

# Preventive Maintenance: What Do *You* Think Of?

**W**hen you hear the words—preventive maintenance—what do you think of? If you're like most Soldiers, in your mind's eye you probably see:

- Trucks and tanks in motor pools
- Helicopters on the flight line
- Rifles and pistols in the arms room
- Radios in the commo shop

You also probably picture Soldiers taking care of this equipment by inspecting, cleaning, lubing or replacing parts.

But when you hear the words—preventive maintenance—do you ever think of clothing, body armor, hydration systems, tents, space heaters, kitchens or scores of other troop support items? This gear deserves PM, as well. Here are some examples of what troop support gear PM can do for you:

- **Keep your Army combat uniform clean and lasting longer.** Launder it by the book. Use a mild detergent and the correct water temperature.
- **Prevent a sleepless night in a leaky tent.** Patch small holes and tears with the tentage repair kit, NSN 8340-00-262-5767.
- **Ensure your hydration system stays fresh.** Disinfect the bladder with household bleach to curb the growth of mold and bacteria.
- **Sleep safely.** Inspect the exhaust stack pipes on your space heater before firing it up. Look inside for clogs or soot build-up that might prevent deadly fumes from venting. Clean the insides with a rag.

The PMCS tables in your TMs describe a lot more checks and services you can perform on troop support items. All of them support you and your mission. Some of them may even keep you alive. Now that's something to really think about.

