

Biography of Dr. Tom Chidester

Dr. Tom Chidester joined the Civil Aerospace Medical Institute (CAMI) on December 12, 2005 to serve as Manager of the Human Factors Research Branch, and was promoted to Aerospace Human Factors Research Division Manager in August 2008. Dr. Chidester's current research includes the development of a new practical color vision test for Air Traffic Control Specialist Applicants. From 2001 to 2005, Dr. Chidester served as the Director of the Aviation Performance Measuring System program at NASA Ames Research Center. In this capacity, he managed the development team working to design advanced concepts and software for analysis of aircraft flight data, and led NASA's efforts to develop hardware, software, and networking to support sharing of flight data and safety reports among airlines and the FAA. This laid the basic infrastructure for today's Aviation Safety Information Analysis and Sharing (ASIAS) program.

Dr. Chidester served as Manager of Human Factors and Safety Training for American Airlines from 1990 to 2001. There he led the re-development of classroom Human Factors programs for pilots and flight attendants and assisted in the development of Line Oriented Flight Training on all American's aircraft fleets. Dr. Chidester also accomplished analysis, publication, and reporting for ASAP, then a cooperative, experimental Safety Action Program developed by American, the Allied Pilots Association, and the FAA. From 1996 to 2000, Dr. Chidester served as the chair of the Air Transport Association Subcommittee on Automation Human Factors.

Dr. Chidester began his career in human factors research and training at the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned Masters and Doctoral degrees in Psychology. Working on NASA-sponsored research, he studied mood and sleep consequences of short-haul and long-haul flight operations, and began his research into Human Factors training and pilot selection. In 1986, Dr. Chidester began a National Research Council Resident Research Associateship at NASA-Ames Research Center, and subsequently was employed as a Research Psychologist with the Aerospace Human Factors Research Division. There, Dr. Chidester led efforts to complete two full-mission simulation studies -- the first examining the effects of leader personality on crew effectiveness, the second performance and workload consequences of aircraft automation.

Dr. Chidester is active in several scientific organizations and workgroups:

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society (HFES)

HFES Aerospace Systems Technical Group (ASTG)

International Journal of Applied Aviation Studies (IJAAP) Editorial Board

International Journal of Aviation Psychology (IJAP) Editorial Board

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