

# Clean Air Causes Dirty Problem



THE M41 PROTECTION ASSESSMENT TEST SYSTEM (PATS) NEEDS SLIGHTLY DIRTY AIR TO DO ITS JOB.

IF THE AIR'S PARTICLE COUNT IS BORDERLINE, IT *CAN'T* ACCURATELY TEST CBRN MASKS.

Filter efficiency in modern heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems make it tougher to get that slightly dirty air. One recent test found with the HVAC system off, the ambient particle count was 10,000-12,000 particles per cubic centimeter. But once the HVAC was turned on, the count dropped to an average of 1,000 particles, which can prevent PATS from doing its job.

The PATS TM says the solution is to burn a candle in the room where you're testing. Unfortunately, that will foul the M41 optics after just a few times. Then PATS has to take a trip all the way to Redstone Arsenal to have its optics cleaned or repaired.

Fortunately, there's a **cheap fix**: an ultrasonic humidifier. It adds enough particles to the air so that PATS can operate.

The **bad news** is that there are no ultrasonic humidifiers in the supply system. The **good news** is that you can go to your local big box store and buy one for around \$30. That's much cheaper than repairing the PATS' optics.