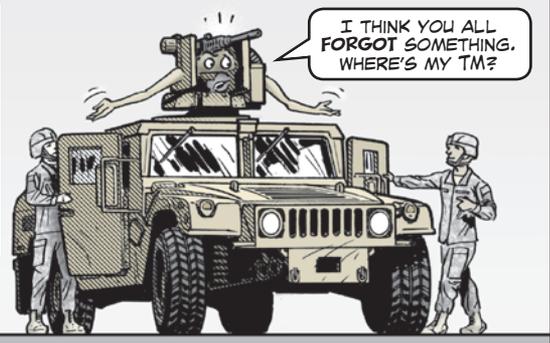


**OK, WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU DO BEFORE YOU POWER ME UP?**



**WHOA, BUDDY. YOUR CROWS TRAINING WAS TWO YEARS AGO. YOU'RE GONNA NEED A REFRESHER COURSE!**

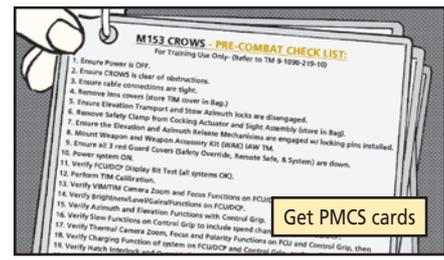
**Keep a copy of the CROWS TM 9-1090-219-10 in the vehicle.** Most units forget that. Even a well-trained operator will need to consult the TM occasionally.



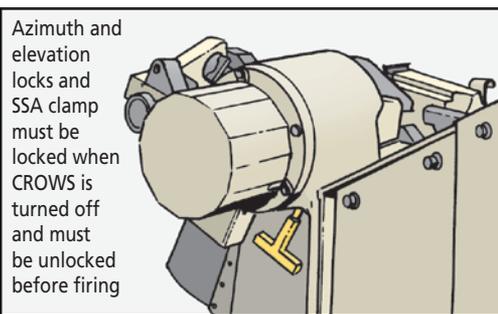
**I THINK YOU ALL FORGOT SOMETHING. WHERE'S MY TM?**

By the way, there are CROWS quick reference cards available that make it easier to PMCS and operate CROWS. Your TACOM LAR can get you the cards.

Use the cards or the -10 TM to do CROWs PMCS. There's no way you can remember all the checks. A good PMCS takes at least 45 minutes.

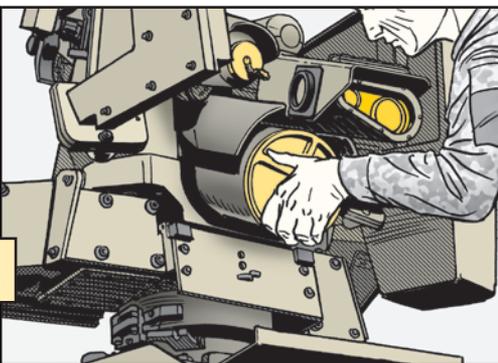


**Release all locks before powering up CROWS.** If you forget to unlock the azimuth lock it could break and the only fix is to replace the \$45K main frame. If you forget the elevation lock and the sight servo assembly (SSA) clamp, you'll ruin the elevation drive and SSA, which cost roughly \$24K and \$28K.



Azimuth and elevation locks and SSA clamp must be locked when CROWS is turned off and must be unlocked before firing

**Don't forget to remove the daylight sight, night sight and laser range finder covers.** It's too late when you're under fire. If the covers are left on, your CROWS will be blind.



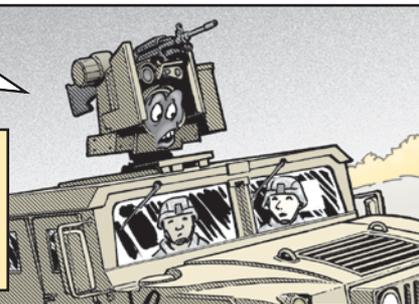
Remember to remove all three covers for operation



**STORE THE THERMAL IMAGING MODULE (TIM) COVER IN THE WEAPONS ADAPTATION KIT BAG WHEN YOU'RE NOT USING IT. OTHERWISE, COUNT ON IT DISAPPEARING.**

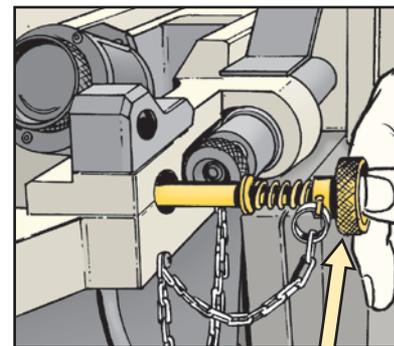
HEY! YOU SELECTED AN M249 BUT WE'RE FIRING M240S TODAY!

**Be careful to select the right weapon when firing small caliber machine guns.** If you get the M240 and M249 machine guns reversed, the CROWS won't work right.



**Protect the mounting pins and make sure they're fully inserted.** If you leave the pins dangling, they can get caught in the mount and damaged. One broken or bent pin could make CROWS NMC.

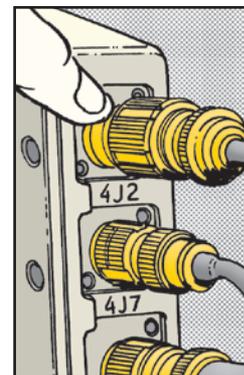
To fully seat a mounting pin, you must rotate it as you push it in. Once both mounting pins are seated, tug on them to ensure they're secure. Then tighten the straining screw for the soft mount. But when it's time to remove the mounting pins, first loosen the straining screw (except for the MK 19). Otherwise, you can't remove the pins.



Rotate mounting pins as you push them in



Once mounting pins are secure, tighten straining screw. Before removing mounting pins, you must loosen straining screw



**Check all cables for looseness.** If just one cable is loose, you'll get faults. Don't use just your eyes to check. Some Soldiers think if they can't see the cable connector's red line, the cable is tight. That's not always true. Feel to make sure each cable is hand-tight.

**REMEMBER AT SHUTDOWN TO PUT THE SIGHT COVERS BACK ON. LOCK THE AZIMUTH AND ELEVATION LOCKS, AND PUT THE SSA CLAMP BACK ON.**

**THAT'S THE BEST PROTECTION YOU CAN GIVE YOUR CROWS.**

