



The Initial Approach Fix

ORM—Moving Forward

By Ted Wirginis, ORM Coordinator, Naval Safety Center

Will you be involved in a mishap today? What are you doing now to prevent one from happening? The answers to these questions depend on how you manage risk. We're working to provide the tools and resources to help you. Here's an update on our operational-risk-management program:

Training and education. Eight online courses are on the Navy Knowledge Online website, and a two-day ORM Application and Integration class is offered monthly. The current ORM instruction, OPNAVINST 3500.39B, requires a minimum of one officer and one senior enlisted as ORM subject-matter experts (previously known as trainers) and one ORM manager (XO). The two-day ORM Application and Integration class is a prerequisite for your command SMEs. You can request a quota for the class on our ORM webpage at: <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/orm/>.

You also can find other ORM-related resources to supplement your NKO online courses on this website.

Additional ORM training aids and GMT will be available in 2007, as the Center for Personal Development (CPD) incorporates ORM training requirements.

ORM Instruction. The ORM instruction update will be completed this September. Look for changes in these areas:

- Required training and periodicity
- Assessment criteria and responsibility
- Integration requirements and guidelines

ORM Assessment. What is your unit's ORM posture? How well has your unit assimilated the ORM process into its everyday operations and functions? Your unit eventually will be evaluated on its integration and application of risk management on and off duty. We're in the process of defining the metrics and who will do the assessing.

ORM Advisory Group. There is fleetwide application of ORM; however, it is inconsistent and nonstandard. The Advisory Group will continue to refine ORM training, expectations and metrics used to standardize unit and individual risk-management integration.

Culture and Behavior. We've been programmed to continue some obsolete operations and/or training to manage risk posed by the enemy or red threats. Unfortunately, we lose resources, people and material, from the blue threat: The losses are a result of our actions.

Think about how many aircraft we have damaged or personnel we have injured while performing tasks with a low risk-assessment code (RAC): tasks that should have minimal risks. We need to change our culture to one that trains against both the red and blue threats.

This issue, which focuses on CasEvacs, highlights the risks involved in getting our injured personnel to the next level of medical care. While we fly these missions, we sometimes accept unnecessary or questionable risks. Let's not compound the situation.

Mr. Wirginis can be contacted at: theodore.wirginis@navy.mil, or (757) 444-3520 ext. 7210 (DSN-564).

