



Senior Citizen PM

(Editor's note: PS first wrote about the TA-312/PT 31 years ago this month in Issue 211. We've covered maintenance issues about it many times since. But as long as it remains one of the workhorses of the Army communications system, and as long as there are "green" troops using it, we'll still put out the good preventive maintenance word.)

If your tough-talkin' TA-312/PT telephone set has wound up in your commo graveyard, chances are good it was killed by moisture.

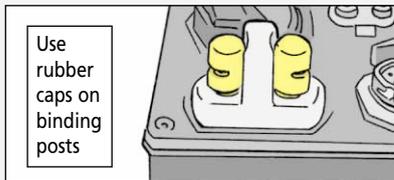
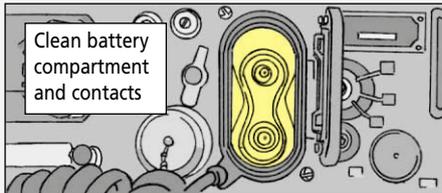
Operators, after a rain or when humidity is high, remove the canvas cover, dry it out and wipe the set dry. The most critical area to keep dry is the battery compartment. Moisture will corrode batteries and contacts faster than a housefly will land on a chocolate cake.

Wipe out the battery compartment with a clean cloth or dry it with low-pressure air. If necessary to handle dirt, use cleaning compound, NSN 6850-00-597-9765. Use a burnisher, NSN 5120-00-255-4458, to clean the contacts.

If water has leaked inside your set, chances are good some of the case screws are loose or missing. Tighten the loose ones and replace the missing ones with new ones, NSN 5305-00-054-6670. Don't forget to order the washer, NSN 5330-00-48-1018, that goes with the screws and gives added moisture protection.

During rain, when possible, keep the set off the ground and covered with a poncho or anything handy.

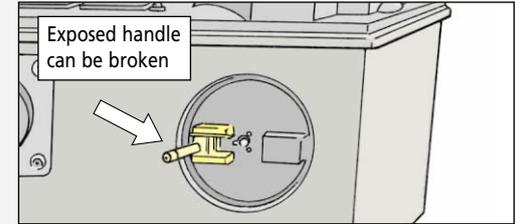
Always put a drip loop in the field wire before connecting the wire to the binding posts. This will keep dripping water from running right onto the posts. Rubber boots, NSN 5970-00-869-6263, also help keep the binding posts dry.



The de-icing shield, NSN 4130-00-392-7628, that snaps on the mouthpiece of your handset helps not only in freezing weather, but also to keep the mouthpiece dry in high humidity.

Moisture is not the only reason a TA-312 is silenced. Operator carelessness—treating it like it's indestructible—has dealt a death blow many times. Here are a few of the vulnerable areas:

A broken or lost generator handle probably means an operator decided sudden stops or cranking the handle backwards was fun. Or maybe they just forgot to tuck the handle in when they were done cranking.



The handset might seem like a convenient handle for carrying the TA-312. It does until it slips from the cradle and you rip the cord off. Use the carrying strap or lift the whole set.

While the spring isn't meant to hold up the phone, it should secure the handset. To test the retaining clip spring for proper tension, stand the phone on end. If the handset stays in place, the tension's good. If it slips out, the spring is weak. Replace a weak spring with NSN 5805-01-025-8891. The spring was weakened by jerking the handset straight out from the cradle. To remove the handset, push forward and lift up the transmitting end first.

A lot of folks like to doodle while they talk on the phone. TA-312 operators have their own form of doodling—scratching on the designation plate. Some might even think it's creative. But a missing or unreadable designation plate is a repairable part on the telephone and requires the cost and time to replace it.

For TA-312 security, order the security lamp for your TA-312 telephone with NSN 5805-00-782-9210. This also brings a small security label.

You can also get a security warning label, NSN 7690-00-877-6864, that says, **Phone is not disconnected unless handset is seated properly.**

Finally, a caution label, NSN 7690-00-877-6865, is also available. It says, **CAUTION do not strap push-to-talk switch.**

