

Army National Guard  
Armor Training Center, Gowen Field  
Boise, Idaho 83642-8150

25 October 1995

U.S. Army Tank Automotive Command  
Program Executive Officer  
General Longhouser  
(810)574-6685/2

Col. Cardine,

I am the end user of the True Lock system. I have been in are associated with armor since 1969. In May of 1994 I was advised that my tank TC - 30 would be used to test a new system that supposedly would reduce the loss of wedge bolts and wedgies. My first reaction internally was RIGHT. I've spent years doing a process known as "Pinging" the bolts to prevent the complete loosening and loss of bolts.

Being an instructor of Armor Crewmen, I have during a normal training cycle five different drivers including myself. The driving course on the MPRCH is approximately 7 miles, with numerous turns which will place enormous pressure on the track when taking turns at above normal speeds. Students doing this type of driving can find flaws in your track maintenance quickly.

My evaluation of the True Lock system is as follows:

1. New track was installed in May of 94 to specifications with torque of wedge bolts being 400lbs. No loss or loosening of bolts was detected.

2. Jul. 94 I experienced loss of retaining plates. It was discovered that a rear sprocket had excessive wear. Sprocket was replaced and a discussion with Mr. Weinstein lead to a stronger retaining plate being installed.

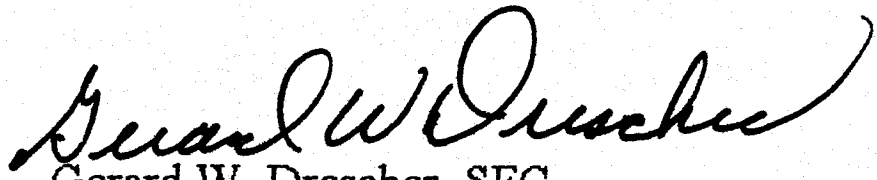
3. Since that time, I have experienced no loss of new retaining plates, nor have the bolts loosened up. I walk my track at the end of each class and while I watch other instructors tighten wedge bolts and replace lost ones. I have not.

4. Inspection of end connectors reveals even wear of the exterior, and no wear on inner portion of the end-connector. Inspection of connectors without the system shows uneven wear on exterior and some wear on the inner. This could be caused by a loosening of the wedge bolt allowing the connector to move.

Conclusion on my end is that the True Lock system works. I spend less time changing and tightening wedge bolts and more time training students in other areas. I can also see cost savings

to the Army which in these times of cut backs can help. Other things can be said of this system that would include prior track experiences, however that is not the purpose of this letter. I hope this letter will assist in making a determination for Army wide application of this system.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gerard W. Drescher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Gerard W. Drescher, SFC  
Armor Instructor,  
ARNG Armor Training Center