

Mounting a GPS in Historic Military Vehicles

By Tom Essary, Arlington, TX MVPA #31350

Background

My family enjoys trips in the woods on four wheelers and our 1943 WWII Ford GPW Army jeep goes along. We have been using GPS to keep us on track for many years. It was a simple job to clamp the GPS mount to a handle bar and plug in a lighter adapter with the modern ATV.



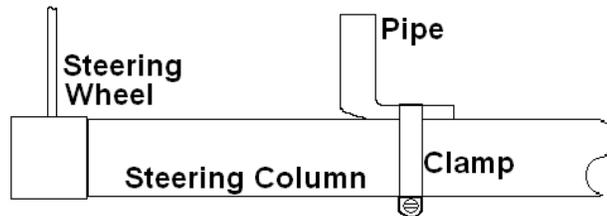
Solution

Some early options:

1. Use a suction cup on the windshield ... not sure how well that would be in the rough!
2. Leave the GPS in the seat ... we usually have a bag in between the seats to set the GPS on.

What I ended up with:

3. Add something to connect the handle bar mount to:



This a no drill/weld project. I found a small pipe with one end flattened that was in my junk box. This piece was used to fasten a yard gate latch to. I bent the flat piece out to a right angle and shaped it to be concave to fit the steering column contour. I lightly sanded the piece, primed and painted it to match the jeeps OD. The flat piece was placed on the steering column and secured with a hose clamp (also painted OD). The round section of pipe now sticking up from the steering column was used to attach the GPS handle bar mount. The new mount was adjusted before I tightened the hose clamp to get the best position for the GPS.

I am sure that you can locate a similar mounting point for a simple add on for you HMTV.

Power

Since it was not very convenient to use batteries, it turns out that the GPS adapter works well on 6V and I only needed to add a lighter socket, hidden under the dash to use onboard power for the GPS. Make sure you add a fuse in line with the socket. Be safe!

Tom and Laurie Essary live in Arlington TX and are new to Arrowhead, Arkansas Travelers and the MVPA. They spent 5 months reviving 1943 GPW-I00709 in early 2008. This jeep named "Toby" has over 2500 miles on it since the restoration 10 months ago. Tom can be reached at tom@ad5zo.com See ad5zo.com for more info about the jeep restoration etc. Tom spent about 8 years in the US Navy as an ET3 and LTjg. He served as the Damage Control Assistant (DCA) on the USS Luce DDG-38 in '85-'86.*