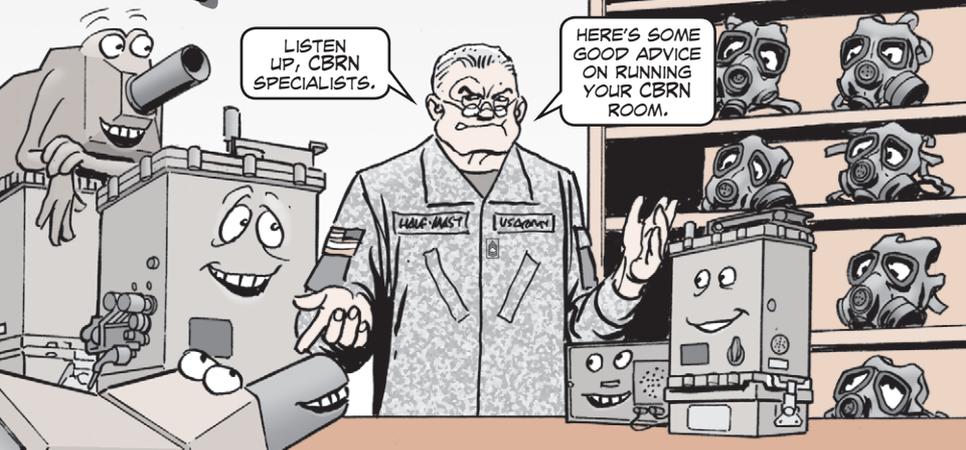


Help for the CBRN Room



LISTEN UP, CBRN SPECIALISTS.

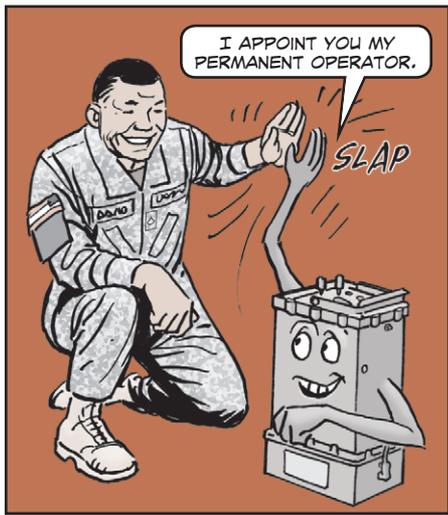
HERE'S SOME GOOD ADVICE ON RUNNING YOUR CBRN ROOM.

Dear Editor,

I've been a CBRN specialist for several years. From my experiences running a CBRN room, I've come up with a few suggestions that will help Soldiers new to the job.

Appoint specific operators and alternates for the unit's ICAMs and ACADAs.

Most units don't use the ICAMs and ACADAs much, so they sit for long periods. That can cause problems, particularly for the ICAM, which has trouble clearing if it's not run 30 minutes weekly. Sometimes the only fix is to send an ICAM to DOL, which costs time and trouble. If each ACADA and ICAM has a specific operator (and alternate), these Soldiers can be responsible for running them weekly and doing a quick PMCS on them under your supervision. And they can also help you keep track of what needs to be ordered, like ICAM protective nozzles. In most units, all of this falls on your shoulders as the CBRN specialist. Sometimes you don't have time to do it all yourself.

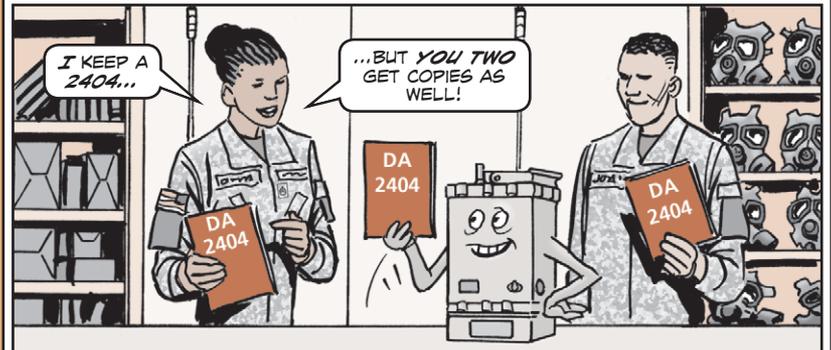


I APPOINT YOU MY PERMANENT OPERATOR.

SLAP

Keep three copies of DA Form 2404s for the ACADAs, ICAMs, and radiac equipment.

I keep one file of 2404s for myself, give one to the platoon sergeant and keep individual 2404s in the case of each piece of equipment. That makes it easy for everyone to track what condition the equipment is in, what has been done and what needs to be done. And if any problems develop in the field the operator can just jot down what's wrong on the 2404.



I KEEP A 2404...

...BUT YOU TWO GET COPIES AS WELL!

DA 2404

DA 2404

Send TMs to the field and order extras.

Soldiers need to have the TM handy in the field if there are problems, particularly with the ACADA, ICAM and radiac equipment. But when TMs go to the field, count on some never coming back. So order a few extra TMs for each piece of equipment to have as replacements.

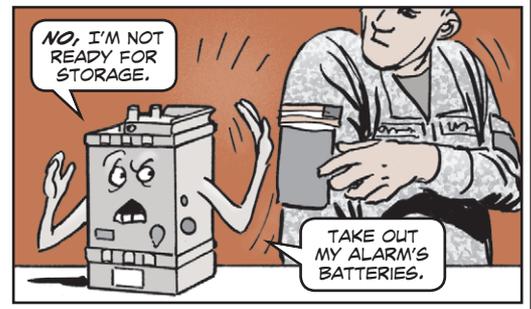


HEY, WHERE'S MY TM?

WE CAN'T GO TO THE FIELD WITHOUT IT.

Remove batteries before storing equipment.

The ACADA's M42 remote alarm, the AN/VDR-2, and the AN/UDR-13 all use regular batteries that will leak if they're left in during storage. That causes corrosion and can damage circuit cards. Before you lock up this equipment, double check that their batteries have been removed.



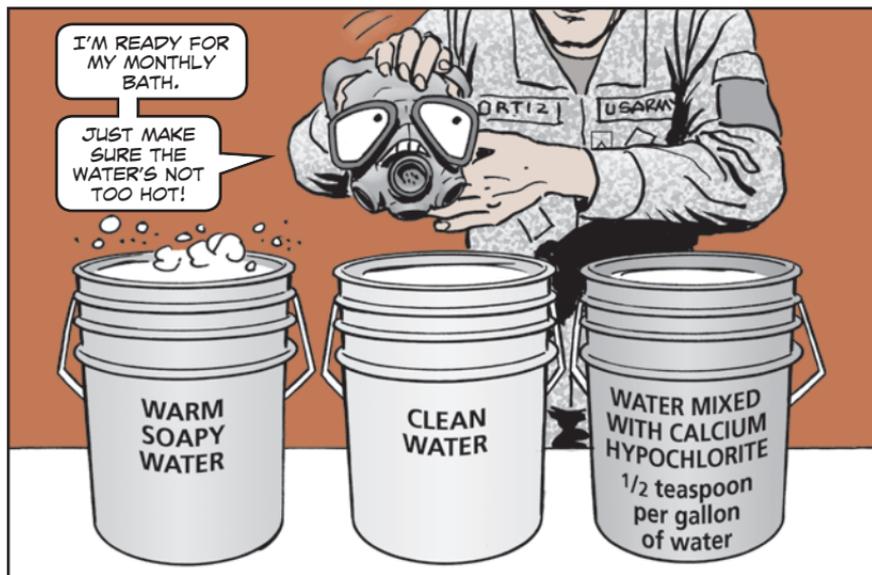
NO, I'M NOT READY FOR STORAGE.

TAKE OUT MY ALARM'S BATTERIES.

**Sanitize masks on a regular basis—
monthly if you train with them much.**

Sanitizing helps a mask smell better, plus it kills germs that can make Soldiers sick. It also gets rid of dirt inside a mask that can hurt its seal.

It's easy to do all the masks at once. Get three pails and fill one with warm, soapy water, one with clear water, and one with water mixed with calcium hypochlorite, NSN 6810-00-238-8115.



After each Soldier removes the filters, valves, deflectors and head harness, have him agitate the mask first in the soapy water, then rinse it in the clear water, and finally dunk it in the water with calcium hypochlorite for five minutes to sanitize it. Rinse the mask again after sanitizing it. The water in all three pails should be changed every 10 masks. Have them completely dry the masks with cheesecloth, NSN 8305-00-222-2423. Paper towels can shred and plug the valves or affect the seal. You should be able to sanitize a whole platoon's masks in an hour.

Make sure the masks are completely dry and totally reassembled before storing them.

If the mask is to be assigned to a new Soldier, replace the outlet valve disk, internal drink tube, and head harness with new ones.

Make sure they turn the carriers inside out and brush out all the dirt. It won't do much good to clean the masks and then put them back into dirty carriers.

For more details, see Page 2-81 or 2-91 in TM 3-4240-346-20&P.

SGT B.C.
51st Chemical Co
Ft Polk, LA

*Editor's note: Excellent suggestions, Sergeant.
Thanks for letting us hear your voice of experience.*