



Analyst's Attaboy

By AMCS(AW/SW) Raymond Nichols



It's not often that a model program comes along, but when one does, it bears mention. Bravo Zulu to the men and women of VMFAT-101 QA division. QA is the nerve center of a squadron's maintenance programs. If QA is on track, as was evident at VMAT-101, then all other work centers should be, too. Below are several examples of why VMAT-101 QA is doing so well.

Prior to taking any exams in VMAT-101 QA, maintainer's training jackets are checked on ASM. If personnel are deficient in any periodic training (e.g., NAMP or OSH), they are sent back to the work center and cannot take an exam until all training is completed. As a result of these efforts, VMAT-101 had an extremely high percentage of personnel who've met all required periodic training requirements.

Program binders also are done well at VMAT-101. Ideally, these binders should be one-stop shopping for anyone wanting to know anything about a program. In a program binder, more is better. The key is to keep enough information in the binder so that if anyone from outside your activity had to come in and run the program, they would be able to do so from that binder. VMFAT-101's binders are outstanding and maintain enough information without having too much. Anyone could walk into their QA and take over a program.

Audits are clearly taken seriously at VMAT-101. As an analyst, I've surveyed more than a few units where QA appears to be on track while the work centers are not. Where that's the case, I've gone back to QA and dug a bit deeper into QA audits. Lo and behold, the audits don't show what was really going on in the unit.

That was not the case at VMFAT-101, where many "adverse" audits and plenty of follow-on audits documented. In one case, a work center was re-audited every month for 4 months until the program was back on track. As was pointed out to me, there should never be a "perfect" audit—you can always find something.

So what makes a model program? Basically, it's ownership of your program and doing more than just the minimums, such as using the CSEC to evaluate yourself periodically. To learn more about VMFAT-101's programs, contact:

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