

From: DOD, NAVY, ORGANIZATIONS(UC), COMNAVAIRSYSCOM PATUXENT RIVER MD(UC) [smtpdelivery@pac.nrems.navy.mil]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2008 7:46 AM
To: Welsh, Timothy T LT CTW6
Subject: NAVAL AVIATION HAZARD (HAZREC) RECOMMENDATION RESPONSE TO VT-7, 16-08
Signed By: smtpdelivery@pac.nrems.navy.mil

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Subject: NAVAL AVIATION HAZARD (HAZREC) RECOMMENDATION RESPONSE TO VT-7, 16-08
Originator: COMNAVAIRSYSCOM PATUXENT RIVER MD(UC)
DTG: 170632Z Nov 08
Precedence: ROUTINE
DAC: General
To: CNO WASHINGTON DC(UC), CMC WASHINGTON DC(UC), COMNAVSAFECEN NORFOLK VA(UC), ALL GOSHAWK AIRCRAFT ACTIVITIES, AL ALL GOSHAWK AIRCRAFT ACTIVITIES(UC)
Cc: COMNAVAIRSYSCOM PATUXENT RIVER MD(UC)

UNCLASSIFIED//SBU.

PASS TO OFFICE CODES:
CNO WASHINGTON DC//N88//
CMC WASHINGTON DC//A/SD//
COMNAVSAFECEN NORFOLK VA//00/10/11/054//
ALL GOSHAWK AIRCRAFT ACTIVITIES
MSGID/GENADMIN,USMTF,2007/COMNAVAIRSYSCOM//
SUBJ/NAVAL AVIATION HAZARD (HAZREC) RECOMMENDATION RESPONSE TO /VT-7, 16-08, 19 JUN 08, T-45C, NA. REPORT SYMBOL OPNAV 3750-19.//
REF/A/MSGID:DOC/OPNAVINST 3750.6R/01MAR2001//
REF/B/MSGID:DOC/VT-7/18SEP2008//
REF/C/MSGID:DOC/CNATRA/18SEP2008//
NARR/REF A IS NAVAL AVIATION SAFETY PROGRAM INSTRUCTION. REF B IS HAZARD REPORT SUBMITTED VIA WESS (SER 1212529364520). REF C IS WESS ENDORSEMENT DOCUMENT.//
POC/TOM CLARKE/CIV/UNIT:AIR-09F1.2/NAME:PATUXENT RIVER /TEL:(301)757-2248/TEL:DSN 757-2248//
GENTEXT/REMARKS/1. SUMMARY: PROPERLY WORN MBU-23/P MASK AND VISOR MAY INJURE AIRCREW.
2. PER REF A, FOLLOWING PROVIDES HAZREC RESPONSE TO REF B, AS MODIFIED BY REF C:
A. PARA 3.A.(1): RECOMMENDATION #1. CONDUCT FURTHER TESTING TO FULLY ASSESS THE PROTECTIVE CAPABILITIES OF THE MBU-23/P COMBAT EDGE MASK AND COMPATIBLE VISOR (PART NUMBER 89D7697-1 OR -2) INTERFACE WHEN SPECIFICALLY EMPLOYED WITH THE HGU-68(V)6/P HELMET AND T-45 CANOPY EJECTION SYSTEMS. CONCUR. EXTENSIVE POST-MISHAP ANALYSIS REVEALED THAT EVEN WITH PROPERLY FITTED MBU-23/P MASK AND ASSOCIATED VISOR, THERE ARE STILL MINOR GAPS IN THE LOWER CORNERS OF THE FACE AREA. NAVAIR IS WORKING WITH VISOR OEM TO MODIFY THE MBU-23/P COMPATIBLE VISOR TO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTIVE CAPABILITY. ACTION ONGOING. OPEN.
B. PARA 3.E.(1): RECOMMENDATION #5. DEFINE ACCEPTABLE MBU-23/P AND VISOR INTERFACE GAP TOLERANCES AND DEVELOP A PROCEDURE

FOR ALSS PERSONNEL TO CORRECT GAPS IN THE CURRENT MBU-23/P MASK TO VISOR FIT. DISSEMINATE TOLERANCES TO ALL APPLICABLE FLEET ALSS SHOPS. CONCUR. ALSS ENGINEERS ARE DEVELOPING MORE COMPREHENSIVE VISOR TRIMMING INSTRUCTIONS AS WELL AS CLARIFYING BAYONET RECEIVER MOUNTING INSTRUCTIONS THAT WILL YIELD A TIGHTER MASK/VISOR INTERFACE. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT SQUADRONS ENSURE ALL AIRCREW ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE CORRECT VISOR FOR THE TYPE OF MASK USED, AND THAT AIRCREW ARE USING IT CORRECTLY. ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE IS APRIL 2009. ACTION ONGOING. OPEN.

C. PARA 3.F.(1): RECOMMENDATION #6. RE-DESIGN OR RECONFIGURE THE T-45 MDC SYSTEM TO REDUCE THE RISK FROM BLAST, NOISE, SHRAPNEL AND LEAD SPLATTER. DO NOT CONCUR. A REPLACEMENT FOR THE CURRENT CANOPY MDC DOES NOT EXIST, AND REDESIGNING OR RECONFIGURING THE CANOPY MDC SYSTEM WOULD BE COSTLY AND WOULD TAKE YEARS OF EXTENSIVE QUALIFICATION TESTING TO FIELD A MODIFIED SYSTEM. A RECENT RISK ASSESSMENT PLACES THIS MDC HAZARD AT A SAFETY RISK OF IIID (MARGINAL/REMOTE) WHICH IS A LOW RISK. ALSO, ALL INJURIES CAUSED BY THE MDC HAVE BEEN MINOR. THE AV-8B HAS A MDC SYSTEM AND HAS A SIMILAR HISTORY OF MINOR INJURIES. THE RISK ASSOCIATED WITH MDC IN THE AV-8B HAS ALSO BEEN ASSESSED AS A LOW RISK. A LOW RISK HAZARD DOES NOT SUPPORT THE MAGNITUDE OF FUNDING REQUIRED TO MODIFY THE CURRENT MDC SYSTEM. THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS AND EFFICIENT MEANS TO REDUCE THE MDC HAZARD TO THE AIRCREW ARE THE COURSES OF ACTION OUTLINED IN THE RESPONSES TO THE TWO PREVIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS (PARAS 2.A. AND 2.B. ABOVE) REGARDING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. ALTERNATIVES FOR OR REDESIGN OF THE CURRENT MDC CANOPY FRACTURING SYSTEM WILL BE CONSIDERED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FOLLOW-ON STRIKE TRAINER. ACTION COMPLETE. CLOSED.

3. RELEASED BY RDML D. A. DUNAWAY, AIR-5.0, DSN 757-7477.//