Finding #1Subcommittee: Human Factors

The Civil Aerospace Medical Institute provided the HF Subcommittee with an overview briefing that surveyed advances in both Medical Technology and technology with potential implications for Aerospace Medicine and Human Factors in aviation, including safety. The subcommittee observed that the presented technologies pose two distinct but related challenges; the breadth and number of areas of advancement, and the pace at which technology is advancing.

However at this time there is insufficient synthesis of the technologies and their associated research to enable assessment or prioritization for consideration of specific future FAA research planning.

Recommendation:

The HF Subcommittee recommends that the FAA develop a methodology to both track advances in technology with potential implications for operations, Aerospace Medicine and Human Factors in aviation, as well as assess the implications, both positive, and from a safety and risk management perspective, in order to better inform research and plans for both potentially rising issues, and opportunities that these technologies represent.

Finding #2Subcommittee: Human Factors

The committee was pleased to see support for a Human Factors UAS project in FY15 that addresses several key initiatives the sub-committee has noted in the past. Specifically, the sub-committee has previously stated that human factors is an important component of creating an acceptable integration of operating UAS in the NAS and hence ensuring continued prioritization of items related to control station design and approval, operator/pilot qualifications and training, as well as procedure and air space design is essential. Having Human Factors a priority within the UAS program is a positive step in achieving this essential component of UAS in the NAS.