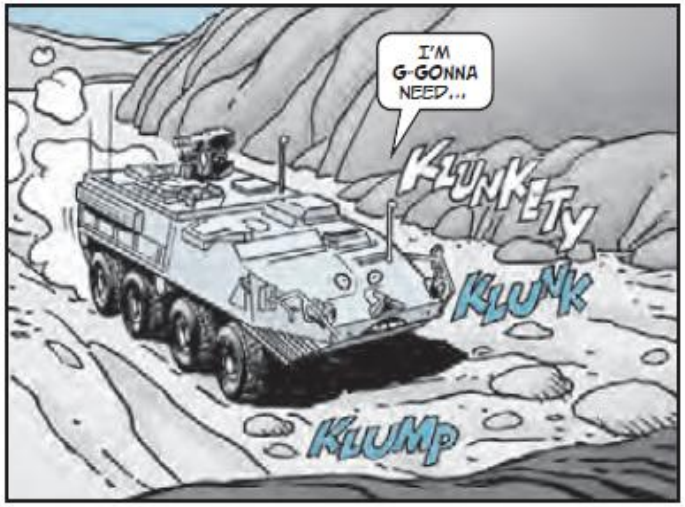
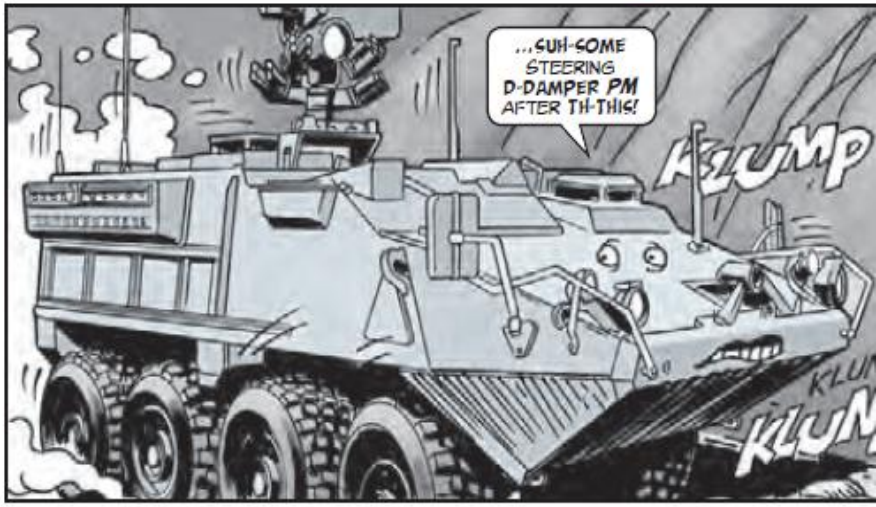
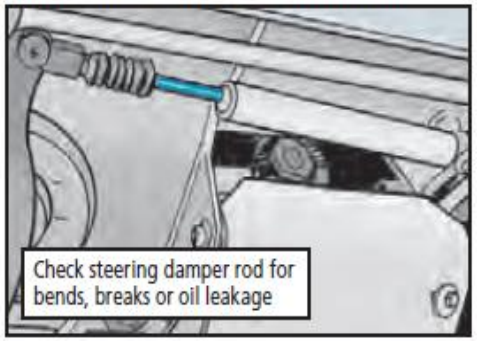
Damper PM Won't Steer You Wrong





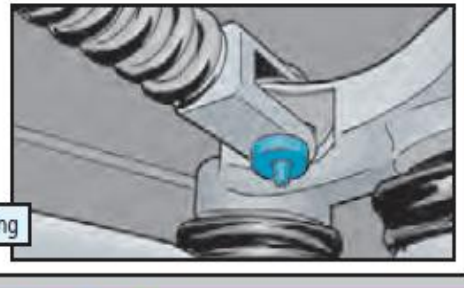
The dampers are like mini shock absorbers that act as a stabilizer for the steering system. Without 'em, the steering column can give you a good shake down.

Rough terrain, rocks, and heavy brush can take a toll on the damper rods. That's why you need to crawl under your Stryker to visually inspect them, especially after a mission over rough terrain. Look for a bent or broken rod or evidence of oil on the cylinder that could indicate a leaking wiper seal. Report any problems to your mechanic.



Check steering damper rod for bends, breaks or oil leakage

You'll also need to keep the dampers lubed monthly with GAA. Without lube, the rod binds and will soon bend like a pretzel. You'll find the lube point at the end of the damper rod.



Lube damper to prevent binding

Cold Weather Problems

Extreme cold weather also has a negative effect on the steering dampers. Sustained temperatures at or below 0°F result in a significantly high number of steering damper failures.

So, vehicles that are part of the 3rd Stryker Brigade in Alaska are now authorized to remove the steering dampers when the temperature drops below 0°F for a sustained period.

Removing the dampers may result in higher amounts of wheel kick and vibration in the steering system, especially over rough terrain. That can result in increased wear on steering components. So, inspect the steering system often for damage if you've removed the dampers.

All drivers with vehicles that have had the dampers removed should receive a precautionary briefing about the dangers of sudden steering movement and how best to reduce it.