



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

AUG 08 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Subj: MILITARY FLIGHT OPERATIONS QUALITY ASSURANCE (MFOQA)
IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY (DON)
AIRCRAFT

Ref: (a) SECNAV memo of 2 Feb 06

Encl: (1) MFOQA Program Road Map Ahead
(2) List of DON Aircraft Candidates for MFOQA Implementation

1. Mr. Secretary, reference (a) directed implementation of Military Flight Operations Quality Assurance (MFOQA) and required an initial outline for Navy's plan.
2. We anticipate that MFOQA, through post-flight analysis of aircrew and aircraft performance, will have a positive impact on safety, maintenance, training, and operations, all leading to improved readiness. The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV), Air Warfare Directorate, has been engaged in implementing MFOQA. Specifically, a Capabilities Development Document has been developed and approved, and Commander, Naval Air Systems Command has initiated development with approval of the fiscal year 2006 Budget. Navy is updating the aviation safety policy and will include MFOQA guidance in the new issuance to cover both Navy and Marine Corps aircraft.
3. Enclosure (1) details the plan for MFOQA implementation, and enclosure (2) identifies Navy's aircraft, including those that will be enabled with MFOQA, those that will be assessed for enabling as the program proceeds, and those that are candidates for exclusion/waiver from MFOQA policy. Once fully implemented on those aircraft requiring no further assessment, more than 3,500 aircraft will be MFOQA capable, approximately 90 percent of the inventory.
4. During the Program Objective Memorandum 2008, it became apparent that the original plan to implement MFOQA on the MV-22 as the fourth platform was not possible due to multiple configurations of the flight data recorder and incompatibility with MFOQA requirements. The CH-53E replaced the MV-22 as the fourth platform to receive MFOQA. Implementation on the MV-22 remains a high priority and funds were set aside in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 for that purpose. A potential software solution to the multiple recorders has been proposed that may be available as early as fiscal year 2009. Acceleration of MFOQA capability on the MV-22 will be addressed during the Program Review 2009.

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5. For those aircraft that are candidates for exclusion/waiver, an official request will be initiated for each aircraft type with full explanation and justification. Currently underway, the assessment for future platforms will address aircraft having potential for MFOQA implementation beginning no later than fiscal year 2012. Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System documentation will reflect the requirement for aircraft not having passed Milestone A to be fully MFOQA capable upon delivery.

6. The OPNAV point of contact of MFOQA is CDR Tracy D. Smyers, N883C, (703) 693-6637, assisted by Mr. Pete Westphal, N883C1, (703) 693-6158.

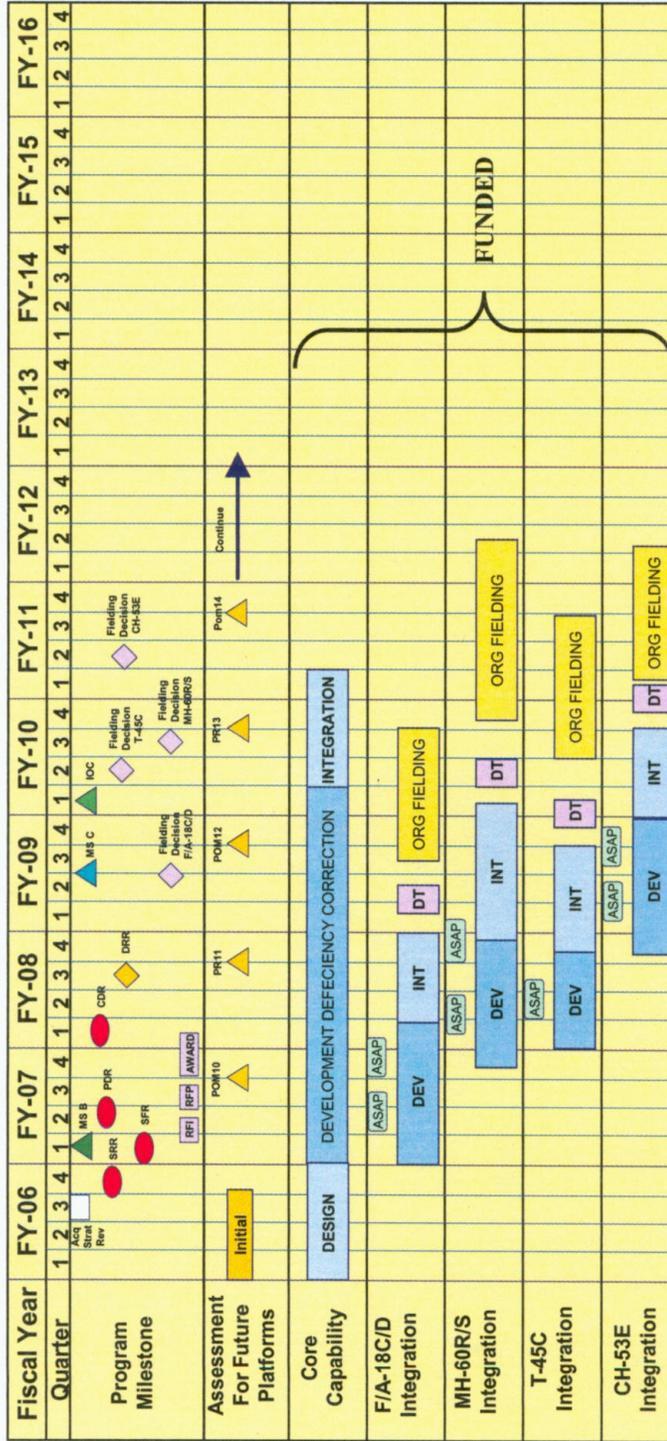


M. G. MULLEN
Admiral, U.S. Navy

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MFOQA Program Road Map Ahead



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Enclosure (1)

List of DON Aircraft Candidates for MFOQA Implementation

1. A preliminary study of the viability of implementing MFOQA on all existing Department of the Navy aircraft was conducted by NAVAIR, PMA209. The study focused on identifying platforms that are immediate viable candidates for MFOQA implementation. Platforms identified as requiring major system modifications were listed in the preliminary study for further in-depth analysis and coordination with the platform program offices. The study also developed a preliminary list of platforms that are recommended for waiver from MFOQA implementation.

2. Among the elements considered, the study evaluated the remaining service life, fleet size, integration effort/cost, availability of existing wiring/sensors and data; recorder installation, capacity, and accessibility; and operational flight program (OFP) modification requirements.

3. The analysis focused on dividing the platforms currently in the fleet inventory and in acquisition into three categories; (1) viable MFOQA candidates, (2) potential MFOQA candidates, but requiring further analysis, and (3) potential MFOQA waiver candidates. Within the first two categories, further analysis will be required to determine priorities, cost estimates, schedule, and programmatic impacts to the platform and the MFOQA program of record.

4. The following platforms were identified as viable candidates and funding was established in the POM-06:
 - F/A-18C/D,
 - T-45C,
 - MH-60R/S, and
 - CH-53E

5. The study concluded that in addition to the platforms listed above, those in Table 1 below are viable MFOQA candidates:

Viable MFOQA Candidate Platforms	
MV-22B	F/A-18E/F/G
F/A-18A/B	F-35 CV/STOVL (JSF)
T-6A/B	H-1Y/Z
CH-53K (HLR)	VH-71 (Presidential Helo)
C-40A	E-6B
P-8A (MMA)	E-2D

Table 1: Viable MFOQA Candidate Platforms

6. Those platforms requiring further study are listed in Table 2. Opportunities for MFOQA implementation on these platforms may emerge with the acquisition of new/upgraded systems. As these platforms age and MFOQA capability develops, costs to implement should decrease and ROI may increase.

MFOQA Candidate Platforms Requiring Further Analysis	
AH-1W	AV/TAV-8B
C-2A	RC/TC/UC-12B/F/M
C/KC-130F/J/R/T	CH-46E
E-2C	EA-6B
F-5N	MH-53E
P-3C, EP-3E	SH-60B
T-34C	T-44A
TH-57B/C	UAVs: BAMS Firescout JUCAS

Table 2: MFOQA Candidate Platforms Requiring Further Analysis

7. The following preliminary list (Table 3) of potential platforms for MFOQA capability waivers was generated on either (1) remaining service life of the platform, or (2) a fleet size of 29 or less aircraft. In cases where the potential exists for a platform of 29 or less fleet size to be combined with a similar platform for implementation, the platform is listed in Table 2 above (i.e. TAV-8B and AV-8B).

Preliminary List of MFOQA Candidate Platforms for Waiver			
Remaining Service Life		Fleet Size	
CH-53D	DC-9	C-9B	C-20A/D/G
F-14B/D	F-16A/B	C-26D	C-37A/B
F-5E	HH-1N	F-16A/B	F-5F
HH-46D	HH-60H	T-38A/C	T-39D/G
S-3B	SH-60F	TH-6B	UC-35C/D
T-2C	T-39N		
T-45	UH-1N		
UH-3H	VH-3D		
VH-60N	VP-3A		

Table 3: Preliminary List of MFOQA Candidate Platforms for Waiver