

Defect Report and Corrective Action System (DRACAS)

DRACAS is a formal closed-loop reporting system that requires each reported failure to be analyzed from an maintainability perspective and if necessary, followed up with a corrective action. This system would be used in unison with the FRACAS. However, the objective of this data collection system would be to obtain specific maintainability data.

The collection of data could start early in a design and development phases and continue to be implemented into the operational or fielded phase. The type of data to be collected, with respect to maintainability would ascertain the maintainability characteristics of a system. This data could include actual maintenance elapse times, observation on the BIT performance, discrepancies in technical manuals and documentation, criteria tied to actual repair actions, and any supporting dispositions.

For example: where it is observed that for a particular assembly, a large percentage of these assemblies are returned from a supplier as a No-Fault-Found (NFF) or No-Evidence-Of-Failure (NEOF).

Upon investigation by the vendor they were unable to locate any faults associated with the assembly in question and after testing, to verify its operational status, returned it to the user as NFF.

This type of scenario has an adverse impact upon the operational support cost of a system. The impact upon a system's Life Cycle Cost of those items being found to be NFF is augmented, as there is a cost associated with removing "serviceable" items from a system and entering them into the repair loop. The cause of this may be as a result of the ineffective diagnostics routine, technical manuals and/ or training of the maintainers

There are many maintainability issues that could have an impact upon the operational Life Cycle Cost for a system. These need to be identified and addressed in a systematic fashion.

