LESSON ASSIGNMENT

LESSON 6
Removing Casualties from Tactical Vehicles.

LESSON ASSIGNMENT
Paragraphs 6-1 through 6-4.

LESSON OBJECTIVES
After completing this lesson, you should be able to:

6-1. Identify the general procedures for removing a casualty from a tactical vehicle.

6-2. Identify the procedures for removing casualties from an M1 tank.

6-3. Identify the procedures for removing casualties from an M2 BIFV.

6-4. Identify the procedures for removing casualties from an M3 CFV.

SUGGESTIONS
After completing the assignment, complete the exercises at the end of this lesson. These exercises will help you to achieve the lesson objectives.

View audiovisual tapes 706050 DA (1986), Extricate Wounded Crew From the M1 Tank, and 706051 DA (1987), Extricate Wounded Crew from M3, available through your Training Support Center (TSC). These audiovisual tapes are part of the Health Services Support of AirLand Battle series.
LESSON 6

REMOVING CASUALTIES FROM TACTICAL VEHICLES

6-1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

In combat, you could be confronted with a situation in which the casualty to be treated and evacuated is inside a tactical vehicle. Armored vehicles that are disabled or stationary present an inviting target to the enemy. Also, a disabled vehicle which has been fired upon may explode due to the explosives and fuel carried in the vehicle. Two or more persons should aid in extricating (freeing) casualties to speed the rescue effort. When possible, lifesaving procedures, such as applying a tourniquet to control severe bleeding, and packaging procedures, such as applying a short spine board to a casualty with a fractured neck, should be performed before removing the casualty from the vehicle. The general principles listed below are applicable to all tactical vehicles and also to vehicle accidents that occur on city streets or on highways. Paragraphs 6-2 through 6-4 give instructions for specific tactical vehicles, but similar procedures can be used to remove casualties from other tracked and wheeled vehicles.

a. Gain access to the casualty. If there is more than one casualty, perform a quick triage to determine which casualty should be removed first.

b. Administer any lifesaving measures that are needed, if possible.

NOTE: If the vehicle is on fire or in immediate danger of exploding, remove the casualty and yourself to safety before administering medical care.

c. Free the casualty. You may need to remove objects that are trapping the casualty in the vehicle.

d. Prepare. Prepare (package) the casualty for extrication (apply spine boards, etc.), if needed and if the situation allows.

e. Remove the casualty from the vehicle.

f. Provide additional medical care, as needed.

g. Transport the casualty to a medical treatment facility for further evaluation and treatment.
6-2. REMOVING CASUALTIES FROM AN M1 TANK

The procedures for removing casualties from the interior of an M1 tank by a medic (yourself) and one or more other soldiers (rescuers) are given below. Give the other soldiers instructions as needed. If members of the tank crew are able, have them assist in opening hatches and removing casualties from the tank. If you are the only rescuer available, use pistol belts or similar devices to lift the casualties from the tank.

a. Try to contact the crew. Bang on the side with a rock, for example.

b. Block the tank's track to prevent accidental movement. This can be accomplished by placing a small log inside the track.

c. Mount the tank from the front of the tank's left side. (This is the safest area and allows the tank crew to see you). Consider all weapons to be armed. Do not move in front of any weapons or touch any of the antennas. Have the other soldiers (rescuers) mount the tank in the same manner.

d. If the commander's hatch is popped up but not open, reach inside the hatch and pull the release handle while the rescuers pull on the hatch to open it.

e. If the tank commander is injured and in his seat, reach in and grab the tank commander under his armpits. If possible, you should take one arm and have a rescuer take another arm. You may need to use pistol belts (similar to a pistol belt drag) to remove the soldier. Lift the commander out through the hatch and lay him on the turret.

f. Quickly examine the commander and render any necessary lifesaving care or have one of the rescuers administer the care if time permits.

g. Enter the tank through the commander's hatch. (You could not do this previously because the commander's body blocked your entry).

h. Put the main gun on safe. (The greatest dangers to yourself and the casualties are movement and firing of the main gun.)

i. If the tank is running:

   (1) Make sure the loader and the gunner is clear of the turret ring.

   (2) Warn the rescuers that you are going to transverse the turret.

   (3) Rotate the turret using the electrical controls or manual crank until the opening to the driver's compartment is fully exposed.
(4) Lock the turret so it cannot move.

(5) Reach into the driver's compartment and turn off the engine and the master switch.

j. Triage the casualties and perform any needed lifesaving procedures if time permits.

k. Package casualties (applies spine boards), if needed.

l. Move the tank commander off and away from the tank. If two or more rescuers are assisting, they can perform this procedure while you remain in the tank. If you have only one rescuer helping, you will:

   (1) Exit through the hatch.

   (2) Have the rescuer assist you in lowering the casualty to the fender or storage compartment of the tank.

   (3) Lower yourself to the ground.

   (4) Have the rescuer turn the casualty so you can support the casualty's chest.

   (5) Grasp the casualty under his armpits and support his head (figure 6-1).

Figure 6-1. Lowering a casualty to the ground.
(6) Have the rescuer lower himself to the ground.

(7) Have the rescuer support the casualty's legs and help you move the casualty away from the tank to a safe area.

m. Open the loader's hatch from inside the tank and have a rescuer lock the hatch in the open position.

n. Remove the loader.

(1) Grasp the casualty under the armpits from the front, lift, and push the casualty through the loader's hatch. (An alternative is to join two pistol belts together and position the front portion of the loop across the casualty's chest and under his armpits. This allows a rescuer to grab the back of the loop and lift the casualty through the hatch.)

(2) Have the rescuer on the turret to help guide the casualty's head through the hatch; then have him grasp the casualty from the rear under the armpits and pull the casualty through the hatch (figure 6-2).

Figure 6-2. Lifting a casualty through a hatch on the turret.

(3) Move the loader off the tank and to a place of safety using the same procedures as for the commander (step l).

o. Remove the gunner using the same general procedures as those used for the loader. The gunner can be removed through either the commander's hatch or the loader's hatch.
p. Remove the driver. If the driver is large or if you cannot open the driver's hatch, grasp the driver under his armpits, pull him into the turret compartment, and evacuate him through the commander's hatch or the loader's hatch on top of the turret. If the main gun or the turret overhang is not blocking the driver's hatch, he can be removed through the driver's hatch using the procedures given below.

(1) Unlock the driver's hatch from inside the tank.

(2) Climb onto the front of the tank and, with the assistance of a rescuer, open the driver's hatch.

(3) Reach inside, position the casualty's arms across his chest, and grasp the casualty under one armpit. Have the rescuer grasp the casualty under the other armpit.

(4) Lift the casualty and rotate the casualty until he is facing the rear of the tank (figure 6-3).

(5) Continue to lift the driver from both sides until you can position the casualty in a sitting position on the rim of the hatch.

(6) Lower yourself to the ground.

(7) Have the rescuer turn the casualty so you can support the casualty's chest.

(8) Grasp the casualty under his armpits and support his head.

(9) Have the rescuer lower himself to the ground and support the casualty's legs.

(10) Move the casualty away from the tank to a safe area.
6-3. REMOVING CASUALTIES FROM AN M2 BRADLEY INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLE

An M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle (BIFV) is equipped with six exits—commander's hatch, gunner's hatch, driver's hatch, cargo hatch, ramp door, and ramp (figure 6-4). The procedures for removing casualties from the interior of an M2 BIFV by a medic (yourself) and one or more other soldiers (rescuers) are given below. Give the other soldiers instructions as needed. If members of the BIFV crew are able, have them assist in opening hatches and removing casualties from the tank. If you are the only rescuer available, use pistol belts or similar devices to lift the casualties through the hatches. Triage casualties, treat life-threatening conditions, and apply spinal splints as needed if you and the crew are not in immediate danger.

Figure 6-4. Exit points on and M2 BIFV.
a. Try to contact the crew (bang on the side with a rock, and so forth).

b. Block the tank's track to prevent accidental movement (place a small log inside the track, and so forth).

c. Climb on the BIFV from the front of the vehicle's left side, unlock the driver's hatch from the outside, and open the hatch. Do not move in front of any weapons or touch any antennas.

d. Reach in the driver's compartment and turn off the engine, make sure the range finder is in gear, and set the hand break.

e. Raise the driver's seat to the upright position, unbuckle his seat belt, remove his helmet, and treat any life-threatening injuries.

f. Remove the driver. When possible, evacuate the driver through the driver's hatch (instructions given below). If the driver's hatch is blocked or if the tactical situation prevents its use, evacuate the driver through the troop compartment and out the ramp or ramp door.

   (1) If possible, have a rescuer enter the BIFV through the ramp door and proceed to the driver's compartment where he will assist you and another rescuer in removing the driver.

   (2) Join two pistol belts together and position the front portion of the loop across the driver's chest and under his armpits.

   (3) Lift the driver through the driver's hatch by pulling on the back of the pistol belt loop and lifting the casualty by his armpits while the rescuer inside the BIFV pushes and guides the driver through the hatch (figure 6-5).

   (4) Move the driver off the vehicle and to a place of safety.

NOTE: If the BIFV is turned on its right side, four rescuers should support the driver on the outside to prevent further injury during the removal process (figure 6-6). If the BIFV is on its left side, only two soldiers may be needed because the driver's hatch will be near the ground.
Figure 6-5. Removing the driver through the driver's hatch of a BIFV.

Figure 6-6. Removing the driver through the driver's hatch of a BIFV turned on its right side.
g. Remove the vehicle commander and the gunner.

(1) If the turret is operational and the gunner or the commander can rotate the turret, that soldier should rotate the turret until the turret opening is aligned with the turret shield door and then turn off the turret power drive to prevent the turret from accidentally moving during casualty removal. The commander and the gunner can then be pulled into the troop compartment, treated for life-threatening injuries, and removed through the ramp opening or the ramp door.

(2) If the turret cannot be rotated, remove the commander and the gunner through the commander's hatch and the gunner's hatch. The gunner's hatch can be opened from the outside by prying on the hatch with a crowbar between the gunner's right periscope and the commander's left periscope. Use the mattock head as a pivot for the crowbar (figure 6-7). Treat the commander and the gunner for any life-threatening injuries; then lift them through the hatches using pistol belts in a manner similar to the driver and move them to a place of safety.

h. Remove personnel in the troop compartment. Enter through the ramp door or the cargo hatch and lower the ramp. (This step may be accomplished by the rescuer who enters the vehicle to assist with removing the driver.) Treat any life-threatening conditions; then evacuate casualties out the ramp. If the ramp is inoperative, evacuate the casualties through the ramp door. If neither the ramp nor the ramp door can be used, evacuate the casualties through the cargo hatch. The cargo hatch is used only as a last resort because of the difficulty in evacuating casualties through the hatch.

Figure 6-7. Prying open the gunner's hatch on a BIFV.
6-4. REMOVING CASUALTIES FROM AN M3 CAVALRY FIGHTING VEHICLE

If possible, have two or more rescuers assist you in removing casualties from an M3 Cavalry Fighting Vehicle (CFV). Members of the crew may be able to assist you with turning off the engine, opening hatches, and removing injured crewmen. Triage casualties, treat life-threatening conditions, and apply spinal splints as needed unless you and the crew are in immediate danger.

a. Try to contact the crew.

b. Block the track to keep the vehicle from moving.

c. Enter through the rear door. Evacuate soldiers in the main compartment, if present. If the rear door is locked, climb on the vehicle from the front of the vehicle's left side and try to enter through the driver's hatch, gunner's hatch, or commander's hatch. Do not move in front of any weapons or touch any antennas. Do not try to clear or make safe any weapons.

d. Stop the engine by pulling the fuel cutoff; then turn off the engine accessory switch and the master switch. (This prevents weapons being fired and keeps the turret from moving due to shorts in the system.)

e. Unlock the driver's hatch.

f. Treat the driver and soldiers in the hull for any life threatening conditions; then remove them through the rear door.

g. From the inside, unlock the loader's hatch, the turret door, and the commander's hatch.

h. Open the commander's hatch, treat him for any life-threatening conditions, and remove him through the hatch. Assist from the inside while two rescuers lift the commander out of the hatch from the outside. Have the rescuers lower the commander to the ground and move him to a safe area away from the vehicle.

i. Open the gunner's hatch, treat him for any life-threatening conditions, and remove him through the hatch. Have the rescuers lower the gunner to the ground and move him to a safe area away from the vehicle.

j. Open the driver's hatch, treat him for any life-threatening conditions, and remove him through the hatch. Have the rescuers lower the driver to the ground and move him to a safe area away from the vehicle.

Continue with Exercises

Return to Table of Contents
EXERCISES, LESSON 6

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer the following exercises by marking the lettered response that best answers the question or best completes the incomplete statement or by writing the answer in the space provided at the end of the exercise.

After you have completed all the exercises, turn to "Solutions to Exercises" at the end of the lesson and check your answers. For each exercise answered incorrectly, reread the material referenced with the solution.

1. When rescuing casualties from an M1 tank, you should climb on the tank from the front ________ side of the tank, remove the ___________ and enter the tank through the ____________ hatch, put the ______________ on safe, rotate the turret until you have access to the _____________ compartment, lock the ______________ in place so it will not turn, and turn off the __________ and the _________________.

2. When preparing to evacuate casualties from a tactical vehicle, you should not go in front of any _____________ or touch the _________________.

3. When the driver is removed from a Bradley, he is lifted through the hatch:
   a. Head first.
   b. Feet first.

4. When possible, soldiers in the main compartment (hull) of an M3 CFV should be evacuated through the:
   a. Commander's hatch.
   b. Driver's hatch.
   c. Gunner's hatch.
   d. Rear door.
5. When evacuating casualties, you should treat life-threatening conditions:

   a. As you find them, regardless of the situation.

   b. As you find them unless you must immediately move the casualties and yourself away from an dangerous situation.

   c. Only after all casualties have been removed from the vehicle and moved to an area far away from the vehicle.

   Check Your Answers on Next Page
SOLUTIONS TO EXERCISES, LESSON 6

1. When rescuing casualties from an M1 tank, you should climb on the tank from the front left side of the tank, remove the commander and enter the tank through the commander's hatch, put the main gun on safe, rotate the turret until you have access to the driver's compartment, lock the turret in place so it will not turn, and turn off the engine and the master switch. (para 6-2)

2. weapons; antennas. (paras 6-2c, 6-3c, 6-4c)

3. a (para 6-3f, figures 6-5, 6-6)

4. d (para 6-4c)

5. b (para 6-1b, Note)

Return to Table of Contents