Program Management and Safety: A Valued Partnership

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The partnership defined

- Program managers, chief engineers and system safety professionals must
  - Work together to ensure our customer’s success through system safety
  - Communicate and collaborate
  - Work together, but maintain independence

To succeed, partners must have common objectives
Value in partnership

- Carl’s Story – “Hazards Only”
- Bob Schmedake’s Pet Peeves
  - Vague analysis
  - Cut-and-paste methodology
  - Understanding data and its limitations
  - Inadequate identification of risks
  - Software safety must be part of system safety

How do we build value into the partnership?
Start with the customer

• Members of the partnership must build a strong relationship with their customers
  - Program Manager: Works with the acquiring customer, as well as product user
  - System Safety: Works with numerous customer safety and certification agencies, as well as the product user

The customer relationship requires team effort
Make an executable plan

- The system safety program plan: More than a check-the-box data item
  - Tailored to the specific product
  - Defines tools and processes
  - Establishes resource needs for the life of the program
  - Requires buy-in from all program stakeholders

*System safety program plan is a roadmap to program success*
Program manager role

- The program manager must:
  - Maintain overall authority for execution of the safety program
  - Provide the needed resources
  - Build the organizational and contractual relationships necessary to implement the safety plan
  - Report residual risk, if any, to stakeholders
  - Promote continuous improvement

Hold yourself accountable for these responsibilities
The system safety engineer or specialist must:
- Develop tailored, specific safety plan
- Contribute actively to integrated product teams, suppliers and customers
- Identify hazards but also help with mitigations
- Advise program management of residual risks
- Implement required tools and processes

Hold yourself accountable for these responsibilities
Other system safety considerations

- System safety should be intimately involved in early product architecture decisions
- Know what data is out there, and be sure to consider it
- Keep current on technology developments
- Mentor those who follow

MOST IMPORTANT:
We are all leaders and must work together to inspire our teams to take action for success
My focus has been system safety

Program managers and occupational health and safety experts are also valued partners

Together they should promote a zero tolerance mindset concerning workplace injuries

http://www.boeing.com/boeing/aboutus/safety_health.page

Own the safety culture in the workplace
Summary

- Program management and system safety are key partners in our industry's success
- Steps outlined here will help bring value to our partnerships
- Thank you for everything you do every day