

INTRODUCTION

In November 1993 the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Aviation Medicine (AAM) sponsored the eighth in a series of two-day meetings to discuss human factors issues in aviation maintenance and inspection. The theme for this meeting was "Trends and Advances in Aviation Maintenance Operations." Fourteen presentations were made by personnel from government, research, academia, and industry. The topics ranged from FAA regulatory changes, air carrier procedure changes, technology advances, and other issues affecting the maintenance work force.

The National Plan for Aviation Human Factors was published in 1991. The Plan recognized that attention to the human in the aviation maintenance system is as important to overall safety as human factors attention to air traffic control and flight operations. The Office of Aviation Medicine has mapped its research program to the National Plan recommendations. The research, the workshops, and proceedings like this are an indication of FAA commitment to continued aviation safety through attention to human factors research and development.

These proceedings, in addition to being available in paper form, will be available on the second CD-ROM published by the FAA/AAM later this year. The CD-ROM will also include all previous meetings, progress reports of the FAA/AAM Human Factors in Aviation Maintenance research program, software developed under that research program, Federal Aviation Regulations, and the Airworthiness Inspector's Handbook.