

LAND

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SAFE News

SAFE Association - Our 70th Year

VOLUME 28 | NUMBER 3 | SUMMER 2025



DEDICATED TO ENSURING PERSONAL SAFETY AND PROTECTION IN LAND, SEA, AIR, AND SPACE ENVIRONMENTS

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Your 2024/2025 Board of Directors



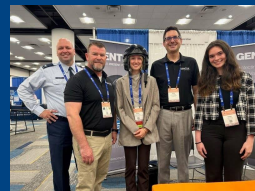
On the Front Cover

Vice President of Engineering and Product Development, Eric Skoglund demonstrates Life Support International's MACK-5A - the advanced update to the legacy ACES II ejection seat survival kit.



On the Back Cover

Gentex Corporation meeting with members of the Aerospace Medicine Association (AsMA) at the recent Symposium for AsMA held in Atlanta, Georgia.



QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT THE SAFE NEWSLETTER?

Contact the Information Management Team:
info-mgt@safassociation.com

Follow us on Social Media



President's Message

By Steve Bromley | SAFE Association President

Dear Members,

As we continue to navigate the evolving landscape of our industry, I want to reflect on the progress we've made and the opportunities and challenges ahead. I'm grateful for your dedication to the SAFE Association and honored to serve as your President.

You may recall that in my last message, I highlighted our progress on several fronts, including our annual symposium and coordinating with several co-locating groups to join us again this year. I'm pleased to report that we're on track with these initiatives, but we're also keeping a close eye on the potential impact of government restrictions on travel and events. We're exploring alternative solutions to ensure our members can continue to connect and share knowledge, and we're advocating for the importance of tradeshow and events in driving innovations.

Despite these challenges, we're moving forward with several initiatives aimed at enhancing member benefits and supporting the growth of our community. Some highlights include:

- Our new website is nearing launch, which will provide a more streamlined and user-friendly experience for members. This will be a significant upgrade, and we're excited to share it with you soon.
- We're initiating professional development programs, such as our new Fellows program, to support the growth and recognition of our members. This program will recognize outstanding contributions and achievements in our field.

I'd like to thank our board members and committee volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Your efforts are crucial to the success of our association. I'm also excited to see our membership continue to grow, and I invite you to get involved and help shape the future of our Association. Whether you're interested in volunteering for a committee, participating in a working group, or simply providing feedback on our initiatives, your input is invaluable to us.

Looking ahead, we're planning for another productive and successful SAFE Symposium this November in Mobile, Alabama. The symposium will take place from November 4th to 6th, and we're expecting a great turnout. We'll have a packed schedule with keynote speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. We're confident that this event will be a valuable experience for our members and attendees.

If you're interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at the symposium, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We have limited space available, and we'd be happy to discuss sponsorship opportunities that fit your needs.

Thank you again for your continued support. I'm excited to explore the opportunities and challenges ahead with you, and I look forward to connecting with you in Mobile this November.

Best regards,

Steven Bromley, President



2025 Symposium Sponsors

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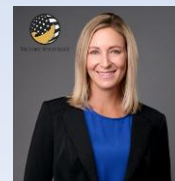
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PROVIDING BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY IN LAND, SEA, AIR AND SPACE ENVIRONMENTS

63rd Annual SAFE Symposium: Mobile, AL November 3-5



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Col Kim "KC" Campbell,
USAF Retired

The Symposium is quickly approaching. See below for important links:

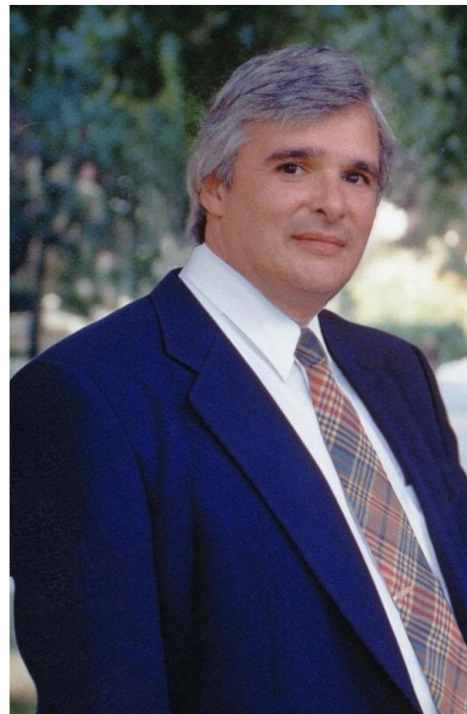
Get Your Tickets for exhibiting, sponsoring, and attending: [SAFE Symposium 2025 Tickets, Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Book Your Hotel: [SAFE SYMPOSIUM HOTELS and ROOM RATES](#)

David N. DeSimone**16 May 1939 – 20 April 2025***In Loving Memory*

David "Dave" Nicholas DeSimone passed away peacefully on April 20, 2025, in Newtown, Pennsylvania. Born on May 16, 1939, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, David was the son of Joseph Nicholas and Beatrice Irene DeSimone. His life was a testament to dedication, perseverance, and service.

David's early education at St. Joseph's Preparatory School (Class of 1957) and Saint Joseph's University (Class of 1961) laid the foundation for a distinguished career. Graduating with a degree in Physics, David began his professional journey in 1959 at the Naval Air Development Center (NADC) in Warminster, Pennsylvania. Over the course of three decades at NADC, David contributed significantly to advancements in Aerospace Crew Systems through research, development, manufacturing, and strategic planning. His work played an important role in enhancing safety and innovation within the aerospace industry.



Following his tenure at NADC, David continued to share his expertise through D.N. DeSimone Associates, providing technical and management consulting services to aerospace safety companies for another thirty years. His unwavering commitment to the field was recognized with an Honorary Life Membership Award from Survival and Flight Equipment Association (SAFE), an organization dedicated to preserving human life—a fitting tribute to a career devoted to safeguarding others.

Beyond professional achievements, David found great joy on the water. He was a passionate boater, as a past participating member of the Riverside Yacht Club and Commodore of the Greater Atlantic City Yacht Club. These affiliations reflected not only his love for boating, but also leadership and camaraderie within these communities.

David's greatest pride was his family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Therese; his son Mark; and daughters Deborah, Carol, and Judy. David's legacy continues through twelve grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Lisa Brigandi and brother Joseph DeSimone. David was predeceased by his son Michael and brother Andrew.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Johnsville Centrifuge and Science Museum at nadcmuseum.org or sent to JCSM NADC Museum, PO Box 2014, Warminster PA 18974.

May David's memory bring comfort to family members, friends, classmates, coworkers, and all who knew him.

ANNUAL SAFE AWARDS – CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

By Jean Fontenot | Awards Committee Chair

ATTENTION: All Members of SAFE - Government, Military, Corporate, Academic, and Individual Members,

This is the opportunity to recognize the achievements of your colleagues by nominating them for a prestigious SAFE award! If you don't take the time to recognize them, who will?

Since SAFE was founded 50+ years ago, one of our key goals has been to provide an opportunity for participants in our field to be formally recognized for their contributions. Each year the SAFE Board of Directors announces the recipients of our industry recognition at our annual Symposium.

The SAFE Association Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the following awards, and we need you to help us identify deserving candidates. We invite you to review the criteria for each award and nominate a worthy colleague or team.

All nominations should be submitted by close of business July 17, 2025.

Nominations will follow the guidelines provided on the SAFE Association website, see <https://safeassociation.com/>.

Once received, the Board of Directors will evaluate each nomination based on relevance to the award criteria and the details of the supporting information provided in the submission. This ensures the awards go to the most deserving recipients.

To identify the most deserving recipients, we need your nominations! We all know of individuals across our industry with significant accomplishments over the past year or their entire career. Project and Program Teams that have made recent major contributions are also prevalent in the military, in new product development, contract service providers, and academic research communities.

The Award categories are:

MICHAEL R. GROST CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes the career of a deserving individual for their significant contributions to the field of safety or survival.

GENERAL SPRUANCE INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Honors an individual who has made a recent outstanding contribution in the safety field through leadership toward or significant advancement of safety and survival improvements. This contribution can be made through education, knowledge, science, application of investigative techniques, or engineering.

TEAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Acknowledges the recent accomplishments of a team in the field of safety or survival through an advancement in education, knowledge, science, application of investigative techniques, or engineering associated with a significant improvement in safety or survival.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Is presented to the person or persons, civilian or military, who have demonstrated a recent outstanding contribution to the preservation of human life through an action of courage.

MURRAY P. KOCH INDUSTRY AWARD

Distinguishes a member of industry who has made recent significant contributions in the advancement of technology or hardware for safety and survival applications.

CONTINUED...PAGE 7

ANNUAL SAFE AWARDS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS, Cont...



WALDORF
UNIVERSITY

Al Loving
Scholarship



The SAFE Board is pleased to announce the 2026 Al Loving Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to one Waldorf University applicant/ student who is an active SAFE member and demonstrates the same passion for education, development and commitment to industry that Al has displayed throughout his career.

ELIGIBILITY:

- WU will grant one scholarship to one member or volunteer of the SAFE Association.
- Scholarship applicants must have a high school transcript or equivalent (GED),
- Scholarship applicants must be able to maintain continuous enrollment in his or her degree program.
- Scholarship applicants **must** have a current application for admission to Waldorf University on file or be a current student.
 - Visit <https://www.waldorf.edu/apply/> and select “online programs” (scholarship is awarded for online programs only).
- Scholarship applicants must provide a verification document to show eligibility:
 - Acceptable verification documents include:
 - Proof of membership to SAFE,
 - Recommendation letter from a SAFE Member or Associate.
- The scholarship recipient is required to enroll within ninety days (90) from the date of the award notification. If the recipient does not enroll within this timeframe, he/she will lose the scholarship.
- The scholarship recipient is required to maintain a minimum 2.0 undergraduate GPA and 3.0 graduate GPA.

AMOUNT OF AWARD

- Scholarship will cover up to 60 credit hours toward one online degree program offered by Waldorf University (recipient's choice). The scholarship will be applied directly to the recipient's tuition for up to 36 consecutive months or until the completion of the selected online degree program, whichever comes first.
- Scholarship covers tuition only. Textbooks will be covered by Waldorf University's Loan-a-Book program. Any “optional” student fee(s) are the responsibility of the student.
- One complimentary evaluation will be completed to evaluate potential transfer credits from past education and/or professional certifications. Waldorf University will also evaluate military CCAF and JST transcripts as well, if applicable.

NUMBER OF AWARDS One non-transferrable scholarship.

SUBMISSION WINDOW Submissions from 1 Oct through 31 Dec 2025*.

DATE OF AWARD No later than January 31, 2026*.

* The Waldorf University Scholarship Committee will collect scholarship submissions and select a recipient. The recipient will be notified by Waldorf within 30 days of selection. Waldorf admissions will contact the recipient to complete enrollment and a member from the Waldorf Outreach Team will reach out to SAFE to discuss a scholarship presentation, either in person, virtually, or via phone. Please contact Scholarships@waldorf.edu if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the educational opportunities available through Waldorf University.

We encourage you to reflect upon a person or team who is deserving of recognition by the industry we serve. Take the time now to write up a nomination and submit it to SAFE as soon as possible but no later than July 17, 2025.

Go to <https://safeassociation.com/>, click on the AWARDS tab and access the nomination form. Complete the form and submit it either through the website, via fax, or mail to the SAFE Association.

Specific criteria for each award can be found on our website.

The person or team being nominated can be either a current Member or Non-Member. However, all nominations must be submitted by a current SAFE member.

Recognizing our deserving colleagues is an important way for us to acknowledge their career achievements and set the bar for our younger colleagues. Again, the deadline for submissions is close of business on July 17, 2025.


The SAFE website will open for nomination submissions on April 11, 2025. For other questions please email the SAFE Administrator at: admin@safeassociation.com or call:

(541) 895-3012.

Election 2025 – BoD Nominations

By Ebby Bryce | Nominations Committee Chair

Okay Folks, the 2025 SAFE Association election cycle is in full swing. Candidates are being sought for the following elected Board of Directors positions:

- 
- **President-Elect – Pre-requisite.** Eligibility for nomination and election to the office of President-Elect shall require two years of continuous active membership in the Association and a minimum of one term as an elected or appointed member of the Board. The President-Elect shall ascend to the office of President upon the close of the 2026 SAFE Symposium. In the interim, the President-Elect shall be a member of the Board and performs such duties as delegated by the sitting President. Additionally, the President-Elect shall familiarize him- or herself with the duties of the office of President. In the event both the President and Vice President are incapacitated or otherwise unable to act, the President-Elect shall perform the duties of the President during the period of such incapacity or inability to act.
 - **Vice President – No Pre-requisite.** The Vice President shall be a member of the Board. The Vice President will familiarize themselves with the activities and duties of the President and will act as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. If the President is not available to officiate, the Vice President will act during the vacancy. In the event the President shall become permanently unable to perform the duties of the office, the Vice President shall become the acting President.
 - **Secretary – No Pre-requisite.** The Secretary shall assist the Association Administrator or other Board member as directed in accordance with the procedures, established by the Constitution and Bylaws, and shall assure the written record of the association is maintained and available to the members.
 - **Treasurer – No Pre-requisite.** The Treasurer shall oversee the Association's financial records in accordance with the procedures established by the Constitution and Bylaws, and shall assure the issuance of at least one financial statement annually.

To be approved, each candidate must be a current member in good standing to run for office. We encourage you to consider volunteering your talents and/or actively recommending qualified associates to be a candidate by stepping up and pitching in with creative, thoughtful and collaborative energies. Additionally, elected and appointed board members are expected to attend the quarterly Board of Directors meetings. Your participation clearly helps further the viability of the SAFE Association in its role of supporting, protecting and saving the lives of those who intentionally go out into harm's way. SAFE members who have any interest in pursuing one of the aforementioned elected offices or would be interested in serving in an appointed board position please contact the SAFE Administrator, Stacy Stuber at admin@safeassociation.com, a current SAFE Board member, or one of the following Nominations Committee members no later than June 30, 2025:

- Ebby Bryce, Chairman, ebryce@ced.us.com (757) 927-2461
- Nicole Stefanoni, Committee Member, nicole@lifesupportintl.com (215) 385-4345
- Kevin Divers, Committee Member, kevin@proflightgear.com (615) 681-2539

The Nominations Committee thanks you in advance!

SAFE 2025 Call for Presentations

By Glenn Paskoff | Science and Technology Committee Chair

The SAFE Association's Annual Symposium is the premier international showcase for unparalleled discovery including technical sessions, extensive exhibits, product demonstrations, workshops, technical debates, panel sessions, and networking opportunities. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Accident Investigation
- Aviation Escape Systems
- Biodynamics and Physiology
- Occupant Crash Protection
- Directed Energy Protection
- Energetic Materials
- Extreme Environments
- Ground Vehicle Protection
- Hearing Protection
- Speech Intelligibility
- Human Factors
- Individual Flight Equipment
- Life Support Systems
- Modeling and Simulation
- Helmet Systems
- NBC Protection/CBRN PPE
- Ocular and Night Vision Systems
- Parachute Systems
- Oxygen Systems/PBE
- Personnel Recovery
- Search and Rescue
- SOF Equipment
- Survival Equipment and Aids
- Test and Evaluation
- Technology Transfer
- Training and Simulation
- Troop Protection
- Anthropometry

Briefings, Panels (consisting of 2 or more Briefings), Demonstrations & Workshops (specify). Submit a no-more-than 300-word abstract (electronically using the online abstract submission portal) to the SAFE Office through the SAFE website at www.safeassociation.com. Abstracts should be typed in 9pt Verdana font. A template is available for download on the website.

Abstracts must be submitted electronically using the entry form through the SAFE website, rather than via e-mail to the organization. Once submitted, a compiled abstract, as described above, is generated and e-mailed to the main (first) author and automatically forwarded for consideration to the symposium.

Technical Presentation abstracts should include Introduction, Methods, Results, and Discussion sections.

Panels, Briefings, Demonstrations, and Workshops should contain a paragraph outlining the safety issue to be presented, followed by a description of the program or product and how it is used to address the issue.

Panel sessions should outline the topic or scope, number of presenters by name and affiliation, and the panel chair. When planning a panel, bear in mind that session blocks are generally around 90 minutes. Panel sessions may list "tentative" speakers or papers for acceptance, but these must be finalized before the deadline (**DEADLINE 18 July 2025**).

You will be notified when your submission is accepted, rejected, or if revisions are required for acceptance. If your submission is rejected, you may resubmit with corrections and/or changes. Your presentation will be scheduled based on the type of paper and content.

AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATIONS

Presenters are to bring their presentation, formatted in MS PowerPoint (wide-screen 16:9 is preferred), electronically saved on appropriate media (memory stick, CD, etc.) directly to their session at least 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start. The program allocates time between sessions to accommodate uploading the session's presentations to available presentation equipment immediately before the start. Each presentation will be allotted a total of 25 minutes (20 minutes for presentation time followed by 5 minutes of Q&A). If presentation time exceeds 20 minutes, Q&A time will also be shortened to account for the time difference. Moderators will work to ensure sessions begin and end at the appropriate time.

All authors are required to attend the Author's Briefing to meet and coordinate with the symposium Technical Team, the session moderator, and session co-presenters. Any technical issues or needs will be addressed at that time.

The following presentation equipment will be available for all technical sessions: a laptop computer, projector, and screen with lectern and microphone as well as a LASER pointer.

SAFE Association Chapters

DFW
METRO
CHAPTER



President: Lizanne Luchetti
E-mail: lizanne.luchetti@serastarsystems.com

WRIGHT
BROTHERS
CHAPTER



President: Ken Robinson
E-Mail: kenrobinsoniii@gmail.com

DOWN
UNDER
CHAPTER



President: Steve Madaras
E-mail: smadaras@aeropartsaustralia.com.au

ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
CHAPTER



President: Kassidy Carson
E-mail: kassidy.carson@collins.com

GRAND
CANYON
CHAPTER



President: Jenn Nikopoulos
E-mail: jenn.nikopoulos@taskaero.com

PACIFIC
RIM
CHAPTER



President: Dr. Robert Yonover
E-mail: seerescue@juno.com

EAST
COAST
CHAPTER



President: VACANT
E-Mail: If you would like to take the role of President contact plagaja@gmail.com

ROCKET
CITY
CHAPTER



President: VACANT
E-Mail: If you would like to take the role of President contact plagaja@gmail.com

SAFE
EUROPE



Chair: Peter Marston
E-mail: pmarston@martin-baker.co.uk

MIDDLE
EAST
CHAPTER



President: Mohanad Alakai
E-mail: mohanad.al.akal@hotmail.com

CHAPTER
ONE –
SO-CAL



President: Jim Shaw
E-Mail: jim.shaw@dtswweb.com

Reminder to All SAFE Members:

It is important that the SAFE Association has your current contact information so we can contact you and distribute SAFE products, such as the Newsletter. Periodically, please go to the “Member Login” at the top, right corner of the SAFE Association web page. When the SAFE Directory appears, click on **“Update Your Profile”** at the top, left. Please review your personal information and, update anything that needs to be changed, and click on **“Save Profile”** at the bottom of the page. Your efforts are much appreciated!!

PACIFIC RIM CHAPTER

PACIFIC
RIM
CHAPTER***Pacific Rim Chapter and the Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE)***

The Pacific Rim Chapter and Dr. Rob Yonover continued their outreach mentoring efforts at the April pitch event at the University of Hawaii Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship (PACE).

Students from a variety of background pads from engineering to computer science to travel industry presented their business ideas to the select business community. Several excellent concepts were unveiled, including broad-based photo documentation of events in real time by contributing laypeople armed with simply their own phones.

One of the students was a US Coast Guard Academy student that was very motivated to develop technologies in the Search and Rescue field. Dr. Yonover was able to connect with the student at a later date to provide additional mentoring in pursuit of his technological concepts.

It was encouraging to see that innovation is still alive and well on college campuses. Shortly after the event, Dr. Rob Yonover's own experience with pitching on Shark Tank was showcased by a trending YouTube creator that made a short video from his pitch in the tank and it has now gone viral - amassing over 51 million views and counting!

See [Link](#)



UPCOMING SAFE BOARD MEETING

MEETING

SAFE BoD
4rd Qtr Meeting (FY25)

DATE

13 August 2025
9am – 5pm

LOCATION

Tempe,
Arizona

If you wish to attend virtually, feel free to contact the SAFE Association Administrator, Stacy Stuber (admin@safeassociation.com for details)

NEXT SYMPOSIUM

MEETING

63rd Annual Symposium

DATE

November 4–6, 2025

LOCATION

Mobile, AL

FUTURE SYMPOSIA

EVENT

64th Annual Symposium
65th Annual Symposium
66th Annual Symposium

DATE

November 3 – 5, 2026
October 26 – 28, 2027
November 7 – 9, 2028

LOCATION

Mobile, Alabama
Reno, Nevada
Reno, Nevada

Dinosaur Club



DINOSAUR DEN
BY: AL LOVING
CHIEF DINOSAUR

Hello all. It's been a while since I've had the opportunity to communicate with you through the SAFE News publication. Just to confirm, the Dinosaur Club remains alive and well and is now coming to you from the thriving metropolis of Village Mills, TX. Yes. We recently completed our last move (hopefully); we moved from Virginia to my home state of Texas.

I have not been available to host a Dino Club meeting as a result of the move and a few other issues. However, we will be holding a Dino Club meeting at the upcoming SAFE Symposium in Mobile, AL, November 4-6, 2025. The Dino Club will meet on Tuesday, November 4; time and location to be announced.

The symposium in itself is a perfect opportunity to gather and hold discussion with old friends and colleagues, attend the countless technical and special presentations, workshops, experience the exhibit hall, and view equipment demonstrations.

Your Order of Life Support System Dinosaur Club contact is Al Loving, Chief Dinosaur, at:

Email: aloving@cox.net

Mobile Phone: (757) 218-8560

Over the years special activities included live parachute jumps and water demonstrations, the several groups that have elected to co-location with the annual symposium. Not many other "Life Sustaining" or "Like Minded" organizations can come close to the spirit of those that came before us to pioneer this business.

The Dinosaur Club was established all those years ago to perpetuate that legacy and spirit. "We are now they!" So, join in the spirit; be part of the legacy!

I hope to see you in Mobile at the next meeting of the Dino Club. Until then, be well!

Association Development – Associate Fellows

By Kevin "Dumpster" Divers | Association Development Committee Chair

A lot of great momentum for Association Development as we get to the next Symposium in November. Our first class of the newly established Fellows of SAFE will be getting their nomination letters soon. Their acceptance of SAFE Fellow membership will start a new SAFE Association development program that we hope finds industry seeking out our Fellows for their expertise in specific areas that collectively support the preservation of human life in extreme environments and conditions. With that we will be reaching out to the eligible Associate Fellows; members who have at least Five Years membership in the SAFE Association. This group will be the mentoring group for new members as well as assisting with the advancement and growth of the SAFE Association overall.

The SAFE Association Associate Fellows Group will be an active group working to expand the knowledge of the SAFE Association and growing our participating Corporate Members as well as Individual Members to include students at Universities and Colleges across the Globe. They work with committees and on panels to assist the Board of Directors with the management and expansion of the SAFE Association. As they collect points through personal growth, professional success, and Association Development they position themselves to join the Fellows group of the SAFE Association. The intent of these levels of membership are to show the benefits of SAFE Association Membership and how it can help someone professionally and personally. We look forward to our new core Fellows joining in November and to the Associate Fellows who soon follow in 2026!

SAFE Journal

By Dr. Camille Bilger, 2025 Journal and Editorial Committee Chair

The SAFE Association Journal accepts Manuscript Submissions all year round!

We accept:

- Original research articles
- Literature reviews
- Technical reports (example shown below)
- Short Communications/ Case studies (~4 pages)
- For example: acquisitions need or operationally observed challenges)
- Letter to the Editor: a short form of communication, to comment objectively on a previously published article.

Get writing! So that our community can benefit from your knowledge, your experience, your expertise; to make a difference for our servicemen and servicewomen.

Get your work published!

The process for manuscript submission and publication is comparable to any other international peer-reviewed journal. A Guide to Authors will take you through the submission and publication processes. Please email me at Editor@safeassociation.com for further information.



Human Factors Activities Elsewhere

- **Aerospace Medical Association:** The 2025 winner of the Aerospace Physiology Society Paul Bert Award was Kevin "Dumpster" Divers, B.S., MBA, AFAsMA. This award was established to honor the memory of Paul Bert, sometimes referred to as the "Father of Aviation Medicine". It is given annually for outstanding aerospace physiology research accomplishments.
- **13-14 August 2025 – SAFE Mini-Industry Event (Tempe, Arizona):** The 2025 United States Air Force Aircrew Flight Equipment Superintendents Training Course will have hosted within it's course a Mini-Industry Day to help newly selected MSgts (E-7s) and key personnel from the Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve force who are preparing to assume senior leadership positions across the USAF AFE enterprise learn to navigate acquisitions and life cycle management from a leadership perspective.
- **13-17 October 2025 – ASPIRE – 69th Human Factors and Ergonomics Society International Annual Meeting (Chicago, Illinois):** ASPIRE—the 69th HFES International Annual Meeting, happening October 13-17, 2025, in Chicago, IL, will help us break new ground, grow, connect and make the world a better place through the application of our specialized body of knowledge. ASPIRE is the premier HFES educational activity dedicated to advancing systems and practice through innovation, research and education. Meeting is at the Hyatt Regency with more information found [here](#).
- **DoD Human Factors Technical Advisory Group 77:** The 77th DoD HFE TAG meeting has been postponed until March/April of 2026.

NOTE: Things tend to change frequently, so please double-check all these items prior to publication to ensure they are still accurate.



**SAFE Association
63rd Annual
Symposium**
Mobile, Alabama

November 4 -
November 6, 2025

Unlock Innovation and Leadership in Aircrew Safety — Become a SAFE Member Today!

By Chris Moore | Membership Committee Chair

The SAFE Association serves as a vital hub, bringing together government officials, industry professionals, and academic experts who are united in their mission to protect civilian and military aviation personnel. As a member, you gain access to key conversations and collaborative efforts that are shaping the future of aircrew safety and survival systems for the next generation.

SAFE membership connects you to a broad and dynamic community of specialists who design, develop, test, and manage life-saving equipment and technologies. Our members include engineers, researchers, acquisition and sustainment experts, maintainers, operators, and industry leaders. All working together to improve human performance and survivability in high-risk environments.

If you're already a member, this is the time to maximize your benefits; join a local chapter, contribute to the SAFE Journal, or mentor rising professionals. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to be part of a vibrant network that is driving forward the next generation of safety and survival systems.

The future of aircrew protection depends on a growing, engaged community of knowledgeable professionals. SAFE offers a meaningful platform to collaborate, learn, and lead, while advancing a mission that saves lives. Don't sit on the sidelines. Get involved, make a difference, and help shape what's next. Join us today at www.safeassociation.com.

NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS:



Khaled Alok

New Haven, Connecticut (U.S.A.)

Kirstyn Johnson

Seabrook, Texas (U.S.A.)

Lloyd Williamson

Eglin AFB, Florida (U.S.A.)

John Arnold

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Corporate News

REDEFINING AIRCREW SURVIVAL: MEET LSI'S MACK-5A

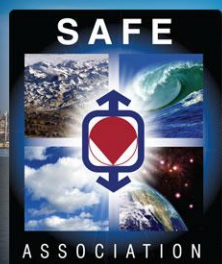
Life Support International (LSI) is proud to announce the MACK-5A - a newly patented, fully integrated survival kit designed to replace the decades-old USAF ACES II ejection seat survival rucksack.

Developed under the Isolated Personnel Survival Aircrew Flight Equipment (IPSAFE) Program, LSI's MACK-5A represents a generational leap in combat aircrew survivability. This advanced system modernizes more than 40 years of legacy equipment by incorporating today's mission-critical needs, including the integration of the GAU-5A Aircrew Self Defense Weapon.

The MACK-5A is engineered to enhance SERE effectiveness by segregating and securing the GAU-5A, four magazines, and weapon sling, while still housing all required survival equipment and life raft components. Its ergonomic suspension system provides superior load support and user comfort—solving long-standing shortcomings of the legacy design. Fully compatible with the existing ACES II Ejection seat architecture, the MACK-5A is protected under U.S. Patent No. 12,317,989-B1 for its innovative "Backpack for Placement in Aircraft Ejection Seat." This is more than a backpack—it's a mission-critical upgrade built for the modern battlespace.



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Information Management

By Lauren Divers | Chair, Information Management Committee

Share Your Voice at the SAFE Symposium!

This year, the Information Management Committee is excited about the upcoming SAFE Symposium and wants to amplify your voice on our social media platforms. If you or your company have something to share, please reach out to us at info-mgt@safeassociation.com, and we'll ensure it gets posted!

Submission Guidelines

- Include **photos** and ensure your message is **under 200 words**.
- We aim to showcase your members, events, sponsorships, and products featured at the Symposium, so don't hesitate to send your highest quality images, logos, and product information.



We look forward to seeing everyone in November!

Call for Non-Voting Members

SAFE's Information Management Committee is seeking non-voting members to assist without the need to attend quarterly Board Meetings. Roles available include:

- **Social Media Manager:** Oversee our social media pages and create engaging content for the Symposium and Association.
- **Website Management:** Manage and update the Symposium and Association websites, with a readiness to learn if necessary.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Attention Corporate Members

Please Send Us Your Advertisements!

The SAFE membership is eager to hear about what is going on with your organization! Members want to hear about anything new....like job openings, internal promotions, new products, recent contract awards, accomplishments, plans, and patents. It is up to you! SAFE members are interested in what is going on with your organization and your product lines. Please consider sending articles for future SAFE News editions. They should be sent to:

Stacy Stuber

admin@safeassociation.com

Lauren Divers

Info-mgt@safeassociation.com

Christine Hussey (Editor)

Info-mgt@safeassociation.com

Gentex Aircrew Operations Systems - Modern Alternatives to Legacy Helmet Systems

Corporate News

Gentex Aircrew Operations Systems offer a modern alternative to legacy aircrew helmet systems like the HGU-55/P. Designed with versatility, comfort, and mission-specific performance in mind, these systems meet the evolving needs of today's aircrew.

Available in two helmet systems—the Ops-Core® Aircrew FAST® System (HGU-100A/P) and the Ops-Core® Aircrew Skull Mount System (HGU-100/P)—these lightweight, scalable solutions deliver improved NVG integration and streamlined compatibility with legacy communication equipment and mission-critical accessories. The FAST System also provides the added benefit of reliable bump protection for aircrew operating in demanding environments.

Both helmet systems are approved USAF Safe-to-Fly for a wide range of aircraft (including C-130, C-17, C-5, AC-130, KC-135, and more) and provide capability to every aircrew position, including pilots, loadmasters, systems operators, and special mission aviators.

Key benefits include:

- **Simplified and stable NVG integration** with Aeronox™ Mount into Modular Bungee Shroud (MBS)
- **Improved comfort and balance**, especially when wearing NVGs and CBRN masks
- **Easy-to-use systems** in stable, lightweight, and breathable platforms
- **Compatible** with legacy headsets and rail-mounted accessories

Discover the ultimate fusion of innovation and performance with the Ops-Core® Aircrew Skull Mount System (SMS) and the Ops-Core Aircrew FAST® System.

Together, the systems exceed today's requirements with a synergy of enhanced operational performance and mission readiness.

[Explore the full solution](#)



AMP Headset. NVGs and battery pack not included



NVGs and battery pack not included

East/West Founders

Corporate News

East/West Industries proudly announces the induction of its founders, Dom and Mary Spinoso, into the Cradle of Aviation Museum's Long Island Air & Space Hall of Fame alongside aviation pioneers Lawrence Sperry and Giuseppe Bellanca.

In 1968, Dom and Mary began their journey from humble beginnings, working out of their home, producing aircraft connectors driven by a vision and commitment focused on warfighter safety. It was then they adopted the mantra "Saving Aircrew Lives is Our First Concern." A mission statement that the company still lives by today.

Dom was a proud member in good standing with the SAFE Association and an original "SAFE Dinosaur," earning the SAFE Career Achievement Award in 1999 for his relentless contributions to the preservation of human life. Dom and Mary's vision shaped East/West into a trusted and reliable partner to leading aerospace prime manufacturers and defense contractors worldwide.

Almost six decades later East/West Industries is a recognized world leader for its engineering strength, manufacturing excellence, innovative seating systems, life support equipment, and ground support equipment. Their legacy continues to thrive under the leadership of their daughter, Teresa Ferraro, and a dedicated team that prioritizes safety and survival. "This is a proud moment in our parents' story and their legacy to witness their induction into the Long Island Air & Space Hall of Fame," said East/West's CEO and President Teresa Ferraro. "If they were still here, they would say this journey has been a testament to the power of teamwork and collaboration that was built along the way."



Cradle of Aviation Museum



LONG ISLAND AIR & SPACE HALL OF FAME

Presented by GSE Dynamics, Inc.



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Giuseppe Bellanca
Brooklyn



Founders
Dom & Mary Spinoso
Wantagh



Aviation Pioneer
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The SAFE Association Newsletter is available to SAFE Association Members and welcomes content from Government, Industry, and Academia. Send your content or content ideas to admin@safeassociation.com with the subject titled Newsletter.

