

You're in the Readiness Driver's Seat

ADMIT IT. SOME OF YOU AREN'T HUGE FANS OF PT.

PT MEANS GETTING UP DURING DARK, EARLY MORNING HOURS FOR LONG, HARD WORKOUTS. IT COULD BE RAINING, ICY COLD OR BLISTERING HOT, BUT YOU'RE STILL THERE, DAY AFTER DAY. THAT'S BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTAND IT'S A VITAL WAY TO ENSURE BOTH MIND AND BODY ARE READY FOR THE RIGORS AHEAD.

THE SAME IS TRUE OF YOUR EQUIPMENT. IT MUST BE MAINTAINED, EXERCISED, AND CONSTANTLY FINE-TUNED SO THAT IT'S AS READY AS YOU ARE WHEN NEEDED.

READINESS RATES TELL THE ARMY HOW WELL ITS EQUIPMENT IS BEING MAINTAINED. A HIGH READINESS RATE MEANS EQUIPMENT IS BATTLE READY. A LOW RATE MEANS EQUIPMENT IS DEADLINED AND WAITING FOR PARTS TO BRING IT BACK UP TO SPEED. THE AVAILABILITY OF THOSE PARTS PLAYS A HUGE FACTOR IN THE READINESS OF EQUIPMENT.

UNITS THAT TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEIR EQUIPMENT HAVE TO ORDER FEWER REPLACEMENT PARTS. THEIR EQUIPMENT IS ABLE TO WORK HARDER AND LONGER BECAUSE SMALL PROBLEMS ARE FIXED BEFORE THEY CAN BECOME BIG PROBLEMS. THAT'S THE HEART OF PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE (PM).

IF EQUIPMENT ISN'T CARED FOR PROPERLY, PARTS BREAK DOWN.

IN SOME CASES, LARGE AMOUNTS OF THOSE PARTS HAVE TO BE ORDERED TO KEEP EQUIPMENT FUNCTIONING. WHEN DEMAND GOES TOO HIGH, THE SUPPLY SYSTEM IS UNABLE TO KEEP UP AND LONG LEAD TIMES RESULT.

READINESS RATES TAKE A NOSEDIVE.

FOR THAT REASON, THESE PARTS ARE KNOWN AS READINESS DRIVERS. IN THIS AND SUBSEQUENT ISSUES OF PS, YOU'LL FIND ARTICLES THAT HIGHLIGHT SPECIFIC READINESS DRIVERS. THE NONGS FOR THESE READINESS DRIVERS WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED, SO TAKE THEM TO HEART.

BY PRACTICING GOOD PM, THOSE PARTS CAN HELP DRIVE READINESS RATES UP INSTEAD OF DOWN.

