

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT IMPROVES PLANNING/REDUCES COSTS AT NAES LAKEHURST

In order to optimize operational capability and readiness, Operational Risk Management (ORM) is being established as an integral part of naval operations, training, and planning at all command levels. ORM is a method for identifying hazards, assessing risks, and implementing controls to reduce the risk(s) associated with any operation.

Using the ORM process, Naval Air Engineering Station (NAES) Lakehurst has been successful in identifying and evaluating potential operational risks and defining potential system failures. NAES's command ORM process has effectively improved communications and operational planning, and has reduced costs related to operational delays and/or equipment failures. Employees have been trained in ORM applications and how to integrate ORM with the NAES mission. As a result, the Command has experienced increased safety awareness, integration of Occupational Safety and Health into the process from conception to completion, and improved employee morale and productivity.



F-18 E/F Super Hornet arrives at NAES Lakehurst



The F-18 Super Hornet just after engaging a nylon arresting barricade at 160mph. Tests of arresting equipment allow engineers to study the performance capabilities of shipboard arresting gear systems, the last ditch effort before a pilot abandons the aircraft in an emergency.

Integrating ORM into daily planning has been especially beneficial in achieving successful test results with the McDonnell Douglas F-18 E/F Super Hornet. Based on the ORM process, NAES engineers have successfully identified potential failures and implemented various controls to prevent unplanned events that could result in catastrophic mishaps in aircraft test operations.



Super Hornet undergoing jet blast deflector and aircraft engine testing.

Since inception of the ORM program, NAES Lakehurst has been able to successfully complete all of its operations without personnel injuries, materials failures, or operational delays.

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