



# The Safety Case Approach and Other Pressing Issues

A Recap of the G-48 Panel at ISSTS 2014

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19 November 2014

**SAIC**

# Overview of Presentation

- **The 2014 International System Safety Training Symposium (ISSTS)**
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- **Background of the "Most Pressing Issues" Panel**
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  - 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*

# The 2014 International System Safety Training Symposium



# The 2014 International System Safety Training Symposium



# The 2014 International System Safety Training Symposium



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

# Brief Summary of SAE International's G-48 System Safety Committee



**1968 ANNALS OF ASSURANCE SCIENCES**  
 Seventh Reliability and Maintainability Conference  
 San Francisco, California  
 July 14-17, 1968

Sponsored by  
 The American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
 Society of Automotive Engineers  
 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
 With the participation of American Society for Testing and Materials,  
 American Society of Quality Control, Society of Logistics Engineers -  
 and Systems Safety Society

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**SYSTEM SAFETY - AN ENGINEERING DISCIPLINE**

George F. Smith  
 Martin Marietta Corporation  
 Aurora Division  
 Denver, Colorado

**INTRODUCTION**

System safety as an engineering discipline has crossed many borders since its beginning in the early 1960's. Today system safety engineering is a recognized part of engineering on all major aerospace programs.

In a review of the milestones and accomplishments, we find the first specification regarding system safety was the SAE Military System Division (MSD) MIL-STD-1629, which was made mandatory for use by all SAE contractors. At that time, many of the aerospace contractors, the MSB issued regulations which their contractors, the Air Force, as a policy, began concerned with system safety and published the first military specification for system safety, MIL-STD-1629B. This specification required contractors to provide system safety as part of their engineering programs. An amendment to this specification, MIL-STD-1629C, was published in 1967 to provide system safety as part of their procurement requirements. During the last few months, the Joint Service (JS) System Safety Committee has prepared the JS-SSS, which is a new specification for system safety. This specification is more specific in the areas of hardware and software design and testing.

System safety continues to evolve as can be seen by the following developments. In the present time, there is a new specification, MIL-STD-1629D, which is a revision of MIL-STD-1629C. This specification is now being used by the Air Force. In 1968, the Air Force and the Marine Corps issued a new specification, MIL-STD-1629E, which is a revision of MIL-STD-1629C. This specification is now being used by the Air Force and the Marine Corps. In 1968, the Air Force and the Marine Corps issued a new specification, MIL-STD-1629F, which is a revision of MIL-STD-1629C. This specification is now being used by the Air Force and the Marine Corps.

July, it was decided to publish the handbook on the first of a series of major milestones and milestones and milestones was changed to SAE G-48. The handbook covers system safety philosophy, aerospace safety, and life support.

In 1968, the Electronics Industries Association (EIA) established a System Safety Committee (G-48) within their organization. This committee safety engineers actively engaged in making new standards and in every quarter and is chaired by Mr. Jack Stanley, EIA, New York.

In 1967, after the Apollo 13K accident on Cape Kennedy, NASA became extremely interested in what system safety means associated with the Apollo Program. NASA has since set up the organization of SAE system safety committee. In the new System Safety Handbook (S-1) through the Air Force, the handbook will be integrated into the existing Air Force Handbook.

After literally reviewing the history of System Safety, we have today to provide you with some of the safety and some that have been and will be integrated into aid.

In keeping with the theme of the conference, we Safety Engineers will discuss itself with System Safety as it applies and is used throughout the design and development phases of a program. Chap. 2, "Safety and the Approach for Safety and the Safety Data that will be required by ADP Form contracts. Mr. J. L. Ingman and Mr. E. A. Lohr will discuss the development of how it is used throughout the development of a program. Mr. J. L. Ingman will show how system safety can be used during the design and development of an aircraft. Mr. Miller will show the system safety and application of the new specification, MIL-STD-1629D and some of the work that will be done.

The handbook, prepared by Mr. Ben Martin, chairman of the SAE G-48 subcommittee on System Safety, will outline the work that will be done in all safety engineering.





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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

# Background of the “Most Pressing Issues” Panel

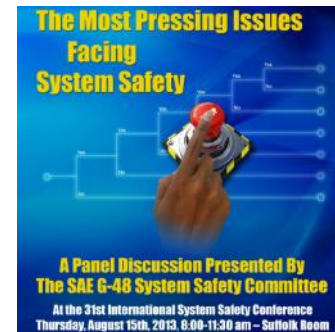
- Action Item #0007 from G-48 Meeting at Las Vegas conference, August 2011
  - Originally intended to be a tutorial on Best Practices, planned for Atlanta conference, 2012
  - May 2012 – changed focus to be a panel, similar to the “Adding Discipline to Our Discipline” series from the mid- to late-2000’s, 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
- Confer 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

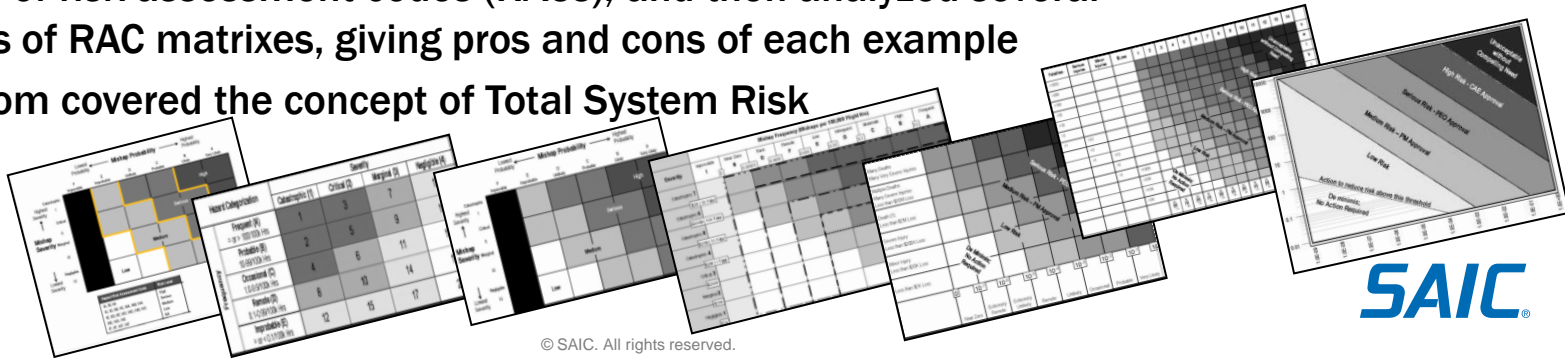


# The Panelists and Their Presentations

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:

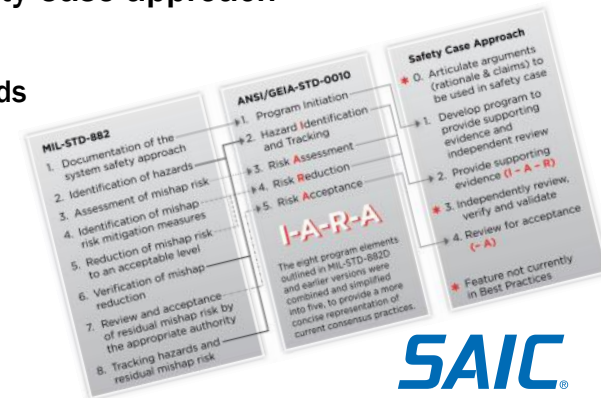
“I abhor the use of RACs and even worse, the misuse of RACs. But until we come up with something better, it is the best thing we have.”
- Tom’s presentation looked in-depth at the desired features and purposes of risk assessment codes (RACs), and then analyzed several examples of RAC matrixes, giving pros and cons of each example
- Finally, Tom covered the concept of Total System Risk



# The Panelists and Their Presentations (Cont.)

## Dave West, SAIC: “The Safety Case Approach”

- 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



# The Panelists and Their Presentations (Cont.)

## Warren Naylor, Northrop Grumman: “System Safety: A Glimpse into the Future”

- **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

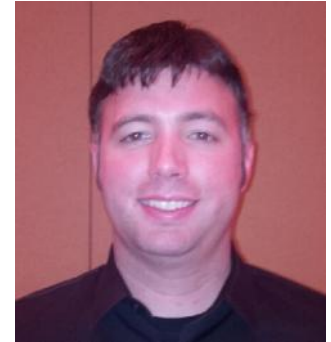




# The Panelists and Their Presentations (Cont.)

## Jay Naphas, FAA: “Communicating Safely”

- 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



# The Panelists and Their Presentations (Cont.)

## Linda Thomas, Boeing: “Update of NAS-411”

- 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



# The Panelists and Their Presentations (Cont.)

## Tom Martin, FAA: “System Safety Challenges to Human Commercial Space Flight”

- **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



# Summary

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



**Questions?**

