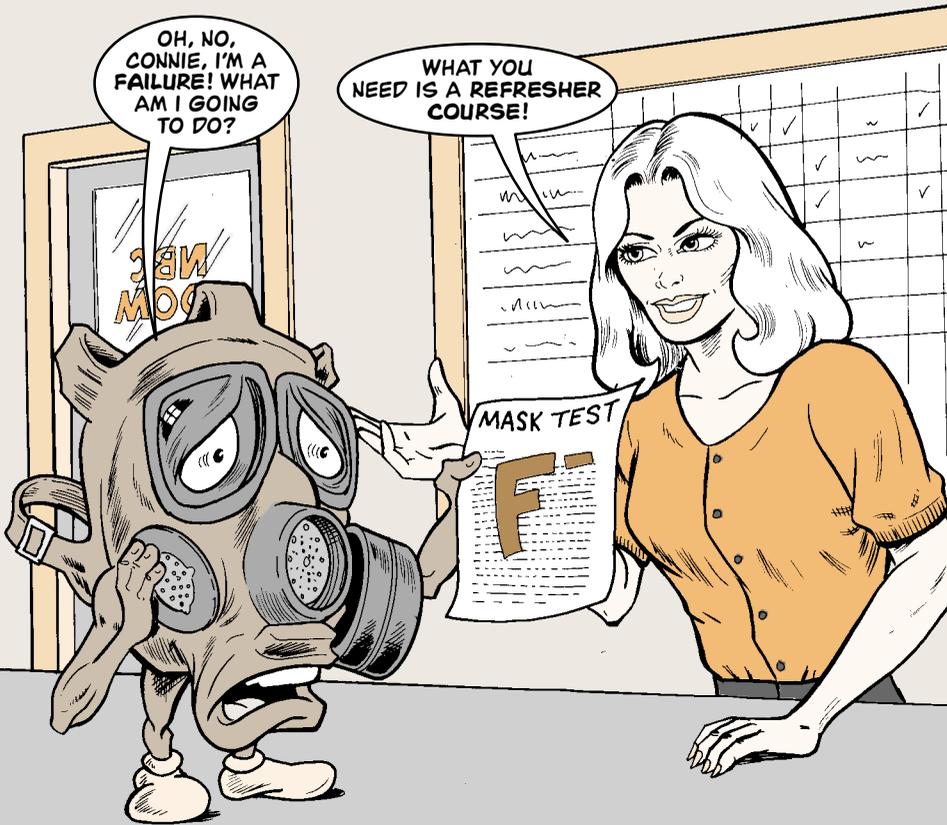


Breathe Easier

The Army did some checking after news stories reported that 50 percent of its M40-series and M42-series masks were defective. Turns out the masks weren't defective—it was lack of PM that was causing the problems. Too many soldiers and NBC NCOs weren't cleaning and checking their masks.

When it came time for inspection, the masks flunked.

Do you want your mask to be ready, whether it's for an inspection or for a chemical emergency? It's simple. First, do all the PMCS in your mask's -10 TM. Second, remember these pointers:

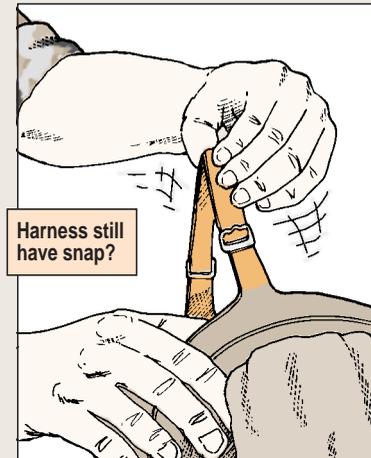
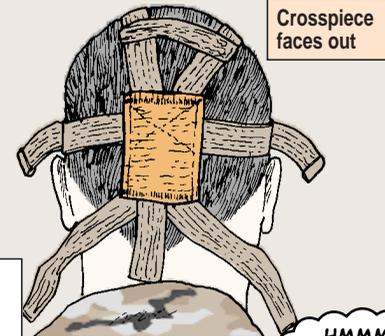
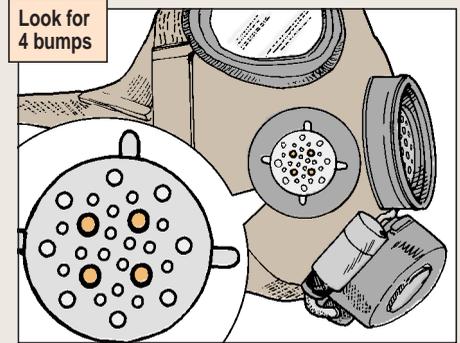


with Better PM

Side voicemitter: Look for the four bumps. If you do not see the bumps, the voicemitter is installed incorrectly. No bumps mean the voicemitter's in backwards and the mask can't protect you. Reverse the voicemitter.

Try tightening the voicemitter's retaining ring. A loose ring can cause leaks. Tell your NBC NCO about a loose ring.

Headharness: The crosspiece should face out. If it's reversed, it rubs your head raw. Gently stretch the headharness straps to see if they snap back. If they don't, tell your NBC NCO. The headharness won't keep your mask snug.

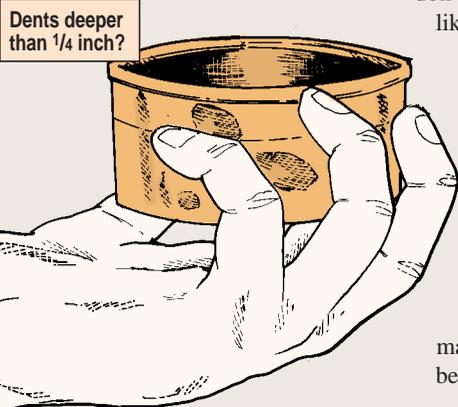


Outlet valve cover: Take it off and check the disc for dirt that can cause leaks or make it hard to breathe. Wipe out dirt with clean cheesecloth and make sure the valve seat and disc are clean and not damaged. **This is critical for a good seal.** In the field, check the cover for looseness periodically. When the hood's pulled up, it can unseat the valve cover.



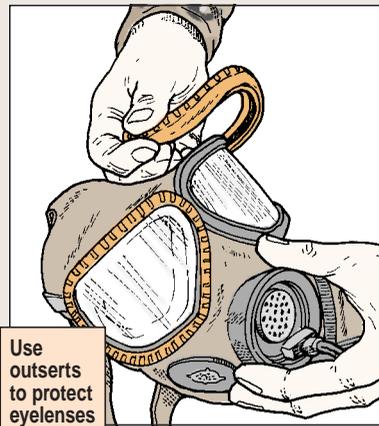
Clean outlet valve with dry cloth

Canister: It's OK for the canister to have dents as long as they're no deeper than 1/4 inch. If they're deeper or cross a seam or threads, you need a new canister.



Dents deeper than 1/4 inch?

Outserts: Make sure both outserts are in place. If the outserts are scratched, replace them. If they're missing and the lenses are scratched, the whole facepiece must be replaced. Outserts also keep the mask from fogging.



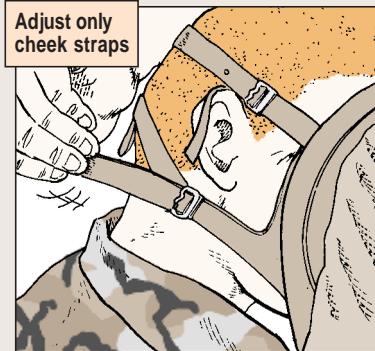
Use outserts to protect eyelenses

In the Field

Loosen the hood straps as much as possible before you put on or take off your mask. Loosen the straps gently, don't jerk them. That makes it less likely the hood will be torn.

Remember, snug is fine for the mask headharness. If you tighten the headharness as much as possible, you'll give yourself a tremendous headache, plus you'll wear out the harness.

Once you get the harness adjusted correctly, loosen or tighten only the cheek straps when removing or putting on the mask. The other straps don't need to be adjusted again once they're set.



Adjust only cheek straps

Don't use your mask as a cushion. Your weight can break stuff like the drink tube. If you must climb in a tank hatch, take off your mask carrier and hand it through. Then you won't scrape it against the side of the hatch. Washing your mask in soap and water is a great way to clean it. But remember to first remove the cannister. If it gets wet, it's ruined! Then remove the

outlet valve cover and disc, quick doff hood, universal second skin, and outserts. Now you're ready to dunk and wash your mask. Clean the other items separately.



Remove discs before washing mask

If you have questions about any of the masks, call the Chemical/Biological Maintenance Hotline at (800) 831-4408 or fax (410) 436-3912, DSN 584-3912.

