



THE  
PREVENTIVE  
MAINTENANCE  
MONTHLY

**SERGEANT'S TIME TRAINING SUPPORT**

## **Tips for Towing HMMWV's An Easy Outline for Sergeant's Time Training**

**(Note to Sergeants:** Here's an easy training outline you can follow any time your unit has a free minute. A problem & solution format is provided below, with visuals if you scroll down. Use this outline or add more info as you see fit. Make it yours & make it matter! –*PS Magazine*)

**Problem:** A HMMWV breaks down in a bad location. You don't have a tow bar, so the operator rigs up a tow by connecting to the disabled HMMWV's bumper shackles. Will this work?

**Solution:** Nope! In fact, connecting to the bumper shackles is a big safety hazard. Plus, it'll probably damage both vehicles. Instead of connecting to the bumper shackles...

1. Use a tow bar and connect it to the pintle of the towing vehicle, then to the lifting shackles of the disabled HMMWV
2. If a tow bar isn't available, use cables, chains or ropes to make the same connections
3. See the PS Magazine article below for info on ordering correct tow bars for HMMWVs; check your vehicle's TM for other tow bar info.

**Problem:** Now you have a tow bar and you know where to connect it. Do you really need all that other safety stuff?

**Solution:** Umm, YES! And that's not all; you should also:

1. Put the cotter pin in the pintle hook to keep the tow bar and towed vehicle from disconnecting during stops
2. Always insert tow bar pins with the head facing up and the safety clip on the bottom in case the safety clip fails so the pin is less likely to fall out
3. Connect a safety chain between the two vehicles to prevent an accident if the tow bar breaks or disconnects; make sure the chain has an appropriate load rating

**Problem:** You've properly connected a disabled HMMWV with a tow bar, but now you need to make up for lost time so you put the pedal to the metal. Obey speed limits, and that's ok, right?

**Solution:** Wrong! Max towing speeds are much lower than the speed limit:

1. Max towing speed off road is 15 mph
2. Max towing speed on highways/paved roads is 25 mph
3. But other conditions like terrain and weather may require lower speeds
4. Reduce speed when turning or going around curves; don't make sharp turns
5. Don't go up hills greater than a 20% incline because the weight of the towed HMMWV can push or pull the towing vehicle out of control

HMMWVs...

LOOKS GOOD  
TO ME, CLARK.  
C'MON, LET'S HIT  
THE ROAD!

HOLD UP. GOTTA MAKE  
SURE **EVERYTHING'S**  
SECURE. DON'T WANT  
THESE TWO PARTING  
COMPANY TOO SOON.

## Time to Tow? Try These Tips!

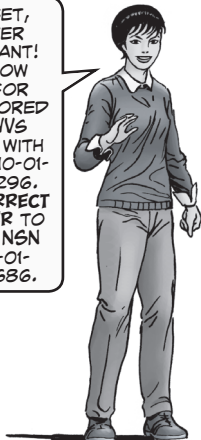
Dear Editor,

Para 2-3 of TM 9-4910-593-12&P, *Wheeled Motor Vehicle Towbar*, states, "Do not use the disabled vehicle's bumper shackles with the towbar." But during a recent Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation at Ft Polk, I witnessed and corrected many operators towing vehicles by the bumper shackles, sometimes even using sling legs.

This is a real safety hazard and can lead to vehicle damage as well. Could you get the message out about the proper use of tow bars and adapters? It might prevent a catastrophe.

MSG Phillip L. Schafer  
Ft Stewart, GA

YOU BET,  
MASTER  
SERGEANT!  
THE TOW  
BAR FOR  
UP-ARMORED  
HMMWVS  
COMES WITH  
NSN 4910-01-  
554-7296.  
THE **CORRECT**  
**ADAPTER** TO  
USE IS NSN  
5340-01-  
022-4686.



THERE IS **ALSO** AN IMPROVED  
FRONT TOW BRACKET AVAILABLE  
FOR UP-ARMORED AND  
EXPANDED CAPACITY VEHICLE  
(ECV) HMMWV MODELS.

THE NEW BRACKET REQUIRES  
**DIFFERENT SCREWS AND LOCKNUTS**  
THAN THE ORIGINAL SETUP, BUT  
THE WASHERS AND MOUNTING  
TORQUE (90 LB-FT) ARE  
UNCHANGED.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

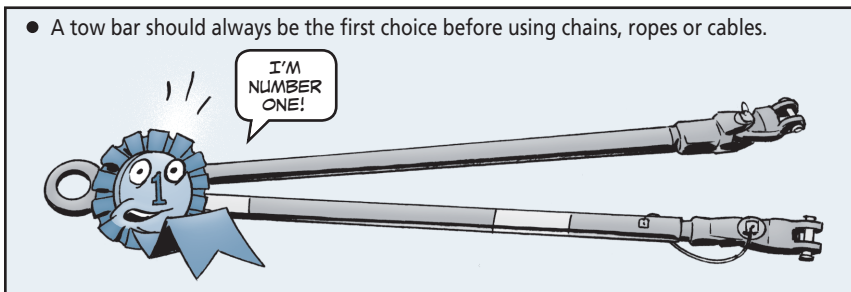
Item	NSN	Qty
Bracket	2540-01-599-0075	1
Screw	5305-00-071-2071	2
Locknut	5310-01-548-1848	3
Washer	5310-01-121-1703	4

**ALWAYS** CHECK  
THE TOWED AND  
TOWING VEHICLES'  
TMS FOR ANY  
SPECIAL TOWING  
INSTRUCTIONS,  
THEN FOLLOW  
THESE TIPS...



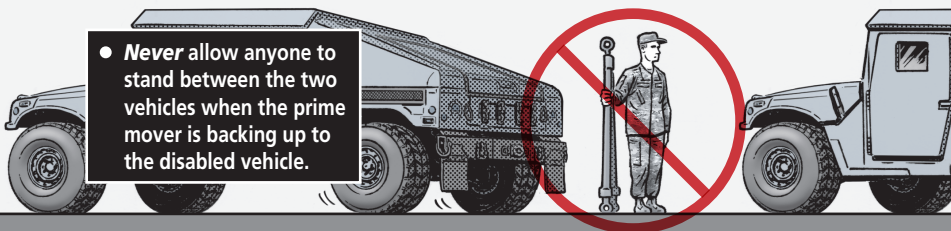
- Recovery operations require specific skills. A trained vehicle recovery specialist (additional skill identifier H8) should be part of the recovery team whenever possible.

- A tow bar should always be the first choice before using chains, ropes or cables.



- If a tow bar is unavailable, connect cables, chains or ropes to the pintle of the prime mover and to the lifting shackles of the towed vehicle.

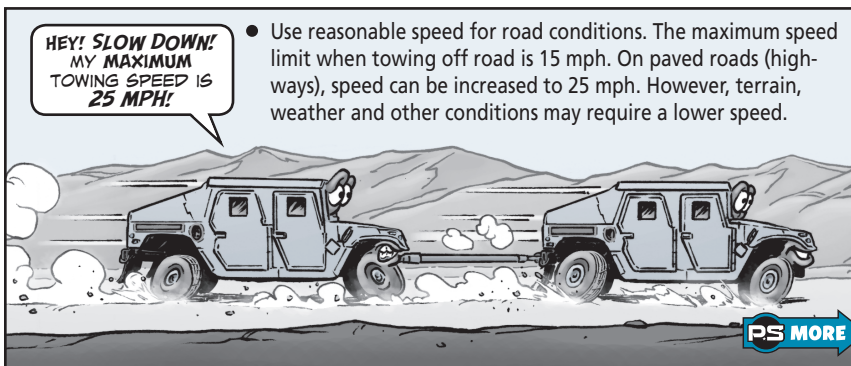
- **Never** allow anyone to stand between the two vehicles when the prime mover is backing up to the disabled vehicle.



- Prior to towing, make sure all personnel are clear of vehicles before removing wheel chocks.
- Avoid making sharp turns when towing. Keep turning speed at 5 to 10 mph to reduce skidding risk.
- Before disconnecting the vehicles, make sure both are on level surfaces with wheels chocked.

**HEY! SLOW DOWN!  
MY MAXIMUM  
TOWING SPEED IS  
25 MPH!**

- Use reasonable speed for road conditions. The maximum speed limit when towing off road is 15 mph. On paved roads (highways), speed can be increased to 25 mph. However, terrain, weather and other conditions may require a lower speed.



**PS MORE**

- Be sure to put the cotter pin in the pintle hook. This keeps the tow bar and towed vehicle from disconnecting during stops.

● Do not put hands near the pintle hook when aligning it with the lunette eye hook.



- The towing vehicle operator should always make a final safety check of the tow bar pins and safety clips before moving out and at all rest stops.
- Always insert tow bar pins with the head facing up and the safety clip on the bottom. That way, if the safety clip fails, the pin is less likely to fall out.
- Never substitute anything for the tow bar pins or safety clips. Use only the authorized hardware that is listed in the tow bar's TM.
- When using a tow bar, also connect a safety chain with the appropriate load rating between the two vehicles. That can prevent an accident if the tow bar breaks or disconnects.
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- If a disabled vehicle's brakes aren't working, don't try to flat tow it. Call for dedicated wrecker support.

- Avoid hills with greater than a 20 percent incline. The weight of a disabled vehicle can push or pull the tow vehicle, causing loss of control.



- If you must tow in heavy traffic, tie the front lifting shackles of the towed vehicle tightly to the rear lifting shackles of the prime mover and connect the air brake lines.
- Use a ground guide whenever moving a disabled vehicle. The ground guide must remain visible to the driver at all times. See Chapter 11-4, Section (9)h in AR 385-10, *The Army Safety Program* (Feb 17), for more ground guide rules and tips.
- Only the driver is allowed to ride in the disabled vehicle being towed.





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