



# Portals and Forums Are Useful, but **NOT** Everything's Official

KEEPING UP IN THE INFORMATION AGE IS A FULL-TIME JOB. ARMY AVIATION EQUIPMENT IS CONSTANTLY BEING CHANGED.



In an effort to help Soldiers stay up-to-date on maintenance, some organizations have established online forums and portals for aviation information.

It's not uncommon for aviators to view portals and forums as a one-stop shop for aviation information. These forums and portals contain some official information such as Air Worthiness Releases (AWR), AMCOM Aviation Safety Messages, Aviation Maintenance Action Messages (AMAM), Aviation Safety Action Messages (ASAM), Maintenance Information Messages (MIM), Safety of Flight (SOF) Messages and Safety of Use (SOU) Messages.

These portals contain lots of actionable information. But it's not uncommon to find draft manuals and maintenance or repair information that's not ready to be released to the field. As these portals and forums increase in popularity, you need to exercise caution. Don't use unofficial information as a replacement for official DA publications.

Draft TMs, MWOs, TBs and other repair procedures posted on portals may be validated but not verified and authenticated. Validation shows that all the information in the TM meets the equipment requirements. The government verification confirms the accuracy of the publication through hands-on or table-top onsite verification with the equipment.

If a draft is validated but not yet verified or authenticated, check with a LAR or an equipment specialist from the commodity command who handles the equipment for advice on using draft validated publication information until it appears in a authenticated publication.

The same is true for newsletters that propose new maintenance procedures.

Remember, the only official maintenance publications published and authenticated are IETMs, TMs, MWOs, and TBs. *PS Magazine* is one of those TBs. *PS Magazine* has the mission of updating the maintenance information found in TMs, and other maintenance and supply publications prior to these publications being updated or revised. What is printed in *PS Magazine* has been approved by the equipment proponent for use on Army aircraft.

The bottom line is that maintenance is important, and it should be done right and by the book. Electronic or paper TMs should always be your first choice because they are authenticated. But check out *PS Magazine* every month for updated approved maintenance information.