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World Leaders in Aviation Safety

ROYAL NAVY

Safety & Airworthiness Review

- Royal Navy, Fleet Air Arm (FAA)

Baines Simmons was asked to assess the ability of the Fleet Air Arm to successfully manage error within a military environment. The assessment included the need to provide an indication of the safety cultures in evidence and to review the interfaces between Flight, Air Traffic, Maintenance and Support Operations.

Client Profile

The FAA comprises the Royal Navy's air power capability. It numbers some 6,200 people, which is 11.5% of the total Royal Naval strength, and operates around 200 combat aircraft and over 50 support/training aircraft. Its helicopters provide a multi-role airborne combat capability able to operate independently at short notice, in all environments, day and night, over the sea and land.

The Challenge

▶ The FAA wished to develop a proactive approach to Flight Safety and Risk Management.

▶ The strategy required a clear situational understanding and an external, unbiased, benchmarked assessment of the FAA's current safety and error management capabilities.

▶ The FAA required independent expertise to review existing cultural and process developments as well as providing a measurement basis for future improvements.

▶ In addition, the project required an independent assessment and evaluation of the current risk profile across all four of the FAA's operational departments on land and at sea: aircrew, maintainers, air traffic controllers & support personnel.

The Solution

▶ The project team used an Error Management Diagnostic (EMD) supported by appropriately modified Safety Health of Maintenance Engineering (SHoMe) & Safety Health of Operations (SHOps) surveys. As a result, 793 returns were processed; 150 interviews were conducted and the project team visited two Royal Naval Air Stations, one Aircraft Carrier and one Type 23 Destroyer.

▶ The project team created an executive report to deliver feedback and their expert opinion on the following key areas: flight safety awareness; human factors competence; error management policy and procedures; investigation capability; just culture; roles in flight safety; fatigue management; safety competence development and risk management.

▶ The EMD evaluated and provided success ratings as to the ability of the FAA to manage error in the following eight areas: management commitment and support; programme ownership; reporting; event investigations; organisation safety enablers; education and feedback; personnel competence and support of the EMS.

"May I take this opportunity to thank you for the sterling work you and your team carried out in reviewing our current Flight Safety culture and the way we manage our error.

'Such an independent view is a key way in which we can understand and measure our progress, and your open and honest appraisal will help us better deliver Maritime Aviation in a safe and effective manner.

' Feedback I have received highlighted the professional and passionate approach your team took in conducting themselves both on the stations and at sea, taking the time to understand how we operate and engage our people effectively."

- Rear Admiral Simon Charlier

To find out how we can assist your organisation, please speak to one of our expert consultants
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Technical Consulting

Safety Management - Error Management Implementation

Outcome

▶ The final (200 page) management report identified the key safety and airworthiness risk mitigation recommendations required to embed Error Management Systems into the FAA. The report summarised all the findings and outlined clear and concise management actions.

▶ The report served to initiate, build and win buy-in for a shared vision and direction for the Royal Navy's participation and investment in a 4 world's Defence Aviation Error Management System (DAEMS).

Summary of Baines Simmons services utilised

SMARRT®

Error Management Diagnostic

Consulting support

FAA Board strategic safety management leadership support