



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301



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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS  
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION  
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT  
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Military Flight Operations Quality Assurance (MFOQA) Process  
Implementation

This directive-type memorandum establishes a new Department of Defense policy. DoD Components will implement the multifaceted MFOQA process. MFOQA builds upon a commercial aviation process which uses operational trend analysis of enhanced flight data to better identify hazards, to increase operational efficiency, and to provide more effective risk management. The MFOQA process has the potential to reduce aircraft flight mishaps. It includes enhanced, real time aircraft flight data collection, and the use of automated flight data to improve aircrew performance through flight performance feedback. As part of the MFOQA process, quantitative aircraft systems information will be provided to maintenance personnel to enhance fleet-wide operations and mission readiness.

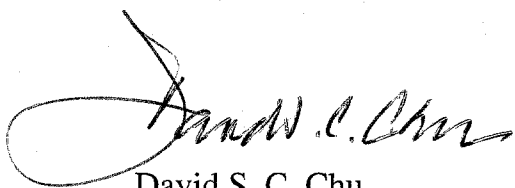
DoD components shall include MFOQA capability as a standard requirement in all future aircraft acquisition, including unmanned aerial vehicles procurement. For existing aircraft, unless DoD Component cost-benefit analysis demonstrates a need for exclusion, the DoD Components shall program for MFOQA capability: enhanced aircraft flight recorders to collect MFOQA flight data, playback to aircrew for flight operations training, playback to maintenance crew for enhanced maintenance operations, and trend analysis across aircraft fleets (including simulator data) to identify operations and



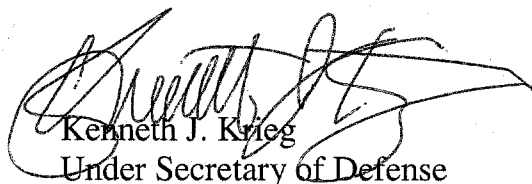
maintenance trends. For those aircraft or cases where MFOQA implementation is thought not to be cost effective, the DoD Components shall submit requests for waivers to this policy through the Defense Safety Oversight Council for Deputy Secretary of Defense approval.

Data generated from the MFOQA process shall not be used for monitoring aircrew performance to initiate punitive or adverse action. In cases of suspected willful disregard of regulations and procedures, MFOQA data may be used for action. MFOQA data is factual information not covered by the privileged safety information procedures of DoDI 6055.7, *Accident Investigation, Reporting, and Record Keeping*.

This requirement is effective immediately and will be incorporated into a DoD issuance.



David S. C. Chu  
Under Secretary of Defense  
(Personnel and Readiness)



Kenneth J. Krieg  
Under Secretary of Defense  
(Acquisition, Technology and Logistics)