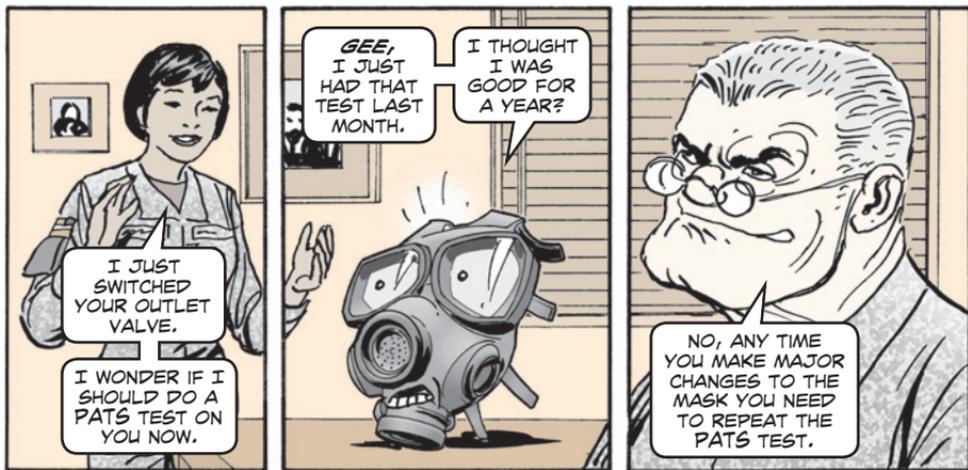


HOW OFTEN SHOULD MASKS BE TESTED?



Dear Half-Mast,

How often are M40- and M42-series masks supposed to be tested with PATS and where is that spelled out?

SSG T.B.

Dear Sergeant T.B.,

Generally for all the CBRN protective masks the PATS test needs to be done annually. This is spelled out on Page 2-39 in the M40's TM 3-4240-346-20&P. Your commander, of course, can ask for testing more often if he thinks the mission dictates the need.

But any time there are parts replaced on a mask or major adjustments made to the mask, you should do a PATS test just to make sure everything is OK.

Examples are:

- changing canister from right to left or visa versa
- side voicemitter replaced or re-seated
- head harness replaced or drastically readjusted
- outlet valve cover and disk replaced
- internal drink tube nipple replaced

If a soldier loses or gains 10 or more pounds, the mask fit should also be tested with PATS.

If you ever have doubts about a mask, do a PATS test.

No point in taking chances.

Half-Mast