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Flying Operations

LIFE SUPPORT



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1. Protecting and sustaining human life during flight operations is of great importance to the Air Force. The Air Force must have effective life support equipment to preserve the lives of aircrews and passengers. Also, people must be trained to escape from an aircraft, descend safely to the ground, and use life support equipment until recovery or return to duty. This directive therefore establishes policies for life support equipment and training.
2. The Air Force will develop and field life support equipment as identified by user-validated operational requirements, operational deficiencies, suggestions, and aircraft mishap recommendations to enhance performance and to reduce support costs.
3. The Air Force will maintain life support equipment in optimum condition and train aircrews and passengers in procedures to ensure the most effective use of their equipment.
4. The following responsibilities and authorities are established:
 - 4.1. SAF/AQ and HQ USAF/XOO are responsible for policy, resource advocacy, and oversight of the Life Support Program throughout the Air Force. The Assistant Secretary for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Environment (SAF/MI) is responsible for policy, resource advocacy, and oversight of the Occupational Safety and Health and Personal Protective Equipment Programs as they pertain to the Life Support Program.
 - 4.2. Major commands (MAJCOM), field operating agencies, and direct reporting units are responsible for identifying life support equipment and resource requirements, evaluating effectiveness and suitability, establishing and objectively measuring the effectiveness of training programs, and executing their life support programs to comply with these policies.

5. This policy interfaces with related acquisition policies included in AFPD 63-1, Acquisition System. Related instructions are in AFI 11-301, Air Force Life Support Program (formerly AFR 55-27).
6. See attachment 1 for measures used to comply with this policy.

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Attachment 1

MEASURING AND DISPLAYING COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY

A1.1. Compliance with Air Force life support policy will be assessed in two areas: A Customer Satisfaction Survey will evaluate performance in developing, fielding, and maintaining life support equipment; an objective evaluation of aircrew life support training during MAJCOM Quality Air Force Assistance (QAFA) visits and Operational Readiness Inspection's (ORI) will measure the effectiveness of training programs, a review of mishap reports for life support equipment or system malfunctions and aircrew errors will indicate compliance with equipment and training policies.

A1.1.1. Customer Satisfaction Survey. This report (figure A1.1) is a summary of recurring Customer Satisfaction Surveys conducted by Air Force Materiel Command's program offices with their MAJCOM customers. This report will be compiled and reviewed at least semiannually.

A1.1.2. Aircrew Training Effectiveness. MAJCOMs will report (figure A1.2) the results of unit level QAFA and ORI evaluations of aircrew life support training at least semiannually.

A1.1.3. Equipment Malfunctions/Aircrew Errors. A bar graph (figure A1.3) showing mishap statistics with reported life support equipment or system malfunctions and aircrew errors will measure life support equipment performance and the effectiveness of aircrew training. Air Force Safety Agency will collect these statistics by reviewing applicable mishap investigation reports. This report will be compiled and reviewed at least annually.

Figure A1.1. Sample Metric of Customer Satisfaction Survey.

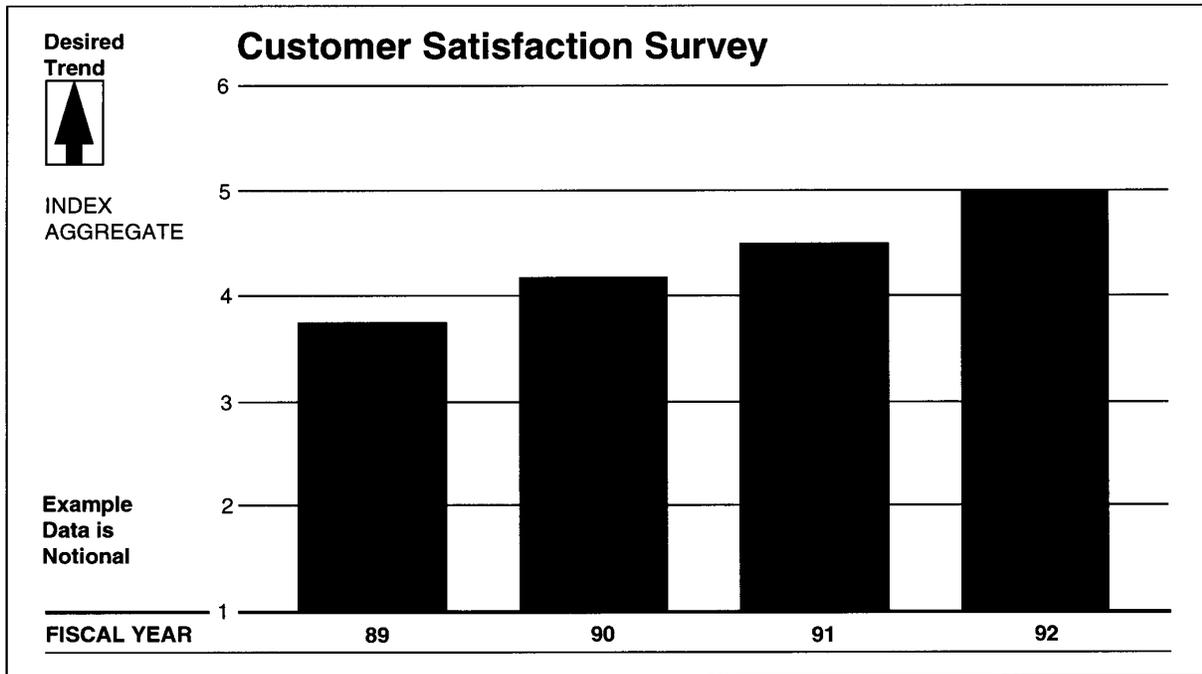


Figure A1.2. Sample Metric of Aircrew Training Effectiveness.

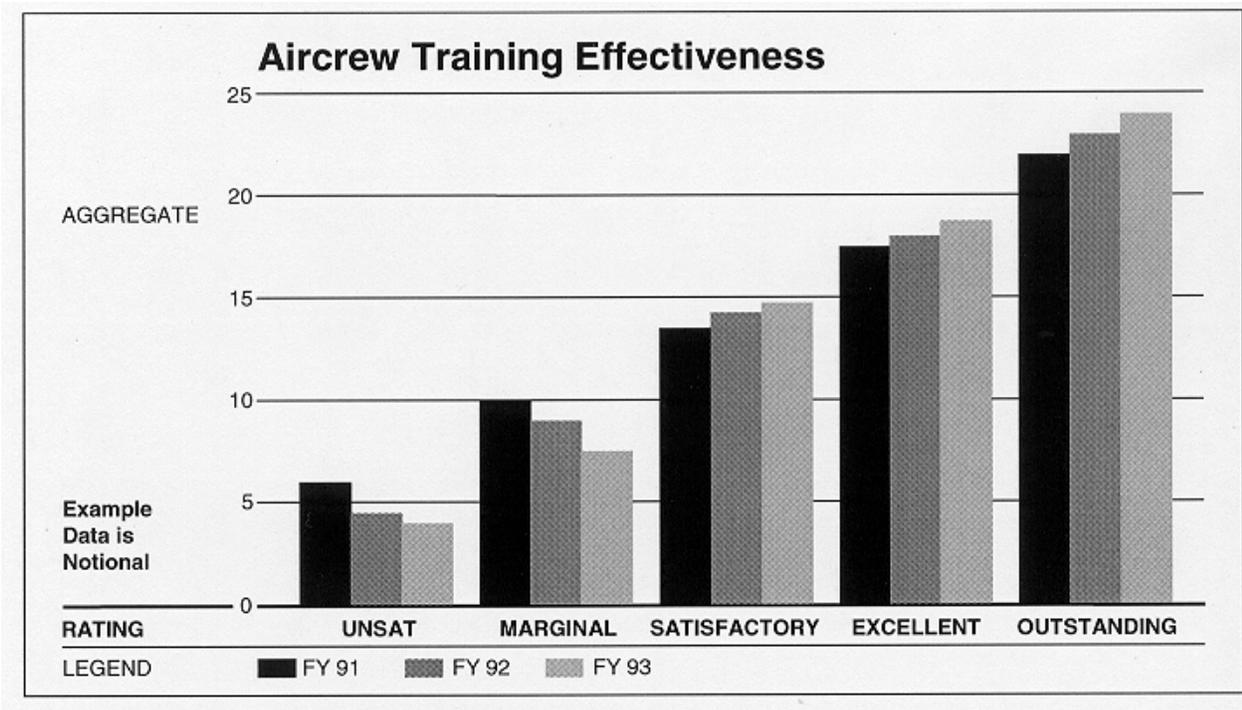


Figure A1.3. Sample Metric of Equipment Malfunctions/Aircrew Errors.

