

Report on the Grant Support for the 15th International Symposium on Aviation Psychology

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The 15th International Symposium on Aviation Psychology was held April 27-30, 2009 on the campus of Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. The Symposium Program consisted of a Keynote Address presented by Dr. Christopher Wickens, a speech by the AFRL Commander, Major General Curtis M. Bedke, two Plenary Panel Sessions, two Panel Sessions, two Symposium Sessions, 76 papers presented in 28 paper sessions, 48 posters presented in two poster sessions, and four full-day or half-day Workshops. A copy of the Program and a copy of the Proceedings CD are enclosed.

The Symposium was attended by approximately 250 participants representing 15 countries from around the world. The participants included military and civilian researchers, practitioners, and administrators from diverse domains that included aviation, psychology, engineering, and medicine. Also among the participants were 40 students, seven of them entered the first Stanley N. Roscoe Best Student Paper Competition. The recipient of the Stanley N. Roscoe Best Student Paper Award was Mr. Jason Monnin from Wright State University's School of Engineering Human Factors program. His paper was coauthored with Mr. Justin Estep of AFRL's Warfighter Interface Division and was titled, "Contribution of high-frequency EEG features to physiologically-based operator workload estimation."

For the first time, the Symposium was held on the campus of Wright State University. The proximity of Wright State University (WSU) and Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) greatly facilitated their collaborative organization of the Program and events for the Symposium. The symposium banquet, hosted by the Air Force in the Air Force Museum, featured the Band of Flight and an address from Major General Bedke that reviewed the history of human effectiveness research at Wright-Patterson, AFB. The venue for the Symposium along with the aviation heritage of the Dayton area were well received by the attendees.

Beside the Keynote Address (The Psychology of Aviation Surprise: An 8 Year Update Regarding the Noticing of Black Swans) in which Dr. Wickens spoke of the need to design and train for the most unanticipated events in aviation, the most well attended sessions were the Plenary Practitioner' (Operational Issues in Today's Aviation System) and the Plenary Researchers' (Meeting the Challenges of Expanding Demands on the Aviation System) Panel Sessions. There was a strong sense among the attendees that an on-going dialogue between practitioners and researchers was absolutely necessary and mutually beneficial. Although a total of 170 minutes were devoted to these Plenary Panels, many lamented the insufficient amount of time to hear more, to learn more, to question more, or to make just one more comment.

The support provided by the AFOSR grant and the support provided by the Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate were highly instrumental to the success

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of the Symposium. The AFOSR grant support contributed to the overall funds available for bringing the Symposium up to a more current level. Among some of these developments were a newly developed web page that can be accessed more widely by the public (<http://www.wright.edu/isap/>), the capability of web submission of proposals and proceeding papers, electronics that accommodated multiple computer connections to facilitate presentations from multiple speakers in a single session, and two very well attended poster sessions.

Presence of the Air Force and Wright State leadership at the Symposium greatly impressed upon the conference attendees that the Symposium was an occasion not just for presenting one's latest research or practice in aviation psychology but also for learning about these developments. This is especially important for engaging the international aviation community and their participation is increasingly essential for keeping pace with the global development and practices in aviation psychology.

The success of the 15th Symposium has given us confidence that the Symposium is an important venue for continual dialogue between researchers and practitioners in the aviation psychology community. The 16th International Symposium on Aviation Psychology is being planned to take place on May 2-5, 2011, to be held again on the campus of Wright State University. Both Wright State University and the Human Effectiveness Directorate of AFRL plan to continue this year's successful collaboration in sponsoring the next symposium.