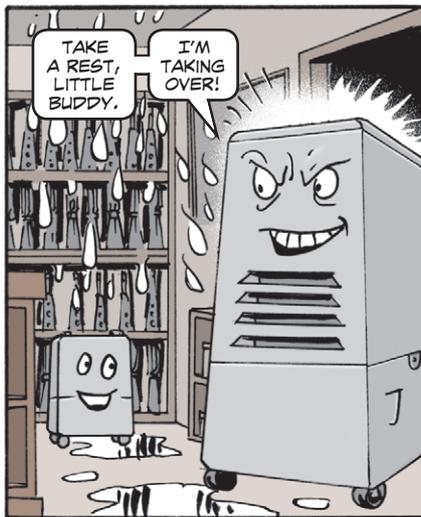


# BIG ARMS ROOMS NEED BIG DEHUMIDIFIERS



Dear Editor,

The article in PS 645 (Aug 06) suggesting armorers run a dehumidifier in the arms room was good—but it didn't go far enough.

The dehumidifier listed in the article was the type used in the home and holds only 15 pints. That may not be big enough for many arms rooms. For not that much more money, you can get a dehumidifier with a 30- to 60-pint capacity. Industrial supply houses like McMaster or Grainger and the large home supply outlets have a wide selection. If it means saving thousands by preventing weapons from being ruined by corrosion, spending a few dollars more for a larger dehumidifier is a no-brainer.

Units might also want to consider buying a dehumidifier that has an integral drain so that the water can be run directly to a building drain. Another option is one with a pump so that water can be piped into a large plastic drum.

If your arms room temperature sometimes drops below 65°F, you may need to get a dehumidifier with automatic deicing. Many dehumidifiers ice up below 65°F.

Armorers need to remember that most dehumidifiers start to lose their effectiveness above 95°F. So, if at all possible, the temperature in the arms room needs to be kept below that.

Dehumidifiers should be positioned on the floor since moist air settles. Circulation helps fight humidity, too, so running a fan is a help, especially blowing into corners.

Another excellent addition to the arms room is a humidity meter. You can get a good one for around \$25. The meter lets you directly monitor the humidity. Armorers should aim for 35 to 45 percent to prevent corrosion.

I hope these suggestions help armorers win the war against corrosion.

Army Sustainment Command  
Rock Island, IL

*Editor's note:* They certainly will, . . . One other point on dehumidifiers was made to PS during a recent visit to Ft Bragg by of MATES:

*Dehumidifiers need to be emptied on a regular basis to do any good. If armorers are going to be gone for long periods, someone else needs to be assigned the task of servicing the dehumidifier. And remember, even with dehumidifiers, the first line of defense against corrosion is the PMCS in your technical manuals.*

