

Airfield ICT safety assurance

Continuous safety improvement over a 15-year period of occupational and operational risk assessment reporting for Babcock

Facts:

- **15+ year relationship**
- **1 comprehensive safety case report**
- **6 sites**
- **8 training disciplines**

Managing the risk of flying training

CDS Defence & Security (DS) has been trusted to deliver safety case reports for Babcock in support of the UK Military Flying Training System (MFTS) contract over the past 15 years.

This key infrastructure project supports tri-service flying training for fixed and rotary wing students who will eventually be flying 21st Century, front line platforms like the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning and Boeing P-8A Poseidon. In order to continue to achieve these training outcomes, Babcock needs to effectively manage the associated risks, in this case, linked to the information and communications technology (ICT) critical to the service.

Human factors

Working across six airfield locations in Northern England, Wales and Cornwall, we recommended one overarching safety case report to consider risk factors such as high and low voltage power, working at height, manual handling and hazardous materials exposure amongst others. We explored the safety implications of the equipment itself, as well as the processes and procedures that were in place to use, maintain and train on the equipment. We then facilitated the annual project safety panel review of the hazard log and body of evidence queries prior to compiling the final report.

Our years of experience working in military environments and thorough understanding of the application of ICT systems in military training came to bear in this case. The need to remain flexible and adaptable to changing situations is critical and we set our recommendations against this perspective. Add to this our strong understanding of behavioural psychology across our four business units, we fully understood the human factors risks associated with these ICT systems, as well as the measures needed to mitigate against them.

A strategic view of risk

Rather than the eight separate safety case reports that were previously produced, a single report offers Babcock a more comprehensive and cohesive view of their risk profile across the whole MFTS contract. The work also informs a stronger overall risk management strategy, as trends can be spotted across the whole network and mitigation measures put in place. This strategic approach has evolved over our long-term relationship with Babcock which is bringing significant risk reduction across the operation.

Andrew Taylor, IT Customer Relationship Manager, Babcock International

“CDS DS have been our long-term partner to reduce the occupational and safety risk across the MFTS service. They continue to offer valuable insights, year after year, and work seamlessly with our site teams to compile the information we need. The evolution of our process to give us a more holistic view of our risk profile as allowed even greater awareness and control of our risk profile.”