

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Maintenance Training

What is it?

UAS Maintenance Training is training that provides all of the skills, knowledge and core competencies for Soldiers with a Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 15J to maintain the Army's fleet of UAS. Currently, each course is UAS specific and awards an Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) unique to the UAS Soldiers trained. Course lengths are 11 weeks for the RQ-7 Shadow UAS, ASI U2 course and 16 weeks for the RQ-5 Hunter UAS, ASI U3 course.

What has Army Aviation done?

Army Aviation has assumed responsibility for UAS maintenance from the Ordnance and Military Intelligence branches and has converted all maintenance positions from MOS 35T and 52D to MOS 15J. The nine-week technician and eight-week mechanic UAS training courses have been consolidated into one 11-week course that qualifies 15J Soldiers to perform all maintenance tasks. All required documentation to change all Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) positions to MOS 15J have been submitted; however, the U.S. Army Force Management Support Agency (USAFMSA) has not produced all changed MTOEs so some MTOEs still show MOS 15B, 35T or 52D as authorized personnel rather than purely MOS 15J Soldiers.

What continued efforts does Army Aviation have planned for the future?

Army Aviation is establishing a new MOS 15E, UAS Repairer, with Advanced Individual Training (AIT) based on the RQ-7 Shadow UAS beginning in May 2010. Soldiers holding MOS 15J with the U2 or U3 ASIs are currently being MOS-transitioned to 15E on a case-by-case basis by the Human Resources Command (HRC). All UAS maintenance personnel authorizations will convert to 15E as the MTOEs are updated by USAFMSA. Also, the Shadow maintenance section has increased from five to seven personnel in order to add a Staff Sergeant (SSG / E-6) and Sergeant First Class (SFC / E-7) where the highest rank for maintenance personnel was Sergeant (SGT / E-5). This change will provide NCO leadership and maintenance expertise to the Shadow Platoons. A 16-week ASI U5, MQ-1C Extended Range / Multi-Purpose (ER/MP) UAS maintainer course is also being established in June 2010 in preparation for the ER/MPs first unit equipped date of July 2011.

Why is this important to the Army and Army Aviation?

As the proponent for Aviation Maintenance, including UAS, Army Aviation must inform all commands with UAS on the proper training and manning requirements for UAS maintenance. Additionally, MOS 15E establishment ensures commands have well-trained, systems-focused personnel for their UAS missions. All MOS 15E personnel will be qualified to maintain the RQ-7 Shadow UAS, while only Soldiers possessing ASI U3 and U5 will be qualified to maintain the RQ-5 Hunter and MQ-1 ER/MP respectively. The first authorizations for UAS in Combat Aviation Brigades will align with the fielding of the MQ-1 ER/MP UAS in July 2011 melding UAS into the aviation community.

As of: 22 Mar 2010