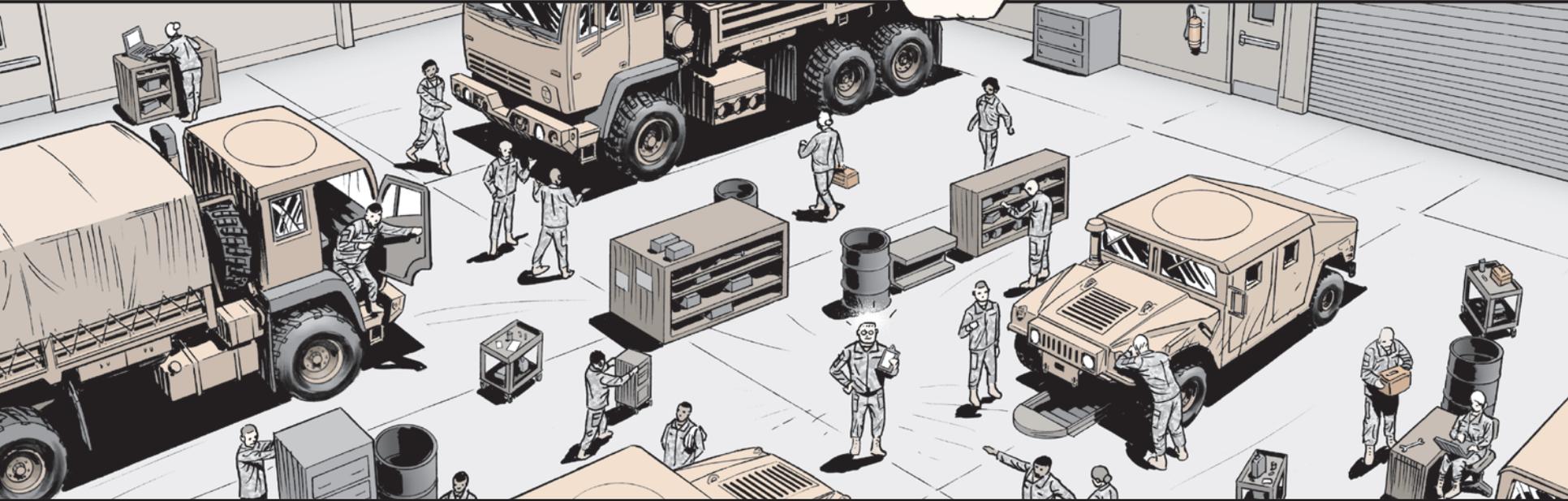


RIGHT FOUNDATION FOR EQUIPMENT READINESS



SEEMS EVERYTHING OLD IS EVENTUALLY *NEW AGAIN*. THAT INCLUDES THE ARMY'S RETURN TO OLD-SCHOOL MAINTENANCE STANDARDS.

HERE ARE SOME GREAT SUGGESTIONS FROM CHIEF KELLER FOR GETTING *BACK TO BASICS*.



Dear Editor,

Back in 1985, when I was assigned to my first engineer unit at Ft Benning, GA, I was part of an organization that I felt did company-level motor stables the best way.

First, there was lots of command emphasis and presence, which I believe is an essential foundation for building a good company maintenance program.

Every Monday morning after PT, the first formation took place in the motor pool. Then the whole company spent hours doing PMCS by the book. If necessary, it lasted into the afternoon.

Squad leaders supervised the operators and platoon sergeants supervised the squad leaders. The first sergeant and platoon leaders were always present. Mechanics were required to be present as well, and the company "assigned" them to the platoons so that the mechanics became familiar with various equipment and personnel.

Once PMCS was done and the squad leaders and platoon sergeant looked it over, the mechanics then tried to fix any problems with the help of the operators. If they could not repair equipment on the spot, they did troubleshooting and verified the faults with the operators' help.

Here's a list of what I think made this company's maintenance successful:

- **Command emphasis**
- **Command presence during the entire operation**
- **Weekly time set aside for whole company participation**
- **Mechanics and operators working side-by-side during PMCS**
- **PMCS supervised by squad leaders or platoon sergeant**
- **Faults quickly verified by maintenance personnel**
- **Equipment assigned to primary and assistant operators**
- **TMs and BII inventoried weekly, and secured by operators**
- **This weekly meeting time was also used for training new Soldiers on the equipment.**

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Editor's note: *Excellent insights, Chief. Thanks for sharing your experience. We agree that command emphasis plays a vital role in Army equipment readiness.*