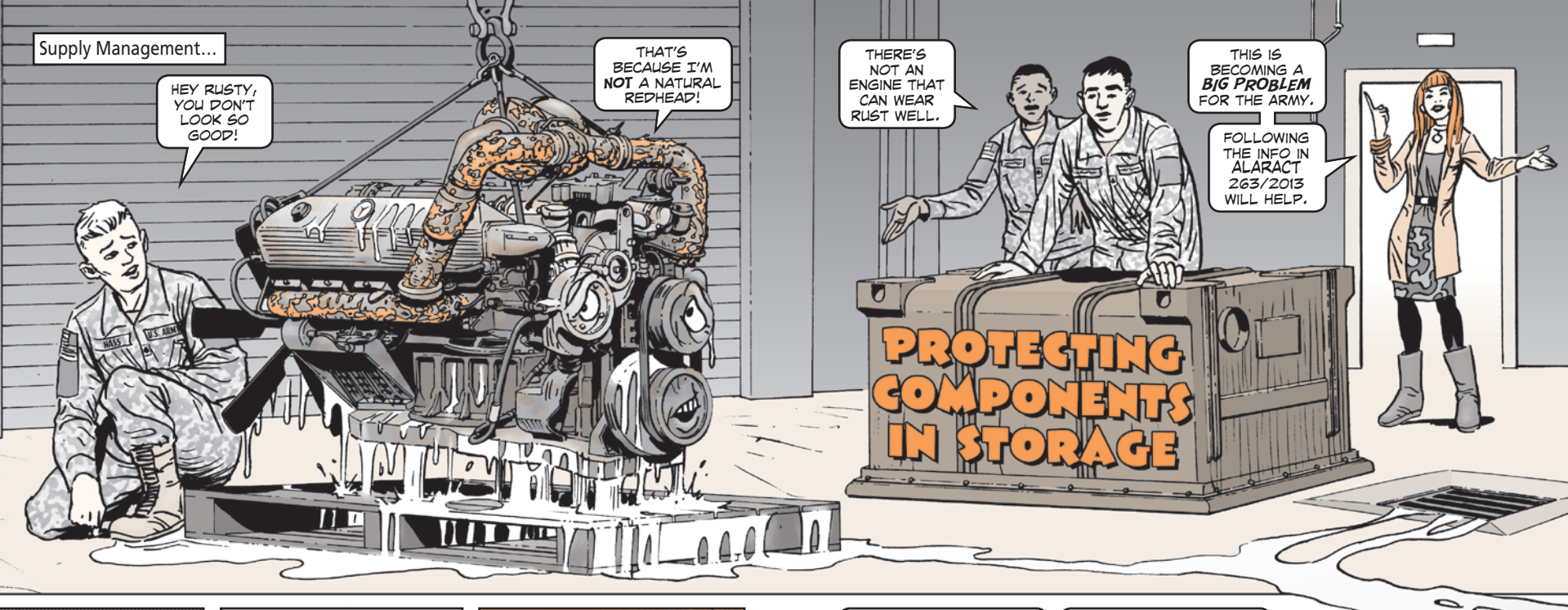
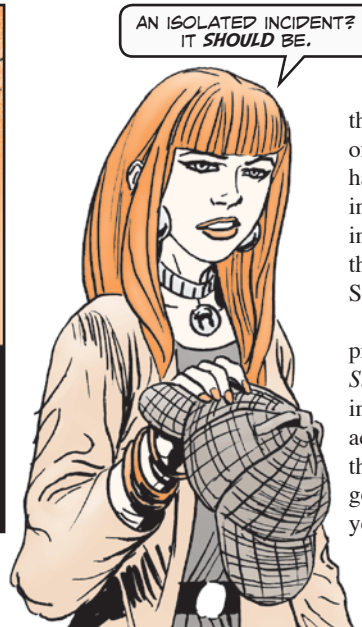




A recent HQDA study found multiple Class IX components that were unserviceable due to corrosion. About 10 percent of engines, transmissions, gearboxes, rotor heads and hubs had some degree of corrosion that made them unusable and in need of depot-level maintenance. Besides the high costs incurred, unit readiness suffered. The bottom line is materiel that's not ready for issue (RFI) equals reduced support to the Soldier, often at critical times.

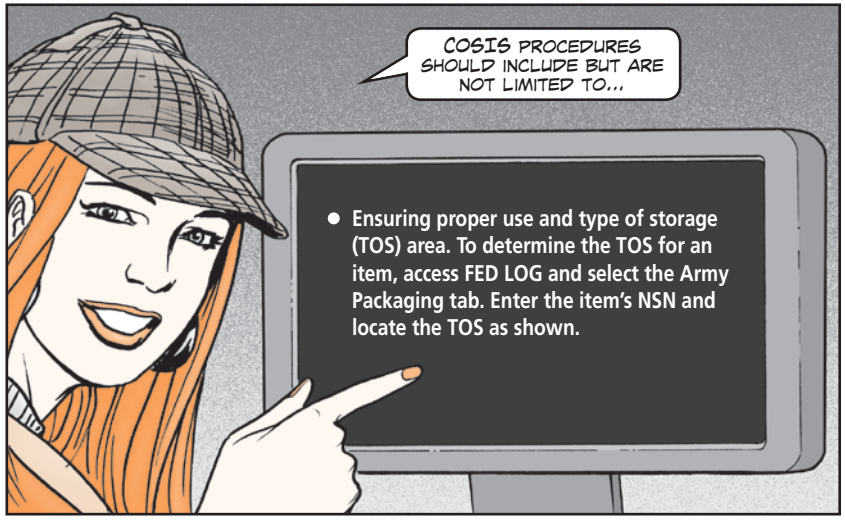
To address these ongoing and correctable corrosion problems, the Army issued ALARACT 263/2013, *Care of Supplies in Storage (COSIS) for Class IX Components*. The instructions apply to all supply, storage and maintenance activities. If you need a copy, download the ALARACT from the Army's online database in AKO. Folders are filed by year, going back to 1990. Number 263 is in the 2013 folder. Grab your CAC and go to:

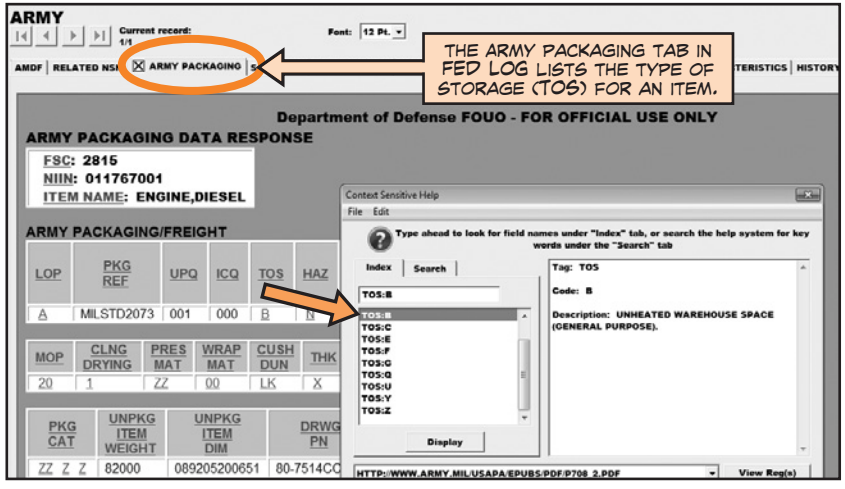
https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/550282

MORE

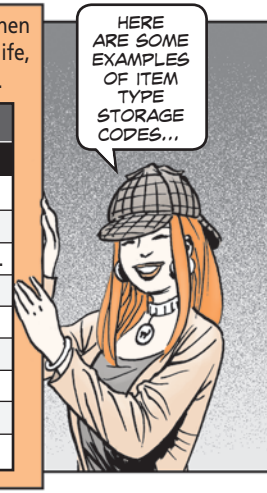
Care of Supplies in Storage

ALARACT 263/2013 covers the steps all units should take to preserve components. Proper COSIS means that any materiel in storage is kept in RFI condition. COSIS includes visual inspections, preservation and packing using MIL-STD-2073, and all required movement within an installation. COSIS and stock readiness **must** be a regular part of storage practices and procedures in supply, maintenance and shop SOPs.





Most military supplies and equipment deteriorate rapidly when exposed to the elements. To prevent deterioration and extend shelf life, keep items in covered storage when possible. AR 740-1 is your guide.



Examples of Item Type Storage Codes	
Code	**Where**
A	Heated general purpose warehouse: Heated >40° F.
B	Unheated general purpose warehouse.
C	Controlled humidity: 40% to 50% relative humidity (RH).
D	Controlled room temperature: 60° F to 80° F.
H	Hazardous materials (HAZMAT).
N	HAZMAT/refrigerated: 36° to 46° F (2° to 8° C).
S	Shed: Structure without complete sides or end walls.
U	Uncovered space (open storage).
X	None assigned by ICP (any type space acceptable).

If an item is not being stored properly, corrective action should be taken. Here are some additional tips:

- Conduct periodic inspections of storage areas for insect/rodent infestation and evidence of pilferage, sabotage, condensation, leakage or seepage. Follow the guidance in AR 740-1, *Storage and Supply Activity Operations* (Aug 08). Download the pub at: http://www.apd.army.mil/pdffiles/r740_1.pdf

Increased inspection of containers awaiting shipment is especially important, because most metals suffer little or no corrosion when desiccant keeps the relative humidity below 50 percent.

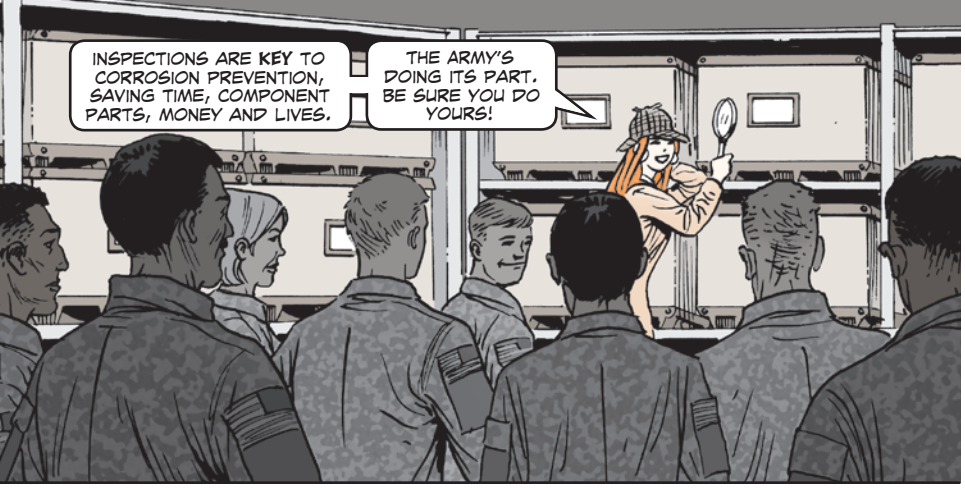
Inspection Frequencies Defined in AR 740-1 (see Table 5-1)	
Type Storage	**Interval (months)**
Controlled humidity or equivalent when such rating has been approved by higher authority.	60
Controlled temperature warehouse	30
Non-controlled temperature warehouse	24
Shed	12
Open	6

Notes:

1 Frequencies cited here may be varied as follows: Variances may be made for Type II shelf–life items, items containing radioactive material, items having inspection frequencies which are based on safety considerations such as aircraft. Includes items normally packaged in hermetically sealed containers, items normally stored in metal reusable containers and items, by reason of their composition, requiring less frequent inspection than cited here. Proposed variances exceeding 25 percent of the prescribed frequency require written approval by the item manager, prior to implementation by submitting activity.

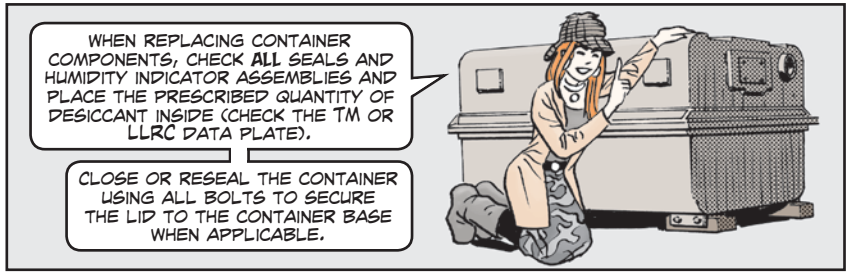
2 Variances in inspection frequencies cited above, if required, will be made on an item-by-item basis and will be noted as being an exception in the storage serviceability standard concerned.

PS MORE



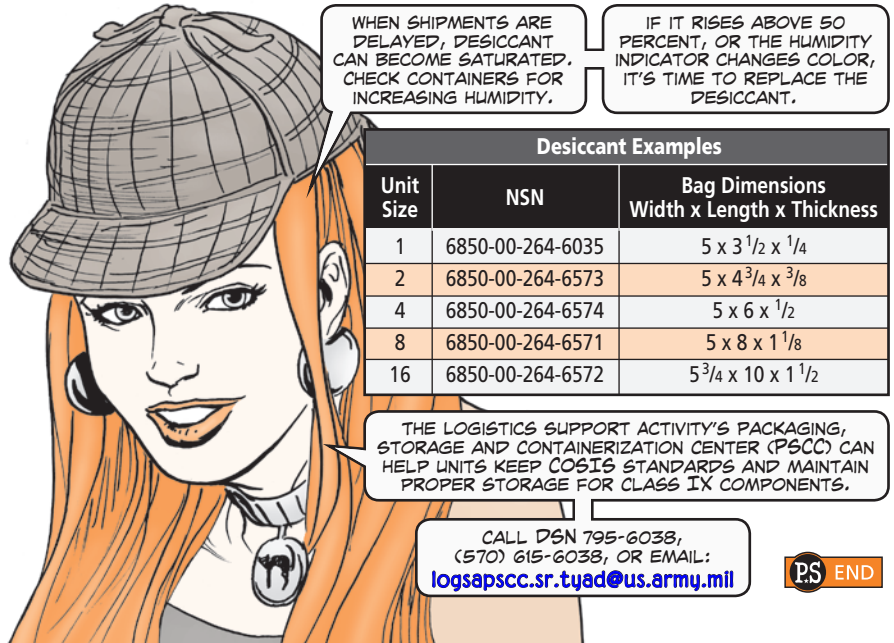
- Position LLRCs to allow easy inspection and access of external humidity indicators or pressure relief valves. The storage area should be well-lit so the humidity indicator's color can be easily viewed.
- Make periodic inspections of container conditions, humidity and other external indicators for:
  - condensation, leakage or seepage.
  - functional damage to suspension.
  - cracks, holes and/or hull deformities that impact closing or sealing the container.
  - dents that interfere with the container envelope.
  - missing or damaged hardware.
  - open or unsecured containers.
  - wood rubbing strips that are not ISPM 15 compliant.
  - condition of seals and packaging material.
  - presence and condition of desiccant.
  - presence of corrosion prevention compounds.
  - condition of the component/component pack.
- If the humidity indicator shows that humidity exceeds the allowed tolerance of the contained component (pink or white in color), follow the procedures listed below, depending on container type.
- **Containers with no desiccant port.**
  - Open the container.
  - Take corrective maintenance steps per the TM.
  - Replace indicator assemblies and desiccants.
- **Containers with a desiccant port.**
  - Replace desiccant.
  - Reinspect the container after 24 hours (up to two times). If the indicator stays pink or white, corrective maintenance must be done. Follow the applicable TM and procedures for containers requiring pressurization using dry air or nitrogen. When the indicator is blue, follow normal inspection guidelines.

Additional Guidelines



Supply support activities (SSAs) and tech supply activities should keep an on-hand supply of humidity indicator cards, humidity indicator plugs and color-change humidity indicator disks for use in replacing expired cards or discs. Use the following information to order humidity indicator cards and desiccants:

- Indicator, humidity, card (large), NSN 6685-01-591-2831
- Indicator, humidity, card (small), NSN 6685-00-052-1865
- Humidity indicator plugs. There are many options here, so search FED LOG with the following keywords: INDICATOR, HUMIDITY, PLUG
- Color-change humidity indicator discs meeting requirements of SAE AS26860 and MIL-I-8835. Search FED LOG with the following keywords: INDICATOR, HUMIDITY, CARD or search using the part number MIL-I-8835.
- Desiccant, activated, MIL-D-3464. Again, there are a variety of desiccant types, so search FED LOG using the part number MIL-D-3464.



Desiccant Examples

Unit Size	NSN	Bag Dimensions Width x Length x Thickness
1	6850-00-264-6035	5 x 3 1/2 x 1/4
2	6850-00-264-6573	5 x 4 3/4 x 3/8
4	6850-00-264-6574	5 x 6 x 1/2
8	6850-00-264-6571	5 x 8 x 1 1/8
16	6850-00-264-6572	5 3/4 x 10 x 1 1/2