Independent Audit Services for the Military Aviation Authority (MAA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF OUR ACTIVITY

The Military Regulator required a service provider to provide an audit service to provide a formal acceptance mechanism for the Regulatory Articles 4800 series (MRP Part 145) application including the first review of the maintenance organisation’s exposition. On completion of this stage, the planning and onsite auditing of the applicant’s organisation leading to initial recommendation was required. Initial grant of the approval was then to be followed by a continual oversight programme.

Client Profile

The Military Aviation Authority (MAA) is part of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and is the single regulatory authority responsible for regulating all aspects of air safety across defence.

The Challenge

The MAA needed to identify a service provider to bring expert resource to bear in order to align with the new Regulatory Articles 4800 series (MRP Part 145 – Maintenance Approved Organisation Scheme (MAOS)) and be responsible for managing the complete approval process from application, initial recommendation and continued oversight. After extensive consultation with the client, Baines Simmons was selected as a strategic partner to support the MAA in this crucial activity.

The Solution

- Baines Simmons established an independent organisation (Aviation Compliance Ltd) to provide an independent expert consultancy, training and regulatory compliance service to the MAA to implement and control the MRP Part 145 standard.
- We set ourselves up to act as an integral part of the MAA team, quickly and efficiently providing a range of fully outsourced services to transition all affected existing and new applicants to the new regulatory framework.
- We developed/mentored applicants during the application process and introduced methodologies that challenged extant processes and procedures within the UK industry.
- We developed/mentored MAA staff providing them with an understanding and intent of MRP Part 145 requirements and auditing techniques.

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The Outcome

The project delivered a fully functioning audit programme for the MAA. It generated reports of real value which had been successfully investigated using error management philosophies. Appropriate interventions helped to increase efficiency and reduce risk in the applicant organisations. As a result, the MAA had greater operational capability and were able to make more efficient use of manpower and budgets.

Key highlights of the programme:

- Our approach to auditing meant that the process added value to the applicant by ensuring the intent of the standard was being met during the audit visits and subsequent reports.
- We reviewed and reported upon current audit process and designed and developed a set of policy documents and newly designed procedures.
- A range of training packages was customised and delivered by a dedicated and knowledgeable team of specialist training consultants for the audit teams.
- We provided a value-adding performance review process so that the MAA could clearly see the performance to target of Baines Simmons in delivering the service.
- We provided a dedicated team of auditors to the MAA with the flexibility and capacity to react to additional tasking at short notice.
- We successfully delivered a fully outsourced service within exacting service levels and a very challenging cultural and budgetary regime.

Summary of Baines Simmons services utilised

**SMARRT® Consulting services**

CQ02 Outsourced Auditing Services

**Training courses**

Customised versions and/or elements of the following training courses were used:

TR09  MAOS Regulations – Management Responsibilities

TT08  Continuing Airworthiness Management Skills for a Defence CAMO

TR18  MAOS: Continuing Airworthiness Engineering with the UK MAE

TR10  MRP Part 145 – Successfully Applying the Maintenance Regulation

TS05  Effective Event Investigation

TQ02  Practical Skills for Auditors

TS03 – Human Factors in Aircraft Maintenance