



Technicians install a new gun mount within the tight confines of the Abrams turret. Below, crane lowers new mount into place.

## Abrams Gun Mounts Being Replaced To Accommodate More Powerful Ammo

Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, teams have been strengthening the mountings of M1A1 Abrams tank guns to handle newer, more powerful ammunition.

About a third of the 1,600 M1A1s have been converted already, and the remainder are to be completed by 1996 as part of a multimillion dollar conversion program. It involves modification of the gun mount and cradle. Teams remove the 2,000-pound gun mounts, pull out the old recoil mechanisms, insert new recoil mechanisms, and reassemble the parts. The old recoil mechanism is then rebuilt and modified at Rock Island.

Four arsenal teams of three machinists each have been traveling to military bases and National Guard sites in the U.S. and overseas to make the changes. Working 10 hours a day, six days a week, each team usually manages to upgrade a tank a day.

