



Barry Gets Schooled

My past came back to haunt me

By LCdr. Barry Bassel

I was sitting in the system-safety-working group (SSWG) for the E-2/C-2 program, thinking this was another conference where we come up with a wish list that will never see the light of day.

“COD community, we need more hazreps and hazardous-material reports (HMRs) from you to document these issues,” was the opening comment to the working group.

This comment hit home for me, as I felt poked in the chest for the next four hours of the meeting. My past came back to haunt me; I was in VRC-40 from April 1998 to April 2001.

- The number of hazreps I had documented for the ASO: 0.

- The number of HMRs I documented for the QAO: 0.

- The number of circumstances that could and should have been documented—I don’t have that many fingers and toes to count the number.

- Having your past come back to haunt you—priceless.

NavAir has an outstanding group of folks to support the fleet. However, they can’t help us if they don’t know there is a problem. The fleet needs to document problems so NavAir can get funding to fix the problems: no documentation, no funding, no fix. One report is not enough—we have to keep after it, and keep the documentation flowing. The answer can’t and shouldn’t be, “We already released a hazrep on that, so NavAir should be coming up with a fix.” Continue to release appropriate messages and follow up with the fleet-support team. Chances are they need the additional information from several reports for their engineers to properly diagnose the problem, as was the case with our community.

As for me, I’m fortunate to be in position to correct the errors of my past. Thanks for the NavAir team educating a dumb COD pilot. 

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