

GRAPHIC TRAINING AID 3-4-7

ABC-M17 AND M17A1 CB FIELD PROTECTIVE MASK CARE

DISTRIBUTION: To be distributed to the US Army Training
Aids Centers.

HEADQUARTERS,
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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Your M17-series (ABC-M17 and M17A1) chemical-biological field protective mask is one piece of gear you can't have failing you--even once. Make sure it's always safe with daily PM and scheduled weekly services.

Daily PM amounts to a quick visual check for grime, damage, missing or loose parts on the mask and carrier; cleaning, and putting on mask to test for leaks and operation. Be sure to check the hood--M6 or M6A2--if it's authorized.



If there's damage to the facepiece or eyepieces, or other damage; loose or missing parts or items you can't handle, turn the mask or hood in to your unit supply man for replacement.

Weekly checks (every 6 months under peacetime conditions) can be scheduled on DD Form 314, like it says in TM 38-750, para 3-3c(1)--with DA Form 2404 handy for noting problems.

Use the following guide to check your mask. Make corrections on the spot when possible.

ON THE OUTSIDE

FACEPIECE

Tears, cracks, holes, distortion, dirt. Temple pins split, broken, lost; lugs torn. Clip and buckle assemblies damaged, corroded, missing; tabs torn.

EYELENS & OUTSERTS

Lens broken, scratched, discolored (Interfering with vision), dirty. Eyering rings damaged, corroded, pulled loose from facepiece. Outserts' apron torn, loose; rims cracked.

Remember, you're fighting an UN-SEEN enemy....the tiniest flaw is all he needs to creep thru!

INLET VALVE ASSEMBLIES

Covers loose, dirty, damaged. (Worn flocking is no problem, except when in temps of 0° F. and below--when the winterization kit is not used, you need full growth of fuzz on the covers.) Assemblies installed upside down (top side is marked on assembly frame; if not marked, or if mark is off center, remember the louvers inside cap must slant down). Valve rubber discs torn, folded, kinked, lost (discs must be flat and centered).



HARNES

Canvas pad ripped, mildewed, dirty. Straps frayed, not elastic, dirty, metal tips missing. Harness installed upside down (short cross-piece goes on top of head).



VOICEMITTER-

OUTLET VALVE ASSEMBLY

Cover loose, grimy, gummy, ripped. Frame, crimping ring damaged, loose; locking studs damaged. Voicemitter diaphragm dirty, damaged, loose (gives to a twist with your palm). Outlet valve rubber disc dirty, kinked, folded, torn, lost, loose (nub at base of disk must be through valve seat); valve seat broken, bent.



INSIDE CHECKOUT

Mask can be damaged by rough handling.



To check inside, let out the harness ALL THE WAY and flip it forward GENTLY over the eye-lens...take care not to pull the harness over the nose cup.

VOICEMITTER DIAPHRAGM

Clogged,
dirty, damaged

DEFLECTOR TUBES

Clogged,
punctured,
split, distorted

NOSECUP

Loose, dirty, deformed, torn, unbuttoned, chin flap tucked under or into pouch area (flap must lie flat & over chin stop--otherwise your moisture will run into filter elements). Valve rubber disks, damaged, dirty, missing; valve seats dirty, damaged.



FILTER ELEMENTS

Wet, discolored, dirty, crushed, improperly installed. (Elements are designed for either left or right side. They're not interchangeable, and the pointed end goes to the rear. The facepiece will be deformed & allow leakage if elements are improperly installed.) Not matched. (Lot No. must be the same on both elements. See SB-3-30-2 for unserviceable lots of filters.)



POUCH FLAPS

Unbuttoned. Buttons missing, damaged; buttonholes split. If buttonholes are bad, turn in mask for replacement. When replacing buttons, remember--longer buttons fasten the flaps and the nosecup, large head on a button goes down into filter pouch. Flaps must always be buttoned down tight. Top flap, buttons on outside--otherwise sweat and moisture will leak into the filter elements.



THE CARRIER

Check the carrier for mildew, wear, grime, damage, loose or missing hardware. How about accessories and authorized stored items...any of them damaged, missing? Get replacements. And that's about it. A good weekly check should keep your mask in top shape.

WASHING THE MASK

Give the mask a good cleaning anytime it needs it. Remember, it doesn't have to be shiny black. For example, a white or rust-colored waxy film doesn't mean your mask is dirty. The stuff (it's called bloom) comes from a preservative built into the rubber, and will continue to bleed off as long as the facepiece is good. Just brush or wash off the wax when it accumulates or gets crumbly. For a good cleaning job use soft cloths, a soft-bristle brush (like a small paint brush), warm, soapy water and warm, clear rinse water.



Never dunk the mask or carrier

To clean mask remove voicemitter-outlet valve cover, inlet valve caps, and eye-lens outserts. Keep hood on mask--if assembled.

You don't remove the filter elements. Make sure the pouch flaps are buttoned up good and ...



KEEP THE WATER AWAY FROM THE INLET VALVE CONNECTORS.

Dip cloth in warm, soapy water, wring it out good. Wash mask and hood carefully inside and out. Likewise for voicemitter-outlet valve cover and inlet valve assemblies. Be extra careful with rubber disks in valve assemblies.



Dip cloth in clean, warm water,

wring it dry,

Use the soft brush (dry) to get around corners, joints, frames, crimped edges and other hard-to-reach places.



and wipe all washed parts.

Then dry everything with a dry, clean cloth.

ALL DONE...?

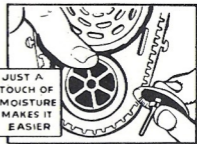


Replace the voicemitter-outlet valve cover, eye-lens outserts, and the inlet valve assemblies. Be sure the rubber discs in the inlet and outlet valve assemblies are snug and flat. Press the inlet valve covers hard so they'll snap in place, and remember, the louvers slant down.

FINGER TIP HELP

Touch a moist finger to the sealing ring, frame and locking studs. It will be easier to replace the voicemitter-outlet valve cover.

Touching a wet finger to buttons also helps to button and unbutton the pouch flaps, and to remove and replace buttons. Likewise when you're replacing the outlet valve's rubber disk...just wet the disk's pigtail to help you thread the pigtail through the valve seat center.



LENS CLEANER



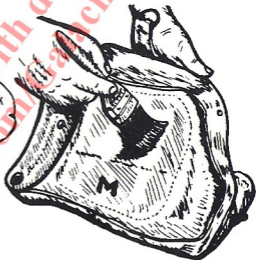
To keep eyelens and outserts clean and clear, you can use plastic polish, if available, FSN 7930-634-5340 or use warm, soapy water. The polish will not only clean the lenses, but also remove surface scratches.

CARRIER CLEANING

Remove accessories from the carrier and wipe carrier off with clean cloth or brush if good, inside and out--to get rid of dust and grime.



NEVER put mask into a damp carrier.



Inspect all accessories and replace them in proper pockets.

With the harness hanging outside the facepiece, place mask in carrier heads-up and with its nose facing the carrier closing flap.

HERE ARE THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NEW SYSTEM "M17A1"

A small lever and a drinking tube with a quick-disconnect coupling half, located on the outside of the assembly cover.



A rubber drinking mouthpiece and a corrugated rubber breathing tube with a white plastic mouthpiece, located inside the mask.

A special cap, for use on the plastic water canteen, comes with the A1 and is stored in the bottom pocket inside the mask carrier. The coupling half on the drinking tube hooks into the canteen cap to permit drinking in contaminated areas.



A flexible, corrugated rubber hose extension, which attaches to the outlet-valve well to provide mask-to-mouth respiration, completes the resuscitation system. The hose isn't issued with all M17A1's, however. The hose is 14 inches long, stretches to 20 inches. It's folded U-shape and stored in a pocket inside the carrier when issued.



CLOSE-UP ON PM CHECK POINTS

DRINKING TUBE & QUICK-DISCONNECT COUPLING HALF--Tube damaged, loose, dirty. Coupling half missing, damaged, clogged. Storage channel or pocket split, dirty.



LEVER--Damaged, binding, loose. (The lever controls the position of the drinking tube and the breathing hose inside the mask. It should turn easily left and right).

DRINKING MOUTHPIECE & CORRUGATED BREATHING HOSE--Damaged, dirty, clogged, stuck. (The drinking mouthpiece and the breathing hose should move freely forward and back when the lever is turned left or right.)



And, the canteen cap
--Missing, damaged,
dirty.



The corrugated hose
--Damaged, dirty,
clogged.



Like the M17, the A1 comes in 3 sizes:

Small--FSN 4240-926-4199.

Medium--FSN 4240-926-4201.

Large--FSN 4240-926-4200.

Also, the filter elements used in either mask must be checked to be sure that both elements bear the same lot number.

REPLACING PARTS

Only 1 part in the drinking system is authorized for replacement at organizational level. It's the drinking tube with the coupling half. FSN 4730-903-4573 is the correct Federal Stock Number for the coupling half.

You're authorized to replace the outlet valve disk, of course, as you are on the M17. But, on the M17A1 you have to clip the disk's pigtail almost to the tapered end of the cone. Then you wet the shortened stem and push it through the center hole in the outlet valve seat.

If there's damage to any other component of the drinking or resuscitation systems, the mask must be turned in for repair or replacement.

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