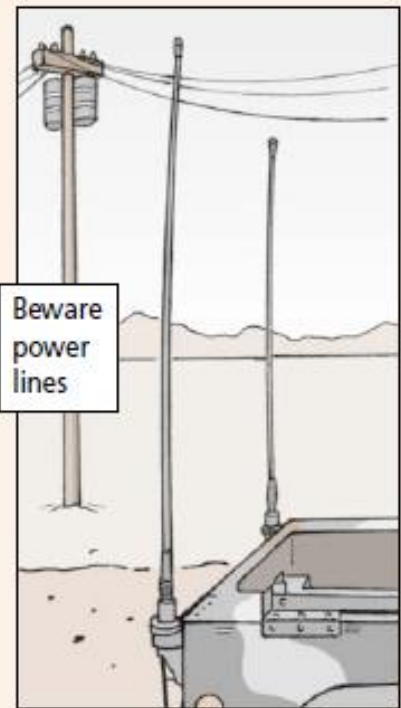
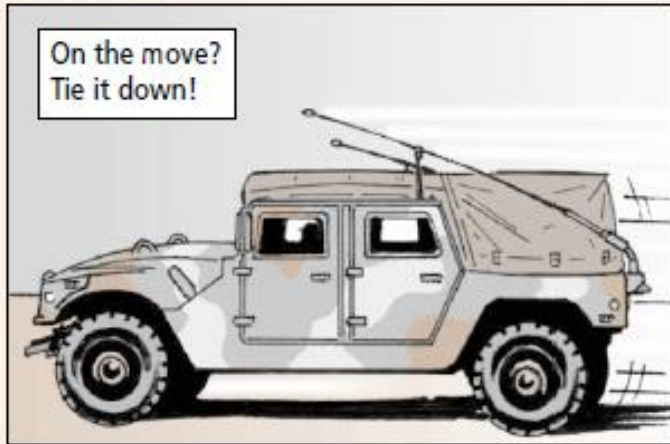




Dear Half-Mast,
We use both the clamp and the clip to hold down our AS-3900 and AS-1729 antennas. My question is, when do we use the stay-down position and when do we use the snap-free position on the clamp and the clip?
Pvt D.L.A.

Dear Private D.L.A.,
Even though it decreases your radio's range with the antenna tied down, you should keep a vehicular antenna tied down when you are on the move. Having the antenna waving in the air greatly increases your risk of hitting a power line or an overpass.



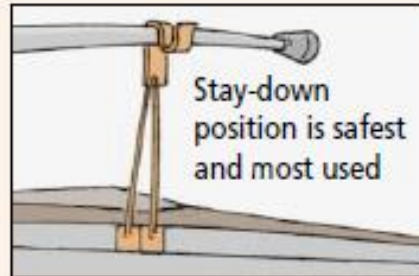
SNAP FREE?

WELL, WE'RE USING THE SNAP-FREE POSITION ON OURS.

WHICH ONE IS RIGHT?!



The majority of time (and always in garrison) the antenna should be in the stay-down slot of the clip or clamp. You do not want the antenna bouncing free and striking a power line or other overhead obstruction.



However, the stay-down position does have its own safety problems. If you hit an obstruction with the antenna locked down, the antenna will shatter and could cause serious injury from flying parts.

So, if you are operating in the field away from all overhead obstructions except trees, you can put the antenna in the snap-free position. That way, if you hit a tree limb, the antenna will spring up and not break.

Additional information can be found in TB 43-0129, Safety Requirements for Use of Antenna and Mast Equipment. Read it on the web at: <http://www.monmouth.army.mil/cecom/safety/spub/tb430129.pdf>

As a rule of thumb, though, the safest and by far the most used position should be the stay-down one.

Half-Mast

THIS IS WHY YOU TIE YOUR ANTENNAS DOWN!



Tactical
Vehicles...

LEARNING SOME *Antenna Etiquette*



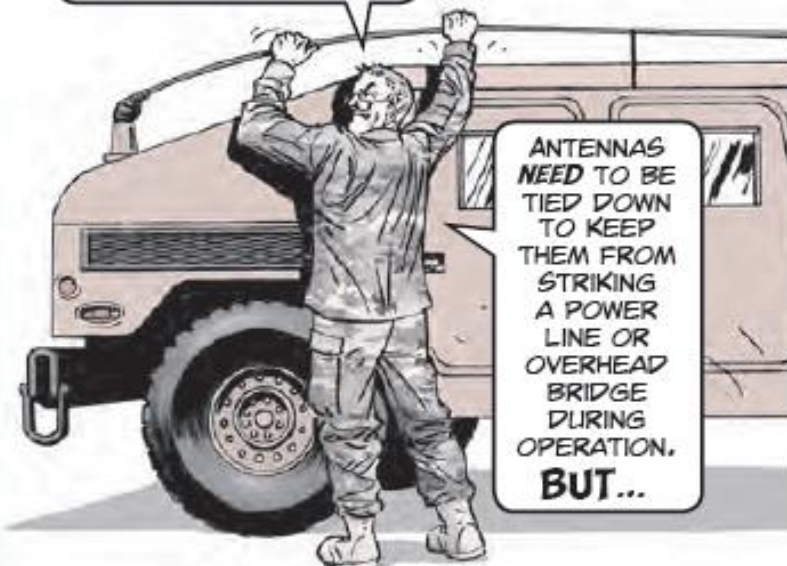
Dear Half-Mast,

A lot of the operators in our motor pool are bolting the antenna tie-downs directly to their vehicles. I've asked around and most say they do it because the tie-down rope broke or they just got fed up with it interfering with the door.

Seems to me that such an extreme angle would put a lot of stress on the antenna mount and the antenna itself. Can you give us the lowdown on the correct way to tie down a vehicular antenna?

SFC R.M.W.

YOU BET, SERGEANT!
TYING DOWN ANTENNAS
IS A REAL SAFETY ISSUE.



...WHENEVER VEHICLES ARE PARKED OVERNIGHT IN THE MOTOR POOL, ANTENNAS SHOULD BE UPRIGHT.

THAT PREVENTS UNNECESSARY STRESS ON THE ANTENNA MOUNT AND KEEPS THE BASE SPRING COILS CLOSE TOGETHER, SEALING OUT DIRT AND MOISTURE.



WHEN SAFETY CALLS FOR YOUR ANTENNA TO BE TIED DOWN, DO IT RIGHT!



FIRST,

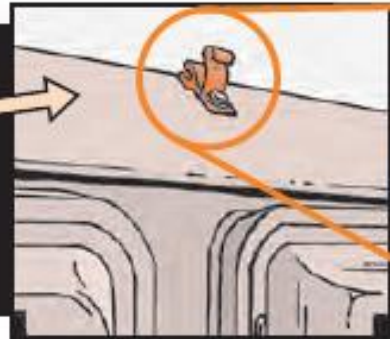
GET THE AS-3900 ANTENNA TIE-DOWN KIT WITH NSN 4020-01-341-8795. NSN 4020-00-908-6416 BRINGS THE AS-1729 ANTENNA TIE-DOWN KIT.



THEN USE THE KIT TO TIE DOWN THE ANTENNA AT A 45-60 DEGREE ANGLE TO THE GROUND.

THAT'S **LOW ENOUGH** TO AVOID COLLISIONS WITH MOST OVERHEAD OBSTACLES, BUT **NOT SO LOW** THAT YOU RISK CRACKING ANTENNA SECTIONS OR THE BASE.

THAT'S ALSO WHY YOU SHOULD NEVER MOUNT THE TIE-DOWN CLIP DIRECTLY TO YOUR VEHICLE.

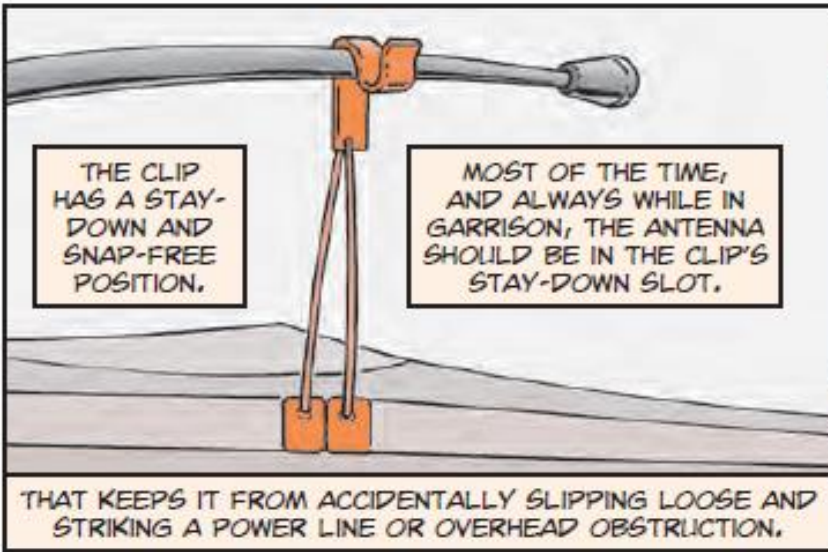


THE ANGLE NOT ONLY **OVER-STRESSES** THE MOUNT, BUT IT COULD CAUSE THE ANTENNA TO **SHATTER** AND HURT SOMEONE.

INSTEAD, ATTACH THE CLIP TO THE ANTENNA ITSELF ABOUT MIDWAY BETWEEN THE TIP AND BASE.



TOO FAR FORWARD AND YOU'LL BOW THE ANTENNA. TOO FAR BACK AND YOU WON'T GET THE RIGHT ANGLE. LENGTHEN OR SHORTEN THE CORD UNTIL THE ANTENNA HITS THAT 45-60 DEGREE ANGLE.



THE CLIP HAS A STAY-DOWN AND SNAP-FREE POSITION.

MOST OF THE TIME, AND ALWAYS WHILE IN GARRISON, THE ANTENNA SHOULD BE IN THE CLIP'S STAY-DOWN SLOT.

THAT KEEPS IT FROM ACCIDENTALLY SLIPPING LOOSE AND STRIKING A POWER LINE OR OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTION.



THE STAY-DOWN POSITION IS THE MOST COMMON. HOWEVER, IT DOES HAVE ITS OWN SAFETY PROBLEMS.



IF YOU HIT AN OBSTRUCTION WITH THE ANTENNA LOCKED DOWN, THE ANTENNA WILL SHATTER.

SO, IF YOU ARE OPERATING IN THE FIELD AWAY FROM ALL OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTIONS EXCEPT TREES, YOU CAN PUT THE ANTENNA IN THE SNAP-FREE POSITION.

THAT WAY, IF YOU HIT A TREE LIMB, THE ANTENNA WILL POP LOOSE INSTEAD OF BREAKING.

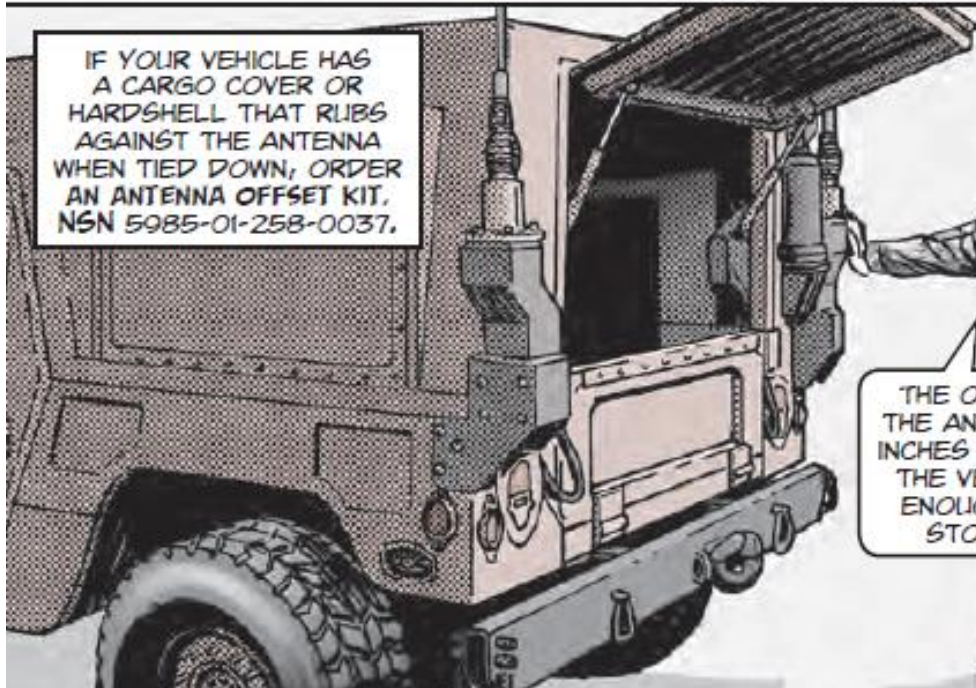
IF YOUR VEHICLE HAS MORE THAN ONE ANTENNA, ALWAYS TIE THEM DOWN ALONGSIDE THE VEHICLE.

NEVER CROSS ANTENNAS OR THE TRANSMITTING ONE WILL FEED ITS SIGNAL TO THE ONE IT'S TOUCHING. YOU'LL GET INTERFERENCE AT A MINIMUM AND MAYBE EVEN DAMAGE YOUR RADIO'S CIRCUITS.



DON'T CROSS THE ANTENNAS AND DON'T CROSS THE STREAMS!

DOING EITHER ONE WOULD BE BAD!



IF YOUR VEHICLE HAS A CARGO COVER OR HARDSHELL THAT RUBS AGAINST THE ANTENNA WHEN TIED DOWN, ORDER AN ANTENNA OFFSET KIT. NSN 5985-01-258-0037.



THE OFFSET KIT MOVES THE ANTENNA BASE A FEW INCHES TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE VEHICLE, PROVIDING ENOUGH CLEARANCE TO STOP THE RUBBING.

