The Safety Case Approach and Other Pressing Issues

A Recap of the G-48 Panel at ISSTS 2014

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Overview of Presentation

- The 2014 International System Safety Training Symposium (ISSTS)
- Brief Summary of SAE International's G-48 System Safety Committee
- Background of the "Most Pressing Issues" Panel
- The Panelists and Their Presentations
  - Tom Pfitzer, A-P-T Research – *Risk Assessment Codes: Problem or Solution?*
  - Dave West, SAIC – *The Safety Case Approach*
  - Warren Naylor, Northrop Grumman – *System Safety: A Glimpse into the Future*
  - Jay Naphas, FAA – *Communicating Safely*
  - Linda Thomas, Boeing – *Update of NAS-411*
  - Tom Martin, FAA – *System Safety Challenges to Human Commercial Space Flight*

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The 2014 International System Safety Training Symposium

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- Over 200 attendees from 10 countries
- 39 technical papers
- 13 tutorials, 6 workshops, 3 panels

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- Mission Statement:

  To promote the development of safe systems, products, and processes: the G-48 Committee compiles, develops, improves and publishes best practices in the discipline of System Safety.

- Scope:

  Best practices in System Safety that are the subject of the G-48 Committee's work are not exclusive to any one domain. They are applicable to hardware, software, human, and environmental aspects of systems for government, commercial, military, aerospace, transportation, industrial, and the medical field.

- Current Leadership

  Chairman: Dave West, SAIC

  Secretary: Gary Braman, United Technologies / Sikorsky Helicopters

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Background of the "Most Pressing Issues" Panel

- Action Item #0007 from G-48 Meeting at Las Vegas conference, August 2011
  - Originally intended to be a tutorial on Best Practices, planned for Atlanta conference, 2012
  - May 2012 – changed focus to be a panel, similar to the "Adding Discipline to Our Discipline" series from the mid- to late-2000's, led by APT Research
  - May 2013 – decided on the "Most Pressing Issues" theme
  - First panel held at Boston conference, August 2013; decided to repeat the "Most Pressing Issues" theme this year in St. Louis
- Format
  - Similar to a Technical Paper session
  - <u>Confer</u> with panelists and each other
  - Time for Q&A, open discussion
- This Year's Presentations are all available at:
  http://issc2014.system-safety.org/pressing.html

2013

2014

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Tom Pfitzer, A-P-T Research: "Risk Assessment Codes: Problem or Solution?"

- **Tom Pfitzer is the Founder and President of A-P-T Research**
  - A-P-T Research is a SB headquartered in Huntsville, AL
  - A-P-T Research specializes in providing expert System Safety services
  - Tom has over 40 years in System Safety, Range Safety, and Risk Analysis
- **Tom started with the following quote from Pat Clemens:**

  "I abhor the use of RACs and even worse, the misuse of RACs. But until we come up with something better, it is the best thing we have."

- **Tom's presentation looked in-depth at the desired features and purposes of risk assessment codes (RACs), and then analyzed several examples of RAC matrixes, giving pros and cons of each example**
- **Finally, Tom covered the concept of Total System Risk**

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- **Dave West is a Senior Director and Chief Safety Engineer with SAIC**

- **At the "Pressing Issues" panel, Dave's presentation was about the Safety Case approach**
  - **The Safety Case approach was brought up a few times at the 2013 ISSC in Boston**
  - **The Safety Case approach is prevalent in the U.K. and some other European countries**
    - **Safety Case is defined as a structured argument supported by claims of why the system is adequately safe**
    - **Evidence is gathered to confirm or deny the claims**
    - **Evidence consists of analyses and data, similar to tasks in GEIA-STD-0010 and MIL-STD-882**
  - **G-48 Committee took an action to investigate the utility of the Safety Case approach**
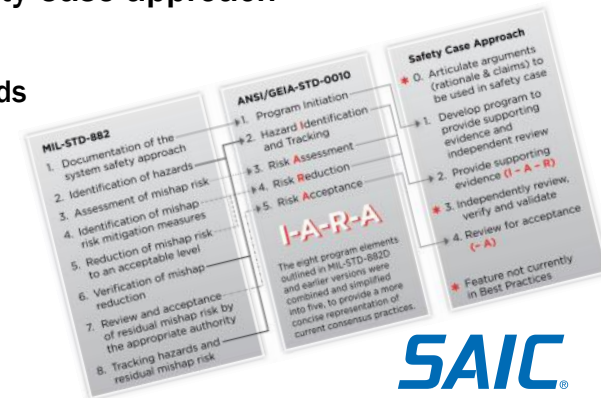 - **A-P-T Research hosted a Safety Case workshop in January 2014**
    - **Presentations of GEIA-STD, MIL-STD, ARP, NASA, and Safety Case methods**
    - **Compared methods**
    - **Findings: Safety Case has some strengths not included in U.S. methods**
    - **Recommendation: incorporate Safety Case approach in best practices**
    - **Paper published in Spring/Summer 2014 Journal of System Safety**

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- **Warren Naylor is a Lead Sr. System Safety Consulting Engineer with NGC**
  - Past President of the ISSS and of the D.C. Chapter
  - Co-Founder and Chair of NGC's System Safety Community of Practice
  - Chaired the 2007 ISSC in Baltimore
- **Warren started with a brief history of System Safety as a discipline**
- **Pointed out that "System Safety tends to look into the rear view mirror"**
  - Past accidents
  - Lessons learned
  - Prior service history, etc.
- **He then made key points about "Where We Are Today and Tomorrow"**
  - Globalization and related concerns (international standards, need to reach out to all S.S. societies)
  - Lack of a current professional certification in System Safety (INCOSE establishing an "extension")
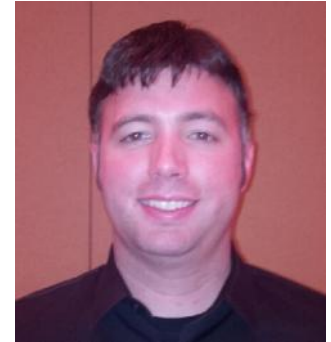 - Summarized additional concerns about the economy, SOWs, communication, and the workforce

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- **Jay Naphas is a Technical Liaison with the FAA**
  - Was an FAA intern in 2005-2006 and a Lead for S.S. & SW Safety from 2007-2012
  - Active participant on the G-48 Committee; represented FAA/AST
  - Published works in JSS, IAASS Proceedings, and USAF Wingman
- **Jay gave a thought-provoking presentation**
  - Focused on "Interpersonal Communication in System Safety Analyses"
  - Started with an audience participation exercise: "Pick a State"
  - Made several points about "Free Will" and its role in our decision processes
- **Expressed his General Theory of System Safety**
  - All unsafe system behaviors are the result of errors in mental models (latent or consciously accepted)
  - Suggested implications, including that communication content constrains future decisions
  - Recommends looking for losses of information or awareness rather than errors in decision logic
- **He believes Safety depends inextricably on communication in all phases**

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- **Linda Thomas is an Associate Technical Fellow at Boeing**
  - Chemical Risk Assessment Lead in Renton, WA
  - Over 20 years consulting on design for environment principles
  - Served as the system safety SME to the NAS-411 work group
- **Summarized the development and publishing of NAS-411 (R3), 9/30/2013**
  - NAS-411 is the Hazardous Materials Management Program (HMMP) Standard
  - New revision was a collaborative effort between DoD and industry
  - Included new companion document, NAS411-1, Hazardous Material Target List (HMTL)
  - Presentation slides include good detail on content of new revision (first in 20 years!) and the HMTL
- **Summarized the Working Group's next steps**
  - Periodic review and update
  - Develop a separate "Tracked HAZMAT" list; list of chemical names and CAS numbers for HMTL items
  - Explore opportunities to harmonize NAS411-1 where feasible with other lists/requirements

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- Tom Martin is the Program Technical Lead for System Safety in FAA/AST
  - 24 years with NASA
  - Former Mission Evaluation Room Manager for International Space Station (ISS)
  - Former Chief of technical staff System Safety for Constellation program
- Started with a chronicling of major U.S. and Russian space flight failures
- Listed technical challenges, including extreme energies and environments
- Characterized commercial space flight as "the next step"
  - Explained FAA's role in establishing a system safety process for commercial human space flight
  - FAA to follow airline approach, organized by major functions of design, manufacturing and operations
  - Requirements will be performance-based and consistent with spiral development technique
- Challenges to regulations
  - Not specifying standards or approaches; instead, evaluating proposed designs against regulations
  - New HSF regulations will follow a more traditional route

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Summary

- The 2nd Annual "Most Pressing Issues" Panel was a tremendous success
  - Six quality presentations (originally only sought four)
  - Well attended
  - General consensus from attendees was that issues discussed were indeed "pressing" issues
  - Panel prominently featured on web archives of 2014 ISSTS
  - One panelist already volunteered to present again next year

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Questions?