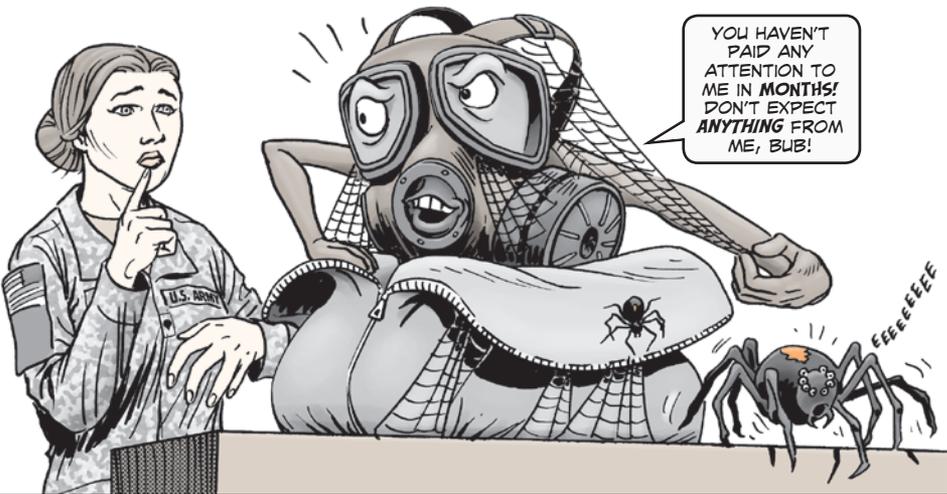


# USE IT OR LOSE IT!



Dear Editor,

From my experience maintaining M40/M42 masks, I offer a few suggestions to help CBRN specialists keep their masks breathing freely.

**Use it or lose it.** Too many M40/M42s sit in their carriers until the annual trip to the gas chamber. Soldiers have no idea how to PMCS their masks or what condition their masks are in.

Sergeants' Time is a good time to go over how to PMCS a mask. But Soldiers should also practice wearing the mask. Shooting a rifle while wearing a mask is much different than without. Some units play a sport like softball or volleyball with everyone wearing masks just to give Soldiers an idea of what's it like to be active with a mask on.

Exercising while wearing masks helps Soldiers get used to masks



**Make sure Soldiers fill out a DA Form 5988E when they do PMCS.** That's the only way problems they find will be fixed.



**Teach Soldiers not to route the drink tube through the hole in the facepiece.** That's a drainage hole for sweat and spit and other things you don't want in your mask.



**Don't fold the mask when you put it in the carrier.** That ruins the mask. The mask goes in the carrier in the upright position with the eye lenses facing away from your body when worn in the shoulder, leg or load-bearing harness positions.



**Track canisters.** I still see the old black C2 canisters being used. Those were replaced by the green C2A1 canisters years ago.

Also, watch for the C2A1 expiration dates. The easiest way is to create a spreadsheet listing each mask number along with its canister number. You can then easily check for expired canisters in JACKS:

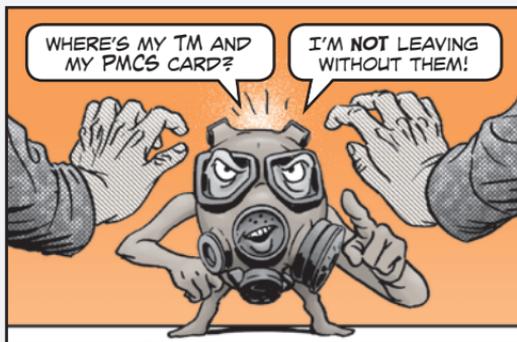
<https://jacks.jpeocbd.osd.mil/Default.aspx>

**Look for cracks in the facepiece.** Improper storage and dry rot take a toll on M40/M42 masks.



*Make sure each carrier has both the -10 TM and the operator's cards. Soldiers need both when they're doing PMCS and you'll need both to pass inspection. Order the cards with NSN 7960-01-491-9282.*

SSG Brandon Milhouse  
CBRN School  
Ft Campbell, KY



**Editor's note:** Great info, Sergeant. Lots of Soldiers will breathe easier thanks to your tips.



## JCAD Needs M42 Alarm!



CBRN SPECIALISTS, WHEN YOU GET THE NEW M4 JCAD (JOINT CHEMICAL AGENT DETECTOR), NSN 6665-01-552-2704, OR M4A1, NSN 6665-01-586-8286, YOU SHOULD **TURN IN** THE M22 ACADA (ALARM, CHEMICAL AGENT, AUTOMATIC) OR M43A1 CHEMICAL AGENT DETECTOR.

BUT **DON'T** TURN IN THE M42 ALARM, NSN 6665-00-859-2215. YOU **WILL** NEED IT FOR THE JCAD. TURN IN THE M42 ONLY IF IT'S EXCESS.



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CONTACT TACOM'S AARON BENNETT AT DSN 786-1551, (586) 282-1551, OR EMAIL: [aaron.m.bennett5.civ@mail.mil](mailto:aaron.m.bennett5.civ@mail.mil)