



Polymeric Tray



Novel packaging technologies are being explored to help get long lasting, high quality rations to soldiers in the field. One such technology – approved for military use by the Army and Marine Corps – is the polymeric tray. “Polymeric” means, simply, that it’s made of a material with a repeating structure.

Why Is It Needed?

Many group-serving rations had been packaged in the “traycan”, a tin-plated steel container. The Military Services desired a similar sized package that would hold the same types of products, last just as long, but be easier to open and use.

Technology:

The tray is made of polypropylene, together with:

- **Ethylene Vinyl Alcohol (EVOH)**... a barrier layer to help maintain the quality of food contained within.
- A multi-layer, heat-sealable **Lidding Material**.
- An ovenable paperboard **Baking Insert** to accommodate the packaging of bakery items.
- A protective **Fiberboard Sleeve** to help prevent damage during shipping.

Benefits:

Utility...The polymeric tray can be opened easily with a knife. The steel traycan requires a special opener.

Safety...The opened polymeric tray leaves no sharp edges. The opened steel traycan leaves sharp edges, which are a hazard to military personnel.

Producibility...The military polymeric tray is a modified commercial item. The steel traycan is a military-unique item with limited commercial applications.

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