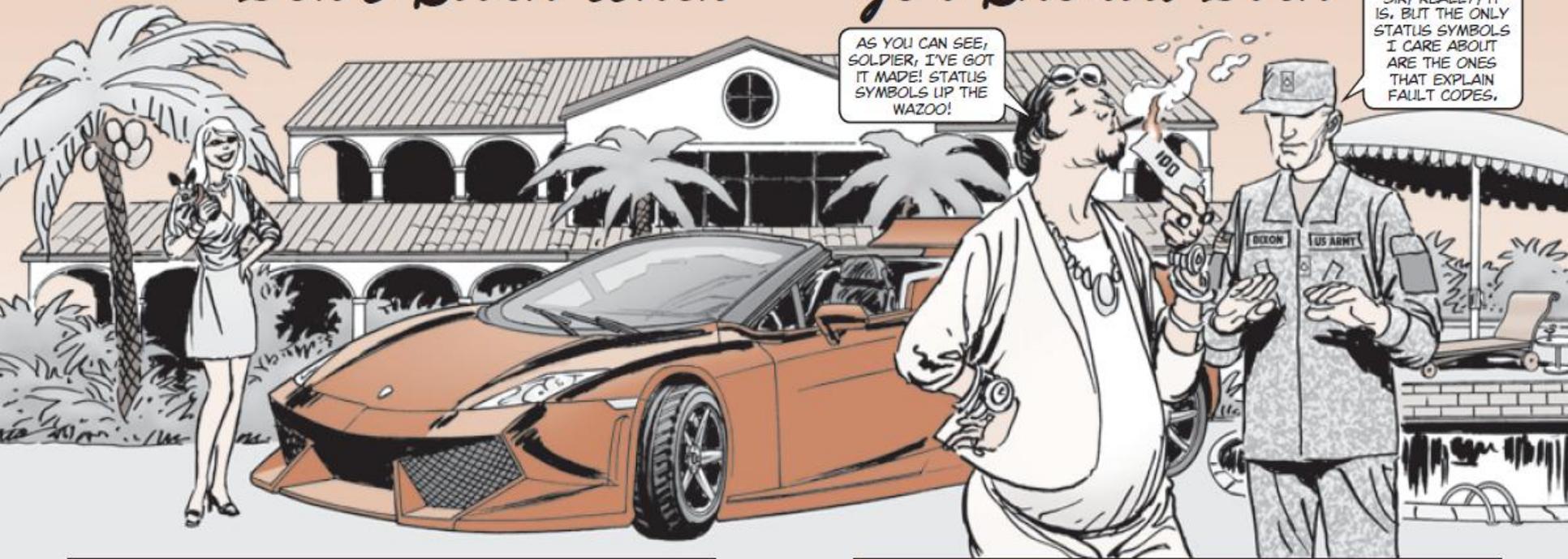


# Don't Slash When

# You Should Dash



AS YOU CAN SEE, SOLDIER, I'VE GOT IT MADE! STATUS SYMBOLS LIP THE WAZOO!

THAT'S GREAT, SIR, REALLY, IT IS, BUT THE ONLY STATUS SYMBOLS I CARE ABOUT ARE THE ONES THAT EXPLAIN FAULT CODES.

Dear Half-Mast,

DA Form 2404 (*Equipment Inspection and Maintenance Worksheet*) clearly states that an inspection fault status symbol will be a dash. I am being instructed to use a slash instead. The reason I am being told is that "everyone else does it like this..."

Would you please address the proper use of status symbols, backed by an Army Regulation?

CWZ D.C.

Dear Chief D.C.,

You bet! DA PAM 750-8, The Army Maintenance Management System (TAMMS) User's Manual, explains the proper use of status symbols (fault codes).

Status symbols detail the seriousness of equipment faults or problems.

Following are the five status symbols used and their meanings:

- X: A deficiency in the equipment places it in an inoperable status.
- Circled X: A deficiency exists where the equipment may be operated under specific limitations authorized by the commander until corrective action can be taken.

- Horizontal dash (-): A required inspection, component replacement, or maintenance operation check/test is due but has not been done, or an overdue MWO has not been completed.

- Diagonal slash (/): A material defect other than a deficiency must be corrected to increase efficiency or make the item serviceable.

- Last name initial: A completely satisfactory condition exists.

According to DA PAM 750-8, the status symbol chosen reflects the judgment of the person making the inspection, operating the equipment, or doing the maintenance. No one can order someone else to change a status symbol.

All changes become permanent, except Circled X, until the fault is corrected or it is otherwise overridden by the commander's designated representative, who is knowledgeable about maintenance.

Limited conditions apply in changing status symbols and are fully explained in Section 6 (a) of DA PAM 750-8. Faults are corrected per the Army -10 and -20 PMCS maintenance standards noted in AR 750-1, Army Materiel Maintenance Policy.

Half-Mast