

# The Scoop on the

# 10 Percent Variance

Dear Half-Mast,

There's a lot of confusion in Army maintenance shops these days about the 10 percent maintenance variance window. Some units use it as the standard rather than the exception it is intended to be.

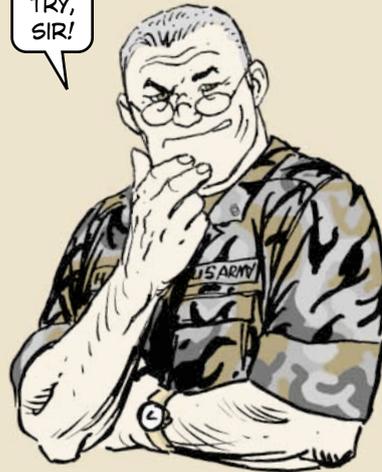
Everybody seems to have their own way to calculate and apply it. Then it's Confusion City when you try to figure out how to use it when you piggyback services to save time and manpower.

Finally, many units don't know how to report equipment when services go into an overdue status.

Can you shed some light for me on the variance rule for completing scheduled maintenance?

CW2 R. D.

I'LL TRY, SIR!



The top Army maintenance experts knew that missions would sometimes get in the way of pulling all scheduled PM on time. So they approved a 10 percent variance to help you out.

### The Variance Is Authorized!

The variance is authorized by Para 3-3b(1)(h)1 of DA Pam 738-750. Its purpose is to give you time before and after a service is scheduled so that you have time to accomplish the mission and still get the service done on time.

Of course, you should always try to do scheduled services on time and use the variance as an **exception** when

missions get in the way. And, always check out your TM before you use the variance. Some services can't use the variance because time is too critical. For example, Item 19 of Table 2-1 in TM 9-1425-646-20, states "Interval: Annual. MLRS system is Not Mission Capable if: Safety load test date has expired."

### Calculating the Variance

Calculate the variance by multiplying the scheduled service time by 10 percent. For a semiannual service (180 days), multiply 180 days by 10 percent. The variance equals 18 days. Some

scheduled services use rounds, miles or hours instead of days. No problem. Just substitute rounds, miles or hours for days and multiply by 10 percent.

SCHEDULED SERVICE			10% VARIANCE MULTIPLIER	AUTHORIZED VARIANCE (IN DAYS)
FREQUENCY:	IN DAYS:	(TIMES)		
Quarterly	90	X	.10	9
Semiannual	180	X	.10	18
Annual	360	X	.10	36

### Applying the Variance

When you know the variance, get out your calendar and do the following:

1. Determine the scheduled service date. Let's say the scheduled service date is 12 Feb 01.

2. Apply the variance (18 days for our semiannual service) as follows:

\* Back off the scheduled service date (12 Feb 01) by 18 days. The variance start date, then, is 25 Jan 01.

\* Add 18 days to the scheduled service date (12 Feb 01). The variance close date is 2 Mar 01.

The 10 percent variance window for this semiannual service is 25 Jan 01 through 2 Mar 01. Services done within this window are considered done on time.

Applying variance window for a semiannual service: scheduled for 12 Feb

2001						
JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	28
25	26	27	28			
MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



### Piggybacking Services

Many maintenance shops schedule different services at the same time—piggyback them—to save time and manpower. This is great as long as you keep in mind that each service has its own variance window that does not change just because it is scheduled with other services.

To avoid an overdue status with a service, do the checks and services with the shortest variance window first.

For example, if you have a quarterly, a semiannual and an annual service scheduled together, do the quarterly checks and services first. Then, do the semiannual services and follow up by doing the annual services last. That way, if you have to stop doing your group of services, for any reason, at least you will have covered the services for the shortest variance window.

SCHEDULED SERVICE	AUTHORIZED VARIANCE	VARIANCE WINDOW (12 Feb is Sch. Svc. Date)
Quarterly (90 days)	9 days	2 Feb - 21 Feb
Semiannual (180 days)	18 days	25 Jan - 2 Mar
Annual (360 days)	36 days	7 Jan - 20 Mar

### Administrative Deadline

Vehicles and equipment are placed on administrative deadline when scheduled services become overdue. This is shown on the DA Form 2406 as a “below the line failure” for readiness reporting and as a status code E for ULLS-G users.

Vehicles in an overdue status beyond the 10 percent variance should not be operated until the services are done.

### Posting Scheduled Services

Manual system users use DD Form 314, *Preventive Maintenance Schedule and Record*, to schedule services. Pencil entries indicate scheduled services and their variance windows.

When services are completed on time—within the variance window—the scheduled service date is changed from a pencil entry to an ink entry.

AWCMF452, *Service Schedule Form*, is used to schedule services in ULLS-G. Since the ULLS developer did not automate the 10 percent variance process, ULLS-G users must manually calculate and maintain the variance window when needed.

When services are completed on time

Otherwise, there is a risk of damage to the equipment, injury to personnel or both.

If a vehicle is on extended dispatch when services are due, the commander should circle X the vehicle. This administratively deadlines the vehicle but allows the operator/crew to drive the vehicle back to the motor pool for service.

—within the variance window—put in the scheduled service date as the service completion date. If that date is a future date, suspense the action—note it on your calendar—and input it when it is the current date. ULLS-G will automatically schedule the next service when the completion date is input.

Currently, the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (ODC-SLOG) is reviewing the policies defined in AR 750-1, AR 700-138, AR 220-1 and DA Pam 738-750. The purpose of this review is to resolve misunderstandings and conflicts and provide a clear picture to the field on scheduled maintenance services.

PS END

HEY, I THINK I'M OVERDUE FOR A SERVICE!



NOPE, YOU'RE STILL IN THE VARIANCE WINDOW.

