



SAFE News

Dedicated to Ensuring Personal Safety and Protection in Land, Sea, Air, and Space Environments

SAFE Association – Our 62nd Year

Volume 22 | Number 4 | Fall 2019

President's Message *By Edgar "Ted" Poe, 2019 President*

It's 3 a.m. Just as gravity pulls me down, the weight of jet lag keeps me awake. The full moon showers me with the glow of ancient mystery of Abu Dhabi. It reminds me I should have closed the drapes properly in my hotel room.

With each opportunity as it's been presented, I can accept it, change it, or make it better. Thus, it is the perfect time for me to tap away this last message for our fall newsletter and start the process and task and help bring on the 2020 Board of Directors. Tonight has been one of reflection on past sorrows and smiles and of many fun times as this historic city goes from night to day. As these two years have shown, each day will start and new things can be achieved.

In less than 60 days, the new board will take their seats and the 2019 board will complete its journey. This board, as well as the 2018 board are special to me. They both took the bull by the horns and overcame huge issues and worked to make our organization stronger for 2020 and beyond. My sincere appreciation and hats off to the 2018 and 2019 board of directors for the countless and dedicated hours they worked on our organization's issues. Each of the over 50-plus volunteers have made it happen, and I would like to say THANK YOU. I will have more words of gratitude for future gatherings in the next two months, but for now. You Did it!

Our contractor has engaged with us and the association is conducting its first voting process to elect the next board of directors. Invitations to vote have been sent to the membership. The electronic voting age for SAFE has begun. This process took two years to make happen, but in all it will save more than 40 manhours as well as save the organization several thousand dollars in costs for printing and mailing the old paper ballots. I look forward to gaining your feedback in this new process and to the tweaking of the areas needed to deliver a better process for 2020.

On 6 August, the Board of Directors met in Dayton,

Ohio, conducted a very full day of activity, and attended the monthly luncheon of our association's Wright Brothers Chapter. It was great to be part of the event and we look forward to hearing more as the chapter continues moving the needle forward. My thanks to Mark Gruber and team for being gracious hosts.

During the directors meeting, we worked on numerous issues and closed out several long-standing action items. We are in the black, the rainy-day account is in good order and we are marching on as planned for a very successful symposium. Because of all the work that was accomplished, you will find in this newsletter more updates from numerous board members on work accomplished with in the organization and what to expect this year in Reno. We look forward to announcing at the symposium our 2021 venue as well as possible venues for 2022 and beyond.

Our work is no way near complete, but at a critical point where the new leadership team is ready to take on the process and move this organization into 2020. They will continue from where we hand off and we are in for a great future. I want to wish John Plaga and his team all the success in this next year and I look forward to his and the board's many successes. This organization is in great hands.

In closing, I want to express my humble appreciation to the individual and corporate members that make up this organization. Each one of our members save countless lives each and every day. We all have numerous things that pull us in all kinds of directions, but each of you makes a difference in the lives of others. Thank you for taking that work on! Thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve this organization.

As the moonlight has begun to give way to the shimmering embers of a new dawn, it is time to kick the tires, refresh the coffee cup and get this day started. I look forward to welcoming each of you to our 57th Symposium in Reno!

2019 SAFE ASSOCIATION - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESIDENT,
& FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER
Edgar "Ted" Poe

PRESIDENT-ELECT & FINANCE
COMMITTEE MEMBER
John Plaga

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT,
AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR,
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER
& NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER
Vacant

VICE PRESIDENT & FINANCE
COMMITTEE MEMBER
Jerry Reid

SECRETARY
Mark Jones

TREASURER &
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER
Steve Bromley

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS:

EXECUTIVE ADVISOR
John Fair

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE CHAIR
Nicole Stefanoni

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR
Allen "Al" Loving

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR,
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER &
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER
Joe Spinosa

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR
Richard Johnson

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR
Stephen C. Merriman

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE CHAIR
Glenn Paskoff

CHAPTERS COMMITTEE CHAIR
Allen "Al" Loving

ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE CHAIR
Alex McGill

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR
Joshua Minton

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:

Pacific Rim Chapter
Dr. Robert Yonover

SAFE Europe - Chairman
Sarah Day

Wright Brothers Chapter
Mark Gruber

Chapter One - Southern California
Kirsten Larsen

East Coast Chapter
John Marcaccio

Great Lakes Chapter
Michael (Mike) S. Beebe

Grand Canyon Chapter
Jim Lemister

President Elect Message

Hello, for those of you who don't know me, I am John Plaga, and I have worked for the USAF as a civilian for over 30 years, many of those years being directly involved in R&D efforts related to ejection seat and crash injury criteria and mitigation efforts. Recently, I've been a branch chief and supervisor responsible for implementing Human Systems Integration across the Air Force. I will officially become the President of the SAFE Association on October 16th at the close of this year's Symposium. I have been a member of the SAFE Association since 1991, with my first attendance at the SAFE Symposium being in 1993 at the Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. I had previously held positions on the SAFE Association Board of Directors as Wright-Brothers Chapter President, Science & Technology Chairman (2012), Secretary (2013), Publications Committee Chair (2014), member of Symposium Organization Committee (2016), and Vice President (2018).

Although I will soon become President of the Association, I am only one of a handful of people on the Board of Directors who assure that the association prevails and prospers. In addition to the elected members (which includes each Chapter Presidents), there are appointed board members such as the Executive Advisor and the Chairs of the various committees: Symposium, Publications, and Science & Technology, etc. These people spend countless hours ensuring that the association's regular business is properly carried out including the planning and execution of the Annual Symposia. Some of the Board members have been serving the association for decades, and their corporate knowledge is crucial to continuing this organization. With that being said, although these volunteers certainly love the SAFE Association, we all get older, and at some point, these people want to move on and turn the reigns over to the younger generations. Therefore, I am looking for people, especially younger folks, to play a greater part in the SAFE Association by being on one of our committees. We can use help on the Science and Technology, the Association Development, the Symposium, and the Membership Committees. Please let me know, either through email (president_elect@safeassociation.com) or when you see me at the upcoming Symposium, if you can provide assistance by being on any of these committees.

Before I take on the position of President, I would like to thank the current President, Ted Poe, for doing an outstanding job as President for the past 20 months, especially since he had to quickly step up to the position when on December 15, 2017, Chris Motta suddenly passed away, after being SAFE Association President only since November 1st. We had yet to even hold our first Board of Director's meeting. The Executive Adviser consulted the Constitution and Bylaws, which indicated that President-Elect was to assume the role as President. Ted Poe was instrumental in keeping the Association running by filling the role of President. Ted also provided a new way of looking at SAFE, developed new goals and objectives, updated the Constitution and Bylaws for the first time since 1999, and reenergized the Symposium with some new twists. Below are the goals and objectives that were developed by Ted and the board:

1. Stimulate the advancement of sciences and technologies to improve safety devices, life support systems, protective equipment, and human-machine interfaces
2. Provide a forum to promote new concepts and products, exchange technical information, and discuss special interest issues
3. Enable members to have greater opportunities for professional development, achievement, and recognition

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The 57th Annual SAFE Symposium – Another Great Program on Tap!

As Summer comes to an end, we here at SAFE look forward to some of the many things that Fall brings: hoodie weather, Football, and the Symposium! By now, we hope you all have made your arrangements to attend SAFE's 57th Annual Symposium. If not, what are you waiting for?! With our special speaker lined up, over forty exhibitors committed, numerous Technical Presentations scheduled, more than four expected co-locating groups, two Industry Days and plenty of networking events, we have all the fixings for a successful Symposium!

The Symposium will begin on Sunday, October 13th, with a little fun – we invite everyone to participate in the annual SAFE 5k Runner and Golf Tournament. Details and registration for the 5k Run and Golf Tournament can be found on our website, www.safeassociation.com. Later that evening, you can enjoy our Get-Acquainted Reception in the exhibit hall. Our Monday evening reception in the exhibit hall will again feature a Monday Night Football theme!

The formal kick-off on Monday morning, October 14th, opens with a welcome from our SAFE President, Ted Poe, followed by our Special Presentation Speaker, the Honorable Richard Healing. Mr. Healing is a licensed Professional Engineer and an internationally recognized safety expert. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the National Commission on Military Aviation Safety, a position he was appointed to in November 2018 by President Donald Trump. A retired Captain from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Mr. Healing also served as Director, Safety and Survivability for the Department of the Navy from 1985 to 2002. Then, in July 2002, he was nominated by President George W. Bush to become a Board Member of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) where he held the Safety Engineering position. Mr. Healing will give a presentation that should not be missed.

The three-day symposium will include an outstanding Technical Program consisting of some ninety (90) technical sessions, panels and presentations – Hearing Protection, Biomechanics, Hypoxia, CAD/PAD, Survival Training, Aerospace Physiology, and Aviation Safety are just a few of the topics to be addressed.

We will host several co-location groups and workshops at this year's symposium. Tentatively scheduled to join with us this year are groups from the USAF Combat Search and Rescue, the Female Aircrew Flight Equipment Working Group, and the Egress Systems communities along with members from the USAF's Major Command Aircrew Flight Equipment staffs. The Symposium will again include a Joint Services Sustainment and Acquisition briefing. Lastly, but certainly not least, SAFE will again host the NAVAIR Industry Days on the Thursday and Friday following the symposium.

The SAFE Association Board of Directors has been working diligently to ensure that this year's Symposium is informative, educational and enjoyable for all who attend. Please be sure to keep an eye out for the release of the Tentative Program and our Symposium App. Please visit our website and social media outlets to stay up-to-date on all things SAFE! We look forward to exciting week in Reno with you all!

Your 2019 SAFE Symposium Committee

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4. Educate the public, industry, and government to improve human effectiveness and safety in systems design and operations
5. Increase the influence of the association to implement its primary goals
6. Continuously improve the association's value to its members and the community

As Ted's successor, I plan on methodically developing means to implement each of these in order to improve the association as a whole. If anyone is interested in helping us with one or more of these, please let me know and we'll figure out a means for you to assist us.

I'm looking forward to being the future President of the SAFE Association. I know we have many dedicated individuals and corporate entities that will continue to make this association great by being dedicated to the preservation of human life and providing a common meeting ground for the sharing of problems, ideas and information.

*Thank you,
John Plaga*

Chapters Committee Report

By Allen "AI" Loving, 2019 Chapters Committee Chairperson

Hello to all. As you'll see in this edition of the SAFE News, the 2019 SAFE Symposium program is truly coming together and final preparations are underway to welcome each of you to the 57th Annual SAFE Symposium.

As previously reported, the SAFE Board of Directors took on an extensive review of our Association's governing guidance - the SAFE Constitution and Bylaws. That review is now complete and the Board is moving forward with a number of proposed changes to the SAFE Constitution and Bylaws. These proposed changes will be forwarded to the membership in the very near future for your review and consideration. The changes are to be considered for ratification during the 2019 General Membership Meeting being held in conjunction with the upcoming symposium.

If ratified, several proposed changes will affect our chapters. These include revised SAFE and Chapter membership guidance, a process to assign members to local chapters based on region or desire, and a change to the SAFE membership categories and dues structure.

On-going efforts to establish new SAFE chapters and grow the association have paid off. We take this opportunity to welcome two new SAFE chapters to our Association - the "Rocket City Chapter", located in the Huntsville, Alabama, area and the "DFW-Metro Chapter" located in the Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas, area. These two chapters are being led by Mr. Dan Meadows-Rocket City Chapter President, and Ms. Lizanne Luchetti, DFW-Metro Chapter President. If you reside in either of those areas, we encourage you to reach out to these two leaders to get involved with the chapter and to participate in their stand-up. Their contact information is available upon request from the SAFE Administrator by email at safe@peak.org.

We also welcome Mr. Bob Lafrance as the new Grand Canyon Chapter President. Bob is no stranger to the Association having served on the SAFE Board for several years and a longtime member of SAFE. We thank Mr. Jim Lemister, former Chapter President, for his service to the Association as a dedicated SAFE member and former member of the SAFE Board of Directors.

Recent efforts by the SAFE Board to reenergize the East Coast Chapter (ECC) have been met with strong support from the Naval Air System Command and the Navy's Aircrew Systems Program Office (PMA-202) leadership. I expect to a notification to the membership of a Kick-Off event in the very near future.

Since 2016 the SAFE Board of Directors has been engaged in a top-down review of our Associations established policies and procedures to include each of our SAFE chapter's activities. The possible dissolution of some of our chapters is included in this ongoing review due to a lack of activity by the chapter.

Recently, the Board took the unpleasant action to dissolve two Chapters, the former Japan and Canada chapters. At the August 2019 meeting of the SAFE Board of Directors, the Chapters Committee Report included a summary of recent and historical chapter activities. The Board considers each of our SAFE Chapters and their memberships the backbone of our Association. However, based on the results of this report, the Board was compelled to consider and subsequently approve the dissolution of the Great Lakes Chapter due to inactivity as outlined in the SAFE Association Bylaws. Therefore, I take no pride in informing the membership that SAFE's Great Lakes Chapter is to be dissolved effective October 30, 2019.

Finally, I will be closing out my two terms as your Chapters Committee Chair with the adjournment of the 2019 SAFE Symposium. My personal thanks to each of our individual and corporate members for the many years of dedicated service and support you have provided to the Association.

I'll see you in Reno October 14-16, 2019, at the 57th Annual SAFE Symposium. Until then, be SAFE!

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 needs to be changed, and click on "**Save Profile**" at the bottom of the page. Your efforts are much appreciated!!

NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Rachel Bailey
Troy, OH

Rodney Breuer
Cedar Rapids, IA

Kevin Carpenter
Ashland, OR

Mandy Cowgill
Bellbrook, OH

Roger Croft
United Kingdom

David Diaso
Colorado Springs, CO

William Ercoline
Universal City, TX

David Giles
Hollister, CA

Greg Graves
Ashland, OR

Sanita Harvie
Williston, VA

Rich Henderson
Hollister, CA

Mike Horne
Hollister, CA

David Howe
Mesa, AZ

Susan Jay
Oklahoma City, OK

Dan Kalsow
Cedar Rapids, IA

David Kemper
Asheville, NC

David Lansburg
Chandler, AZ

Krystal Monn
Converse, TX

Robert Pecanic
Monrovia, CA

Elliot Reed
Kettering, OH

Austin Reid
Colleyville, TX

Samuel Sherman
Wright-Patterson AFB

Stefan Stropki
Fairborn, CA

MK Walsh
Amityville, NY

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

Safran Aerosystems Evacuation
Wall Township, NJ

Wild Things
Virginia Beach, VA

Wing Inflatables, Inc.
Lafayette, CA

Reminder: SAFE Association Benefits!

INDIVIDUALS

- Quarterly SAFE Newsletter
- Proceedings from the SAFE Annual Symposium
- All Symposium-related Mailings
- Reduced Symposium registration cost.
- Access to members only area of the SAFE Association website
- Voting privileges for your SAFE Board of Directors
- Submission information for our Annual Awards Program

CORPORATE MEMBERS

- Quarterly SAFE Newsletter
- Proceedings from the SAFE Annual Symposium
- All Symposium-related mailings
- Reduced Symposium registration cost.
- Access to members only area of the SAFE Association website
- Voting privileges for the SAFE Board of Directors
- Submission information for our Annual Awards Program
- Corporate listing and description of products and services on SAFE Association website with link to company website.
- Reduced registration and exhibit space fees for the SAFE Annual Symposium
- Free use of the SAFE Newsletter to deliver news releases- such as personnel changes, new products, new office locations, and contact information
- Corporate Membership includes a Primary and Secondary Corporate Representative

PMA-202 Industry Day Notes

On 24 July, PMA-202, in association with SAFE, conducted an Industry Briefing event to inform those in attendance what the 2019 and future needs of the fleet are. The goal was to familiarize Industry representatives with Naval Aviation Aircrew Systems management as well as Naval Aviation Aircrew needs. PMA-202 leadership hoped that this forum would enable strong and effective Industry partnerships in the future. As a follow-on to this Industry Day event, PMA-202/AIR-4.6 invited Industry to provide feedback on potential product and capability enhancements at the 2019 SAFE Symposium (Reno, 14-17 Oct). The PMA team is looking for industry to address, at the October SAFE Association meeting, any emerging technologies applicable to capability gaps and any industry R&D investment and partnering opportunities. Key “take-aways” from this event are below:

Mr. Gary M. Kurtz, Director, Common and Commercial Services:

Aviation Life Support Systems Challenges

- Mission lengths have doubled
- Aircrew workload has significantly increased
- Aircrew & troops are carrying mission gear loads that exceed seat designs
- Aircraft environments are getting louder
- Platform airframe Oxygen provision systems have aged
- New threats have materialized (dazzling, degraded visual environments)

Collaboration is Key to Program Success

- Ensure synergy between the Program Office and Industry representatives
- Incorporate Industry comments into the development process
- Communicate interoperability and open standards
- Communicate program requirements and schedules
- Gain a better understanding of Industry technologies and developments
- Provide updates to Industry on program requirements and acquisitions

Industry-Government Partnership

- Communicate early & often
- Define / Clarify Government intent
- Reduce cycle time / feedback loops
- Deliver capability with greater speed

Dr. Jim Sheehy, Chief Scientist Human Systems

Goal: Sustain warfighters at their peak effectiveness and performance under all warfighting conditions.

Rationale: Warfighting, People, and Readiness are the Air Boss’ Priorities to meet the Mission/Vision to Man, Train and Equip deployable, combat ready Naval Aviation forces that win in combat. The Human is a foundational element critical to Mission/Vision and each of these priorities. It is essential to recognize that the successful transition of current and future technologies depends on how humans perceive, interact with, and use them.

The overarching goals are to:

1. Develop predictive models of cognitive performance, physical performance, and injury mechanisms that provide objective metrics for protection, workload, and performance
2. Apply new and different approaches to the assessment of training needs, safety, protection, and resilience of individuals and teams

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Aeromedical Top Ten needs

1. Characterize cockpit breathing environment effects on aircrew physiology and cognition (including gas mix, pressure oscillations, breathing resistance, hypobaria-induced hypocapnia, atelectasis, LSS / environmental contamination, etc.) **(CNAF Physiologic Monitor)**
2. Establish Specifications for cockpit pressure fluctuation limits **(CNAF Physiologic Monitor)**
3. Hydration, de-hydration, and nutrition pre-flight recommendations **(CNAF Physiologic Monitor)**
4. Define Head-supported Mass Criteria to minimize impact on neck and lower spine pain and injury **(CNAF Injury Mitigation)**
5. Musculoskeletal Injury Behavioral Guidance and Exercise to institute an Aircrew Conditioning Program (e.g., Professional Athlete model) **(CNAF Injury Mitigation)**
6. Seat Endurance Improvements to reduce vibration and provide better lumbar support. Improved Vibro-acoustic protection for pilot, aircrew, maintainer, and ground personnel. **(CNAF Hearing)**
7. Situational Awareness Hearing (i.e., filter out high noise without losing the ability to communicate in the air and/or on the deck). At-ear Dosimetry in each of the aircraft environments (inside and outside the aircraft) **(CNAF Hearing)**
8. Vision protection and performance with laser threats
9. Spatial Disorientation mitigation **(High Resolution Digital Goggle)**
10. Address waste relief policies and appropriate engineering specs for male and female aircrew

Human Performance has been established as a Strategic Initiative. Current projects making significant progress in one or more of Human Performance's 4 main areas:

- Protection
- Performance
- Sustainment
- Training

Projects supported throughout development lifecycle by different funding sources to reach critical end state. For example:

- 3D Printing of Custom Earplugs
- Custom Earplug Variation & Fit
- Active Noise Reduction Hearing Protection
- Real Ear Attenuation
- Finite Element Analysis for Human Body
- Evaluation of Head/Neck Protection
- Four Point Pilot Restrainer
- Aircraft Seatbelt Tensioner

All S&T - RDT&E research is linked from National Defense Strategy to CNO's priorities to PMA 202's ACS Roadmaps

- Each effort has a clearly defined, traceable/defensible need

CAPT Thomas Heck, Program Manager for Aircrew Systems, PMA-202

Aircrew Systems Top Issues for POM-22:

- Endurance; Aircrew Back and Neck Injury Mitigation
- Hearing Protection and comms intelligibility
- Enhanced Visual Acuity; Next generation day/night heads up visual Situational Awareness
- Post-egress Passive Signaling and Survival
- Improved Combat Survival Radio
- Aircrew Life Support Systems Deficiency Corrections

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Current Challenges

- Bulk and weight reduction
- Thermal Regulation
- Laser Eye Protection
- Passive Signaling

Industry Partner Takeaways

- What challenges does PMA202 face?
- What issues have the best chance of being put forth to the resource sponsor?
- Where do I focus my efforts to improve the mission effectiveness of Naval Aviators / Aviation Maintainers and help my company grow?
- What solutions could I and my company offer to help and how do they fit into the "system"?
- Which of those issues have the best chance of getting funded?
- Side bars are encouraged - now is the time to get input and feedback

The roadmap for specific timelines for opportunities as well as all slides presented can be found on the SAFE website. It was a pleasure to plan and work with the US Navy Pax River Team on this event. We look forward to more of these type events in the near future.

2019 SAFE Symposium Science and Technology Update

Welcome, everyone!

The 2019 SAFE Symposium Technical Program addresses the most critical current topics within the field of aviation protection, safety and performance. The technical program this year is highly focused on biomechanics, particularly addressing enhancing performance and protecting pilots and warfighters from multiple acceleration-based environments. But, as usual, the program covers a variety of topics including oxygen, life support equipment, training, and physiology. Numerous subtopics such as monitoring oxygen quality and detection of contaminants in the cockpit, strategies for dealing with hypoxia and fatigue, survival training, accommodation, dynamic test and modeling, human factors, and cartridge-actuated devices will all be discussed over the course of 32 sessions.

The first featured speaker this year will be Mr. Richard Healing who will speak on Aviation Safety, drawing upon his experience as part of the National Commission on Military Aviation Safety and a former Board member for the National Transportation Safety Board. Later in the week, Mr. Mark Ruddell from the U.S. Air Force Safety Center will highlight trends in U.S. Air Force Flight Safety. Furthermore, to complement the many technical sessions, the program will conclude with a Tri-service Acquisition Program Management brief given by the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, and U.S. Army Program Offices.

Finally, we are soliciting more papers for the SAFE Technical Journal. The next issue will be published in the Fall of 2020. In addition, we hope to have some printed copies of the previous issue, published last year, available at the SAFE Booth during the symposium, so be sure to stop by.

Glenn Paskoff
SAFE Association Science & Technology Chair



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/SAFE-Association/182879935059392>



<https://twitter.com/SAFEAssociatio2>

UP-COMING MEETING

MEETING

SAFE ASSOCIATION
57th ANNUAL Symposium

DATE

October 14 - 16, 2019

LOCATION

Grand Sierra Resort,
Reno, NV

Gentex Corporation Awarded GSA Schedule 84 Contract For Ops-Core Amp™ Communication Headset

Configurable headset solution delivers 3D Hear-Through and advanced hearing protection for combat operations

Carbondale, PA, August 13, 2019. Gentex Corporation, a global leader in personal protection and situational awareness solutions for defense forces, emergency responders, and industrial personnel announced it has been awarded a Schedule 84 contract by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), the procurement arm of the federal government, for its Ops-Core AMP Communication Headset. GSA Schedule 84 provides federal agencies with security, fire, and law enforcement equipment and services. The contract period is five years, with three separate five-year options.

“This GSA award provides a streamlined contract vehicle for federal customers to purchase our innovative new Ops-Core AMP Communication Headset, a rapid modernization path for those organizations looking to update their situational awareness, communication, and protection capabilities,” said Tom Short, Vice President Ground Systems, Gentex Corporation. “It also allows Gentex Corporation to continue its expansion of its growing communications and hearing protection product portfolio into the federal marketplace and complements existing GSA contracts held by the company.”

Introduced in the fall of 2018, the Ops-Core AMP Communication Headset features 3D Hear-Through Technology, which restores and enhances the operator’s “natural hearing” of the outside environment for improved situational awareness in high noise environments, while also providing robust hearing protection with a Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) of 22db. With the addition of optional wire-free, battery-free, Near Field Magnetic Induction (NFMI) Earplugs, NRR is increased to 34dB, while maintaining clear-communication audio and ambient hear through. For optimal flexibility and mission performance, the modular headset can be easily configured to meet a wide range of

mission needs with options for headband or helmet rail-mounted use, single or double hearing protection, left- and right-handed configurations of headset download cable and boom microphone, and single or multi-channel communications. To learn more about the headset, go to www.opscore.com.

Federal customers can access information about the Ops-Core AMP Communication Headset through the GSA Schedules e-Library by searching by contract number (Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) GS-07F-0430K), or other keywords denoting the product or service being sought. They can also place orders on-line through GSA Advantage (<http://www.gsadvantage.gov/>).

The GSA carefully evaluates companies to determine their capability for providing products to the government. The assessment analyzes a variety of a corporation’s capabilities, including organizational structure, performance history, customer satisfaction, and other source selection criteria. Holding this contract demonstrates that Gentex Corporation is recognized as a preferred vendor and is fully authorized to conduct business directly with government agencies. To learn more about GSA visit gsa.gov.

About Gentex Corporation

Leveraging a history that spans over 125 years, Gentex Corporation provides cutting edge personal protection and situational awareness solutions for the world’s defense forces, emergency responders, and industrial personnel. The company’s comprehensive product portfolio includes headborne systems sold under the Gentex, Ops-Core, and Alpha brands. Privately held, Gentex is headquartered in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, and has five other facilities in the U.S. and the U.K. Learn more at gentexcorp.com.

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER - NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Since 2016, the SAFE Board of Directors has been engaged in a top-down review of our Associations established policies and procedures to include each of our SAFE chapter’s activities. The possible dissolution of some of our chapters is included in this ongoing review due to a lack of activity by the chapter.

At the August 6, 2019 meeting of the SAFE Board of Directors, the Chapters Committee Report included a summary of recent and historical chapter activities. The Board considers each of our SAFE Chapters and their memberships the backbone of our Association. However, based on the results of this report, the Board was compelled to consider and approve the dissolution of the Great Lakes Chapter due to inactivity. As outlined in the SAFE Association Bylaws, Article V, Section C – Dissolution of Chapters, any chapter that has been inactive for two (2) years or more will be subject of dissolution by Board action.

Therefore, in accordance with the SAFE Association’s Bylaws, Article III, Section C - Dissolution of Chapters, SAFE’s Great Lakes Chapter is to be dissolved effective October 30, 2019.