

Mounted Water Ration Heater on the Way For Tanks, Bradleys, M113s, and Howitzers

by Larry T. Hasty

In the near future, tank crews will be able to provide hot water and to heat rations on board combat and combat support platforms.

Desert Storm established the unmistakable need for this capability. In response, the Directorate of Force Development developed the necessary requirement documentation and managed a program that led to the successful fielding of the Mounted Water Ration Heater (MWRH).

The MWRH will heat five Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and two pints of water at the same time. If the insert that rations are heated in is removed, you can heat one gallon of water for coffee, hot chocolate, or hygiene purposes. This heater has two heat settings, low (150°F to 160°F) and high (180°F to 190°F). Because of its low power rating (15 amps), this heater can be left on for several hours in silent watch without starting the engine to recharge batteries. The MWRH is equipped with a low power monitor that monitors vehicle battery power and automatically shuts the heater off to prevent drawing battery power below required starting level.

The program managers for Abrams, Paladin/FAASV, Bradley, and M113 have taken the lead with their integration kit development, and their systems will be the first platforms equipped. PM-Abrams expects the M1A1 MWRH fielding to start during the second quarter of FY97 and to continue until approximately 1,440 tanks



receive the MWRH at no cost to the receiving units. M1A2 MWRH integration will be done as a Pre-Planned Product Improvement.

PM-Bradley recently started fielding the MWRH and will continue to FY01. A total of 5,248 MWRHs will be fielded during this time to M2A2s, M3A2s, M2A3s, M3A3s, and C2Vs.

PM-Paladin and FAASV currently has fielded 180 MWRHs (57 Paladins and 123 FAASVs) through a retrofit program. The plan is to continue this program until approximately 1,604 MWRHs have been fielded (824 Paladins and 780 FAASVs) by FY98.

PM-113 plans to start fielding the MWRH during the second quarter of FY97 and will continue through 2003. Approximately 2,156 MWRHs should be fielded during this

time to M113A3s, M577s, M1064s, and M1068s.

If you have any additional questions or need any other information on the MWRH, call Mr. Larry T. Hasty at the Directorate of Force Development, DSN 464-3662, or commercial (502) 624-3662.

Larry Hasty is a Soldier Support Project Officer assigned to the Directorate of Force Development, U.S. Army Armor Center, Ft. Knox, Ky. His area of responsibility includes Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE), life support, and communication equipment programs for the combat vehicle crewman. He received the Colonel Rohland A. Isker Award for his work in fielding the Mounted Water Ration Heater.