

ORM CORNER



A Tool You Can Use To Do Anything

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Five Sailors had to prepare an area for an ammo onload. One of the Sailors, a GM3, was removing J-doors (each weighing 85 pounds) from an elevator. Everything was OK until he went to secure one of the doors to the eight others strapped to a bulkhead.

Instead of asking one of the shipmates to help him, the GM3 decided to try the task alone. As he released the tie-down strap on these other doors, the ship pitched and rolled, causing the doors to fall on him. He suffered a fractured hip and bruised thigh.

Operational risk management (ORM) is a tool, and, like other tools, it has to be used correctly. People cause about 90

percent of all reported mishaps because they repair equipment without a technical manual, don't follow the CO's standing orders, or ignore procedures. In other cases, the problem is lack of situational awareness, fatigue or complacency. We also see many reports about people who suffer the consequences because they don't wear seat belts, speed, or drive under the influence.

Although ORM will not fix these problems, it gives us a tool to do everything from mowing the grass to completing an unrep more efficiently and safely. By applying the principles and following the five steps of ORM, we can reduce the risks that face us daily. As the CNO and MCPON have remarked, "ORM is a tool we

can use to help us reduce injuries, deaths and the amount of money we waste in mishaps."

By Sept. 30 this year, we had provided ORM training to 93 ships—from MCMs to CVs and CVNs. Our goal is to visit every surface ship by December 2001.

Imagine what you could do with your share of the \$4 billion we have wasted on mishaps. Here's something you can do for yourself and your ship—it just involves asking three questions:

1. What can go wrong?
2. What can I do about it?
3. (And most important of all) If I can't do anything about the problem, **whom do I tell?** ☉

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