

The AVS Senior Technical Experts Program (STEP)

Colleen Donovan

Senior Technical Specialist – Flight Deck Human Factors



Colleen Donovan has over 27 years of experience in aviation human factors and focuses her work on interfaces between the pilot and flight deck systems. She evaluates systems and develops policy for FAA's flight test pilots, engineers, and human factors specialists. Ms. Donovan also has extensive experience conducting human factors research studies, as well as managing human factors research grants and contracts for the FAA, the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, and the Battelle Memorial Institute.

Ms. Donovan gained international experience as a Human Factors Fellow for the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations located in Montreal, Canada. During her one-year fellowship, she was instrumental in producing ICAO's first version of the Safety Management Manual, creating ICAO's first regulatory and guidance material on Electronic Flight Bags, and in hosting ICAO's first symposium on Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

At the FAA, Ms. Donovan previously served as the Senior Technical Advisor to two FAA Administrators and four Deputy Administrators. She has a B.S. in Psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and an M.S. in Experimental Psychology from Northeastern University in Boston. Ms. Donovan also has her private pilot's license.