

All PM Great and Small

A black and white illustration. On the left, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue dress with a white collar, holds a small mouse in her hands. On the right, a large elephant is shown from the chest up, holding a small apple in its trunk. The elephant's trunk is curled upwards.

LITTLE
GUYS
DESERVE
CARE,
TOO!

We all know about preventive maintenance—performing checks and services on equipment, finding, fixing or reporting small problems before they become major headaches. Every time you replace a dirty air filter, or clean a rifle bolt and bore, or inspect SINGARS connectors and cables, you're doing PM. You're making sure a vehicle rolls, a rifle fires, and a radio communicates.

It's only natural that the most attention, time and sweat is focused on PM for major systems: trucks, tanks, helicopters, missiles, small arms, commo and construction equipment.

But there's another side to PM, one we tend to overlook—preventive maintenance for troop support equipment, the small gear we're apt to neglect.

It makes no difference if it's tents, BDUs, ALICE, helmets, cots, first aid kits, flashlights, water cans or a hundred other common items. They all support you and your mission on the battlefield. If this gear suffers from lack of PM, you and your mission suffer as well.

So, next time you think about preventive maintenance, think small. Think troop support. Remember to wash ALICE and replace worn or broken parts. Change the air filter and the in-tank fuel filter in a modern burner unit. Inventory a first aid kit and replace items that have passed their expiration dates. Clean and dry the inside of a water can so bacteria don't breed and foul the water. While you're at it, order extra batteries and bulbs for flashlights.

A black and white illustration showing a close-up of an elephant's trunk. A small mouse is perched on the trunk, looking towards the left. The trunk is thick and wrinkled, with a small tassel at the tip.

PRACTICE
PREVENTIVE
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ON *ALL*
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GREAT AND
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TANK OR
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APPLY.