

The Cumberbatch Trophy

Doctor James Ray Klinect BA, PhD and The LOSA Collaborative

Doctor James Klinect has been a tireless crusader for aviation safety throughout his working life.

Dr Klinect joined The Human Factors Research Project (HFRP) team at the University of Texas at Austin in 1995. Under the tutelage of the HFRP Director, Professor Robert Helmreich, Dr Klinect's early research initially focussed on the measurement of the effectiveness of existing Crew Resource Management (CRM) programs in major airlines. This resulted in a research question that had not previously been addressed:

“...Exactly what do airline crews do in order to fly safely from A to B...?”

Devastating in its simplicity, the research into this question, conducted through observation of multiple flight crews, led to the establishment of what is now known as “Threat and Error Management” (TEM). Dr Klinect refined the methodology into a practical safety tool that could be deployed by airlines - the Line Operations Safety Audit (LOSA). This is now in use world - wide as a non – jeopardy way to monitor normal operations. With more than 16,500 flight deck observations, LOSA is allowing airline managers to gain a unique safety insight into the way that their crews perform in line operations thus informing evidence - based changes to Standard Operating Procedures, training and organisational management.

It is significant that Dr Klinect, unselfishly released full details of his work into the public domain with both TEM and LOSA being adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). TEM is now included in all relevant annexes to the ICAO Convention and normal operations monitoring through LOSA is considered a best practice.

In order to facilitate the education and deployment of LOSA, Dr Klinect formed The LOSA Collaborative which comprises an international body of aviation safety practitioners and researchers, airlines and other safety - focussed organisations who contribute to both the development and deployment of LOSA. Dr Klinect together with members of the LOSA Collaborative has authored several publications on LOSA and TEM, including reference documents for ICAO and the Federal Aviation Administration. In conjunction with ICAO, for several years the LOSA Collaborative has been conducting pro – bono education and training seminars on TEM and LOSA world – wide.

LOSA methodology is now improving safety in both regional and major airlines, Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) operations , USAF Transport Command and is being developed within the LOSA Collaborative for single - pilot fixed wing operations. LOSA methodology is also currently in use internationally in Air Traffic Control, hospital operating theatres, as well as the rail and shipping industries.

Doctor James Klinect and the LOSA Collaborative are nominated for a Guild award for a significant contribution to international aviation safety and for enhancing the reputation of the Aviation Industry by contributing to broader safety initiatives in critical team performance, world-wide.