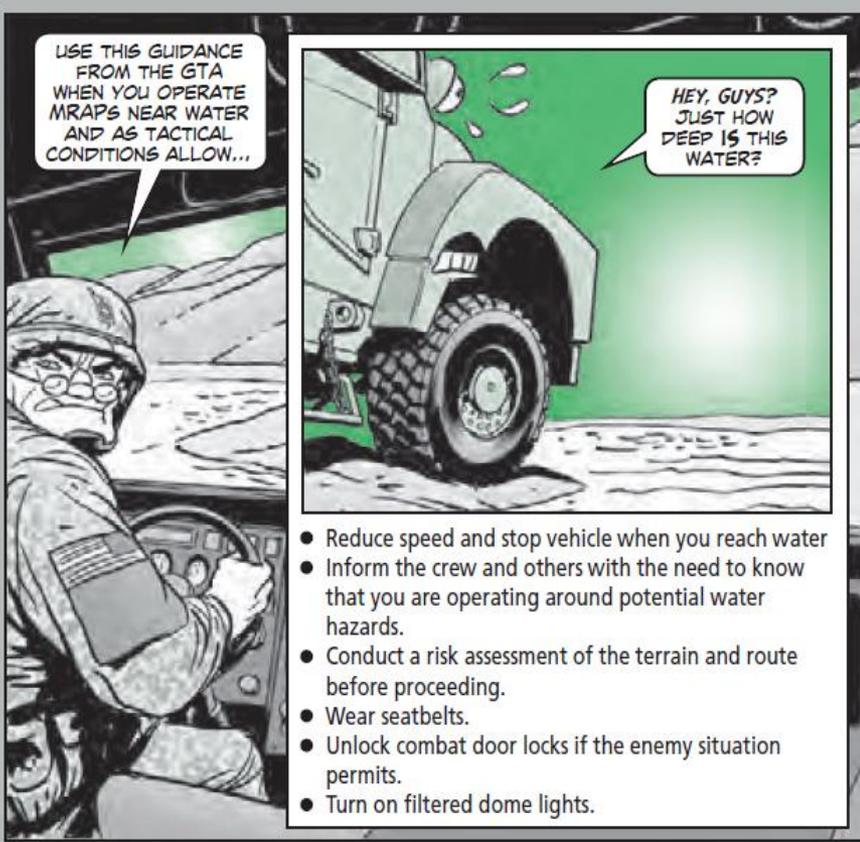


# Focus ON SAFE FORDING

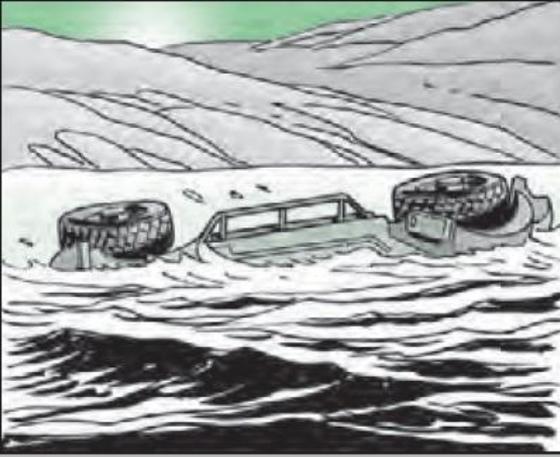


SOME SOLDIERS IN AN M-ATV RECENTLY TRIED TO FORD A RIVER IN AFGHANISTAN THAT WAS 5 FEET DEEP.

THE MAXIMUM FORDING DEPTH OF AN M-ATV IS 3 FEET IN CALM WATER.

**FOUR SOLDIERS DIED.**

- Reduce speed and stop vehicle when you reach water
- Inform the crew and others with the need to know that you are operating around potential water hazards.
- Conduct a risk assessment of the terrain and route before proceeding.
- Wear seatbelts.
- Unlock combat door locks if the enemy situation permits.
- Turn on filtered dome lights.



MAKE SURE YOU KNOW THE FORDING DEPTH OF YOUR MRAP VEHICLE BEFORE YOU FORD.

YOU SHOULD ALSO CONDUCT ROUTE RECONS AND REHEARSE THE ROLLOVER AND EGRESS DRILLS GIVEN IN MRAP GTA 07-09-001.

YOU CAN GET TO IT ONLINE:  
<https://safety.army.mil/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=BMdwoKdpIdQ%3d&tabid=653>

HERE ARE SOME KEY POINTS ABOUT WATER FORDING THAT SHOULD BE A PART OF YOUR UNIT'S SOP.

IT'S FROM THE TC 7-31 MRAP FOV DRIVER'S TRAINING ON SHALLOW WATER FORDING OPERATIONS.



1. Ensure the fording site has adequate entrance and exit points and a firm bottom.
2. Check that the water depth at the fording site is below the vehicle's fording limit and clear of submerged obstacles.
3. During training exercises, make sure drivers and crew members wear life vests if water is over 4 feet deep. (This doesn't apply to the M-ATV since its maximum fording depth is 3 feet.) Do not exceed 4 mph.
4. Follow all vehicle fording and swimming instructions in accordance with the vehicle TM.
5. Do not wear load-bearing equipment (LBE) during fording operations. It could snag on vehicle components and prevent crew members from evacuating through the top hatches during emergencies.