



THE NAVAL AVIATION ENTERPRISE AIR PLAN



...One Vision, One Team

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“ARAT is the Naval Aviation maintenance version of a repair locker: Identifying solutions to a problem, then working in the Enterprise spirit as a cross-functional team to rapidly address the challenges directly at the source.”

- Stu Paul, Deputy Branch Head, Aviation Readiness, OPNAV N432

Rapid action is often the difference between victory and defeat. In the Naval Aviation Enterprise’s (NAE) spirit of collaboration and gaining efficiencies, the Aviation Rapid Action Team (ARAT) concept brings together hand-selected engineering, logistics and other subject matter experts directly at the source to focus on and eliminate significant barriers in a rapid manner in order to achieve more efficient readiness.

Aviation Rapid Action Team (ARAT) was originally devised by savvy aviation maintenance “Green Shirts” determined to provide alternative, faster and more effective ways to address both complex fleet maintenance barriers and enhance weapon system performance.

- ARAT’s first mission, improving the readiness of the F/A-18’s APG-65/73 radar, was to tackle high Beyond Capability of Maintenance (BCM) rates, degraded performance of aging and obsolete components, high rates of repair-induced damage due to inadequate support equipment, and test program sets in need of upgrades. Modeled after the NAE’s “Boots on the Ground” events, Fleet Readiness Center Southwest (FRC SW) leadership, program managers, industry representatives and Sailors gathered for a “Boots in the Shop” event to focus on the results which can be achieved by teaming select engineering and logistics experts together with military intermediate maintenance level technicians.
- ARAT missions are focused directly at the source; on expeditious and productive engineering; and on logistics solutions to significant readiness challenges affecting the Fleet, thus reducing the time required to implement solutions.
- The ARAT APG- 65/73 mission increased F/A-18 radar readiness and performance and lowered associated costs by decreasing BCM rates, eliminating degradation to systems, increasing the practical knowledge of Fleet maintainers, and improving support equipment. (*See Facts and Figures below for outstanding results*)
- Mission success equals more missions. ARAT is now engaged in resolving complex maintenance issues focused on generating more efficient readiness of the MV-22 Osprey aircraft. Through expeditious onsite repairs (vs. high-cost BCM rates); bringing aircraft engine component test stands on-line to run generators; repairing faulty sub-assemblies; and tracking and reporting cost differentials; Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron (MALS)-26 in Jacksonville, NC, is already experiencing a Flying Hour Program expenditure reduction with a positive return on ‘ready for issue’ Weapon Replaceable Assemblies (WRA). This is a representative example of ongoing improve readiness and efficiency efforts.

The NAE fosters transparent, cross-functional processes that break down organizational barriers to mission accomplishment and works collaboratively to improve Naval Aviation in order to deliver the right force with the right readiness at the right time. ARAT’s Enterprise spirit is helping to deliver more efficient Naval Aviation combat readiness.

Latest NAE Outstanding Performance Award Winners

March 2010: Mr. Bill Stranges, OPNAV N88, Future Capabilities and Future Readiness CFTs

April 2010: Mr. Rick Meana, OPNAV N88, Operations Research Analyst

May 2010: MGySgt Todd Carnaghi, Headquarters Marine Corps, Aviation Logistics Support Branch

Key Messages

- The NAE champions the development of processes that efficiently deliver Naval Aviation readiness.
- The NAE fosters transparent cross-functional processes that inform risk balanced decisions.
- The NAE helps break down organizational barriers to mission accomplishment and works collaboratively to deliver the right force with the right readiness at the right time.

Facts and Figures

- ARAT led to a 33% increase of the F/A-18’s APG-65/73 radar readiness from FY06 to FY09.
- ARAT led to increased APG- 65/73 radar efficiencies, from 24 system degradations in 24 months, to one degradation in 11 months; reduced BCM rate from 20.4% to 14.2% (FY06-FY09)
- ARAT led to reduced Navy Aviation Depot Level Repairable costs of the APG-65/73 radar from \$20.1M (\$176/flight hour) to \$9.5M (\$113/flight hour) between FY06 to FY09.
- Questions about ARAT? Call one of the Catalysts: (703) 835-7558