

SWAP SHOP



MAINTENANCE IS TRAINING

During a command inspection, a company or battalion often scores well in the maintenance of large inventory items such as vehicles but poorly in small-equipment areas because the equipment has not been properly maintained.

There is an easy solution for the regular maintenance of items such as weapons, communication equipment, chemical defense equipment (CDE) and nuclear biological chemical (NBC) equipment and the building that houses it.

The answer is to put maintenance on the unit's weekly training schedule, where time allows additional maintenance tasks to be done. A good example is to assign the maintenance tasks of a weak or often-neglected area a specific morning, afternoon, or whole day or week of the month:

First Tuesday—All weapons cleaned, preventive maintenance checks and services (PMCS) performed, and records updated.

Second Tuesday—All CDE/NBC equipment cleaned, PMCS performed, and records updated.

Third Tuesday—All communication equipment cleaned, PMCS performed, equipment tested, and records updated.

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PMCS performed, equipment tested, and records updated.

Fourth Tuesday—All buildings and outdoor areas maintained or repaired to standards, work orders submitted, and records updated.

The maintenance of the selected areas can take place with a unit maintenance day or week. Companies or battalions can use the time periods within the already designated maintenance days to accomplish work in the smaller but still mission essential areas.

At company level, the needed maintenance can be performed after normal vehicle maintenance is done. Usually, a unit gets very good at vehicle maintenance and performs all tasks before the day is over. The rest of the day need not be wasted; the afternoon can be used to complete maintenance on a problem area. Extra effort now will prevent the need for "late night" maintenance before a command inspection or a walk-through by your commander.

Each soldier performing maintenance should be supervised by his first-line supervisor. The training time is invaluable. When your unit is called to perform its mission, all areas will be ready for the most critical inspection of all—the test of combat.

(Submitted by Captain Jeff Peters, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.)