

The Making of Maintenance Experts



Aviation mechanic graduates at the US Army Aviation Logistics School have spent a lot of hours learning about Chinooks, AH-64s, Kiowa Warriors, Black Hawks and ground support equipment.

They have turned wrenches, used TMs and IETMs, studied structures and pneudraulics, installed rivets, repaired airframes, studied electrical systems, flight controls, weapons, navigation and avionic systems, power plants, and propulsion and a host of other aircraft functions.

You'd think they'd be experts when they hit the flight line. But they aren't. And treating them as though they are experts can lead to equipment damage, accidents and personal injury.

When mechanics arrive at their units, training needs to continue. They should shadow senior mechanics who can show them the maintenance by the book, not on-the-fly or by the seat of their pants. New mechanics should also be introduced to standard operating procedures (SOP) in their units.

