

Small Arms...



DRY UP MOISTURE THREAT!

Moisture is the silent enemy of your rifles, pistols and machine guns. While you think your weapon is safely tucked away in the arms room or in a transport ship or plane, moisture can feed the corrosion that eats away at the weapon's metal. When you get ready for action again, you may find that the barrel or bolt has been ruined.

But there are several ways you can dry up the moisture threat.

Prepare for travel. If your weapon is traveling from SWA back to your home base, it may be going from extreme heat and low humidity to either a plane where the temperature will be cold or to a ship that will go through lots of salty sea air. And, if the weapon's final destination is someplace like Ft Polk or Stewart, it will face very high humidity there.

To protect your weapon against all the moisture produced by temperature changes and humidity, you at least need to clean and thoroughly lube it like the -10 TM prescribes. The best protection for travel, though, is to also use vapor corrosion inhibitor wrap, NSN 8135-00-664-0015.

PS had an article in PS 660 (Nov 07) on the best ways to prepare weapons for shipment. Access it at:

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/psmag/archives/PS2007/660/660-18-20.pdf>

If you don't prepare your weapon for overseas travel, count on its being ruined by corrosion by the time it arrives. Some posts report receiving weapons back from SWA with absolutely no lube and thus defenseless against moisture.



Fight humidity in the arms room. Places like Stewart or Polk are very humid and many other Army posts have to deal with some humidity. The very best way to fight humidity is with a dehumidifier that has a 15-pint capacity.

But for larger arms rooms or very humid environments, you probably need a dehumidifier that has a 30- to 60-pint capacity. Most large home supply outlets have a large selection of dehumidifiers.

Dehumidifiers lose their effectiveness above 95°F, so arms rooms should be kept below that temperature if possible. Always position a dehumidifier on the floor, since that's where moisture settles. Air circulation fights humidity, so running a fan in the arms room is a good idea, too.

A dehumidifier won't do much good if you don't empty it. In very humid environments, you may need to do that every day. And if you're going to be gone for several days, you need to make sure someone else empties it.

Prepare for storage. Armorers should not accept any weapon for storage in the arms room that hasn't been cleaned and lubed.

Don't leave barrel caps on rifles. They trap moisture in the barrel.

Weapon TMs say you can store weapons for up to 90 days without cleaning or lubing them. But you still need to check all the weapons in arms room for signs of corrosion at least monthly, especially in humid areas. If you wait three months to check, it could be too late.

