

## **Speaker/Participant Biographies for the HAI/FAASTeam Lafayette Helicopter Safety Seminar for April 27, 2016**

**Shane Benedetto** is the FAASTeam Program Manager at the Baton Rouge FSDO. He started his aviation career in 1980 with the US Coast Guard as a flight engineer, hoist operator and A&P mechanic. After retiring from the Coast Guard in the state of Washington, he worked for Colombia Helicopters as an A&P mechanic. After leaving the Great Northwest he moved to Denver, Colorado where he became the Owner/DOM of a part 135 commuter with a maintenance facility and flight club. Following the September 11 attack on the Twin Towers, he moved to Baltimore, MD working for the Maryland State Police Aviation Command as the Production Control Manager overseeing their part 145 maintenance facilities with eleven helicopters and two fixed wing aircraft. In 2011 he joined the FAA where he held position as Principal Maintenance Inspector prior to joining the FAASTeam.

**Lindsay Cunningham** is the Director of Aviation Safety at Airbus Helicopters, Inc. in Grand Prairie, Texas. Lindsay has spent more than ten years of her career supporting NTSB aircraft accident investigations. In her current role, she also leads the product safety, safety outreach, and internal flight safety efforts for the North American Airbus Helicopters fleet. Lindsay strongly supports the proactive use of Flight Data Monitoring (FDM) programs to reduce accidents and improve safety. Lindsay earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and is an FAA-licensed airplane and rotorcraft pilot.

**Paul Downs** is currently an Airworthiness FAASTeam Program Manager and has been in the FAA for over 19 years with 16 years in the Safety Program. He has held an A&P for 38 plus years. In the private sector, he worked at Garrett Aviation and Evergreen Helicopters. He graduated with a Civil Engineering Degree in 1970 and worked road construction prior to getting his A&P.

**Joseph Guhin** is the manager for Aircraft Data Analysis at PHI Inc. He served 23 years in the US Air Force as a KC-135 Refueling pilot and numerous aviation support positions. After the Air Force he worked for three 14 CFR 121 airlines, including holding a position as the Flight Safety Director. Joe was instrumental in initiating FOQA programs for two airlines, as well as ASAP and Internal Evaluation programs. Joe has been with PHI for three years and oversees PHI's FOQA and Airframe Health and Usage Monitoring programs.

**Charlie Hamilton** is currently the Southwest Regional FAASTeam Program Manager. He started his aviation career in the U.S. Army in 1969 and served a combat tour in Viet Nam flying AH1G Cobra gunships. After active duty he relocated to Alaska where he started his commercial aviation career flying helicopters and later airplanes. He has flown all helicopter industry type missions including offshore in Alaska and Gulf of Mexico. He also joined the Alaska Army National Guard in 1972 and retired in 2005 as their first Chief Warrant Officer Five and a Master Army Aviator where he served as the UH1M, UH1H, and UH60 Standardization Instructor Pilot, pilot in the DHC6 (Twin Otter) and C23 (Sherpa), Maintenance Test Pilot, and the State Aviation Safety Officer. He joined the FAA in 1997 and has served as Principal Operations Inspector, Safety Program Manager, and Front Line Manager. He holds ATP in both categories with type ratings in SK58, BH204, and SD3. He also holds CFIs in both categories and has logged over 11,300 hours of flight time. He has earned his Bachelor of Professional Aeronautics and Master of Aeronautical Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where he continues to serve as an Adjunct Professor.

**Dennis Hill** is currently the Assistant Division Manager for the Southwest Regional Flight Standards Division. He has 10 years aviation experience in general and corporate Aviation, 145 repair stations, and 121/135 air carriers. He holds an A & P certificate and Inspection Authorization. He has 25 years of Federal Service with the FAA including 13 years of combined management/team leader experience at the local, regional and national levels in Flight Standards. He has served at the Manager of Certificate Management Office providing oversight to Southwest Airlines, Frontline Manager with the Fort Worth FSDO, Team Leader for headquarters Air Transportation Certification & Surveillance Division, and Airworthiness Aviation Safety Inspector for the Lubbock FSDO. He is a graduate of 2015 Federal Executive Institute and is highly skilled in organizational leadership, conflict resolution, and leading strategic change.

**Jeffery Howard** is a certified A&P and Lead Maintenance Instructor for PHI in Lafayette, LA, with 27 years of experience as a maintenance instructor in the BH206, AS350, EC135, BO105, and BK117. Prior to this he gained seven years of field experience at remote and offshore locations. He developed, implemented, and managed the 135 and 145 maintenance training programs for PHI.

**Lance Little** is currently the Houston FSDO Operations FAA Team Program Manager. He started his aviation career in Jacksonville, Florida in 1991. After which he relocated to central Pennsylvania where he started a flight school while attending Lock Haven University. He spent most of his career flying part 135 on-demand operations in Pennsylvania and the “Northeast corridor”. He joined the FAA in 2001 and has served as Principal Operations Inspector and FAA Team Program Manager. He holds ATP with a type rating in Lear Jets. He also holds a CFI, CFII and MEL.

**Stan Rose** has been the Director of Safety for the Helicopter Association International since 2010. He has been involved in the helicopter industry for more than 40 years and has served in numerous and varied positions. He has been a pilot, a Program Director for Air Medical operations, and a business development specialist. Stan began his career as a U.S. Army pilot in Vietnam, and later attended the Maintenance Officer/Test Pilot Course with the U.S. Army Reserves before moving on to the civil helicopter industry. He has flown a variety of helicopter missions including Airborne Law Enforcement, Offshore oil production and Air Medicine. He has been active in diverse public service assignments that include voluntary positions as Chairman of an EMS Council, the AAMS Board, a State Bioterrorism Preparedness Committee, and the FAA Part 135 Rule Making Committee.

**Randy Rowles** Randy Rowles has been a FAA pilot examiner for 20 years for all helicopter certificates and ratings. He holds a FAA Gold Seal Flight Instructor Certificate, Master Flight Instructor designation, and was the 2013 recipient of the HAI Flight Instructor of the Year Award. Randy is President of Helicopter Institute Inc. in Ft. Worth, Texas, and a monthly contributor to Rotorcraft Pro magazine.

**Rick Sloan** is currently the Chief Pilot for Chevron and started out as a line pilot and shortly thereafter became their Director of Training. He started his aviation career as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army and later flew fixed wing as well. He was a corporate pilot for two years and an airline pilot for 16 years flying turbo props, domestic and internationally in the DC-8 and DC-9. He has accumulated over 16,000 flight hours and is a Certified Safety and Health Manager (CSHM).

**Silas Still** is currently the FAA Headquarter lead for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) training and curriculum development for the AFS-80 division. He started his aviation career in the U.S. Air Force in 1989 and served as a flight engineer and mechanic for various aircraft (F-15A/B, C-141B, KC-10A, 737-700, DC-9, Gulfstream III, V, and the VC-25A or 747-200). In 2009, he retired from active duty as one of three primary flight engineers to fly aboard Air Force One for President Bush and Obama. After retirement he joined the FAA as an Aviation Safety Inspector (ASI) and attended NASA and Air Force unmanned aircraft training for the Predator B, Raven, Puma, and Wasp. Today he is the project lead for the FAA UAS remote pilot's knowledge test, accident investigation, and part 107 training. He is a commercial, instrument pilot and a current CFI, CFII, MEI for helicopter and airplane. He has earned a Bachelor of Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Touro University. Currently teaches unmanned aircraft systems, aviation security, and accident investigation courses for the Alamo College, FAA Academy, and the Transportation Safety Institute (TSI) as an Adjunct Instructor.

**James Viola** is a FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) executive and manager of the General Aviation and Commercial Division in the Flight Standards Service (AFS-800), and a qualified Operations Aviation Safety Inspector for both Airplanes and Helicopters. His previous aviation experience comes from 27 Years' service in the US Army including more than 10 years in Special Operations Aviation units with his last position being the Chief of Current Operations for US Army Aviation at the Pentagon.

Jim is the Government Co-chair for the United States Helicopter Safety Team (USHST), Government member of the General Aviation Joint Steering Committee (GAJSC) and Pilot Proficiency Director for the American Yankee Association. He is a Master Army Aviator and a Master Jumpmaster/Parachutist. He holds Airline Transport and Flight Instructor certificates for Helicopters and Airplanes. Jim is qualified in a variety of helicopters that include the Robinson R-22/44, Sikorsky TH-55, UH-60 Blackhawk, Bell UH-1 Huey, OH-58 Jet Ranger, AH-1 Cobra, and the Boeing MH-47 Chinook. He has flown more than 30 single and multi-engine airplanes. Jim holds a Master of Science in International Relations from Auburn University, Montgomery, AL, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the Army War College, Carlisle, PA.

**Larry Wells** started his aviation career at age 19 by tearing down a termite infested building and trading the work for flying time, working up to line boy, then in the paint shop and maintenance department, and eventually became an air taxi pilot. He finally worked up to Chief Pilot of the operation managing thirty Beech 18's and two DC-3 Mail runs and charter flights. He earned his BS in Professional Aviation and holds an ATP with type ratings in DC3 and DC9, Commercial in ASEL, ASES, Rotorcraft-Helicopter, CFI and II in both categories, Flight Engineer, and A&P Mechanic. Larry has been a Corporate Pilot, Airline Pilot, Part 135 Director of Operations and Chief Pilot, FAA designated Check airman, and an FAA Aviation Safety Inspector for nine years. He has been a Principal Operations Inspector and is currently a FAAS Team Operations Program Manager for the Jackson FSDO. Larry is also a member of the Mississippi Disability Resource Commission.

