

# SAFE News

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

SAFE Association – Our 64th Year

Volume 24 | Number 4 | Fall 2021

## President's Message

By Ebby D. Bryce, 2021 President

Well folks, I have made it almost a year as your SAFE President and no one has fired or impeached me yet. I am not sure if that is good news for you all or not, but I am still here and the SAFE Association is still working very hard to ensure that we host a safe and amazing symposium.

By now you should all know that the symposium will be held from 2-4 November at the Convention Center in Mobile, Alabama. At this point in time we do not anticipate canceling or moving this year's symposium. However, your SAFE Board of Directors have made decisions to strengthen our COVID protocols this year. Due to the increase of COVID cases throughout the country and the world. We have decided to take a more aggressive stance when it comes to masks/face coverings, testing, and vaccinations.

How did we come to this decision...

Many of your BOD (including myself) have been traveling around the country (some people internationally) to other tradeshows and symposiums, and everyone on the BOD has been monitoring and discussing the CDC recommendations along with US government and Department of Defense COVID policies.

Let me start with the other shows...not that we have to be like them, but we should learn from them. All events that we are aware of that were held or are being held after the first of September require wearing of masks/face covering and most are requiring that all attendees are either required to show proof of full vaccination or proof of a negative COVID test. From what we witnessed, it was not overly painful to wear a mask and wearing of masks appeared to make it more comfortable for all attendees to be confident in meeting with other exhibitors and attendees.

The US Government has mandated that all federal employees be fully vaccinated by 22 November 2021 with some service secretaries requiring full vaccination by earlier dates. In addition the US Government is pushing large and small civilian companies to implement vaccination mandates for all employees. Therefore, the SAFE BOD believes that having fully vaccinated attendance is important to ensuring the safety of all who attend this year's SAFE symposium.

I for one like to be in control of what I do to and put in my body, therefore I do not want to tell everyone who attends the symposium that they must be vaccinated to attend... and the SAFE BOD agrees that we cannot turn away those who want to control their bodies, therefore we are will not require full vaccination to attend the symposium. That being said, for those who chose not to or cannot be fully vaccinated prior to attending the symposium may still attend, but for the safety of all in attendance the SAFE Association will require non-fully vaccinated attendees to show proof of a negative COVID test.

So, in short and without all of my extra words, here is the COVID-19 protocol policy for the 59th Annual SAFE Symposium:

- Wearing of masks will be required when moving about the Symposium Floor and Exhibit Hall. Masks may be removed when in your exhibit booth with folks you work with or are comfortable with and removing masks is acceptable by all parties in the group. Masks may also be removed when eating or drinking, but must put back on when not actively eating or drinking in a public setting.

- Proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID test must be shown to enter the Symposium floor and Exhibit Hall.

*(Continued on page 2)*

Proof of vaccination can either be uploaded early or in person when registering in person at the symposium. A picture of or a hard copy of your vaccination card is acceptable. Negative COVID tests must be completed within three (3) days of entry to the Symposium area and must be an “administered” test (home self-tests are not accepted).

- Green, yellow, and red wrist bands will be handed out in your Symposium welcome bag. Basically, wearing a green wristband alerts fellow attendees that handshakes, high-fives, and/o hugs are acceptable. A yellow wristband alerts others that elbow daps are acceptable. A red wristband alerts others that you prefer that they stay 6 feet away... Personally, I hope to see a lot of green at this year’s symposium, but please do what you feel is safe for you.

Your SAFE BOD realizes this was not an easy decision to make, but we want everyone to be confident in our protocols and we want to ensure everyone who attends is not put at any additional risk. We hope you all agree and we are looking forward to hosting an informational, entertaining and safe symposium that will be remembered for years to come.

Thank you to all of our members and I realize that this is another non-typical message, but these past two years have not been normal, and I want to ensure you all that the SAFE Association Board of Directors is doing everything we can for you and all who attend our symposiums.

Thanks again and until next time...Have a SAFE day.

Ebby D. Bryce  
President, SAFE Association

## President Elect Message

By Jerry Reid

As a member of the SAFE Association since 1997 and serving on the Executive Committee Board since 2015, I continue to wholeheartedly and fully support the mission and objectives of the SAFE Association and its membership.

Life support has been a part of my life since I joined the US Air Force in 1978.

As a retired USAF helicopter pilot, USAF life support acquisition program manager, and now, Industry Partner, I have been a part of several rescues, recovery operations, and technology programs. I have seen firsthand the benefits that our members, both Industry and Government, contribute to the safety and life-saving technologies that save lives EVERYDAY. It is a privilege to continue to work with such a group of dedicated and committed professionals.

As with any organization, especially in these times, we will face challenges. I assure you that we will continue to meet those challenges together directly, decisively, and as a team, listening to the membership.

Thank you members for your continued participation and enthusiasm in our professional community, and sponsors for your incredible support. Finally, I'd like to give my sincere appreciation to the current SAFE Board of Directors and to Ebby Bryce, our SAFE Association President, for their tireless work on behalf of the SAFE organization for all the resources, guidance and support they provide every day.

I look forward to working with the new SAFE elected officials and membership in 2022 to set new goals and advance the critical Life-Saving mission of the SAFE Association.

I'm proud of our association's successes over the years, particularly in providing more opportunities for meaningful engagement of our members and sponsors.

In the year ahead, we will continue those initiatives.

## Nominations Committee - 2021-2022 SAFE Election Results

The Committee is pleased to announce and congratulate the following members that have been elected to the 2021-2022 SAFE Board of Directors:

President (Elect) - Kevin Divers

Vice President - Nicole Stefanoni

Secretary - John Hampton

Treasurer - Steve Bromley

To those that took the time to cast their ballot, thank you for participating in the election process for the SAFE Association's Board of Directors.

Allen “Al” Loving, Chairperson

2020-2021 Nominations Committee

SAFE Association

# 2021 SAFE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT & FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
**Ebby Bryce**

PRESIDENT-ELECT & FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
**Jerry Reid**

SECRETARY  
**Kevin Divers**

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT &  
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER  
**John Plaga**

VICE PRESIDENT & FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
**Joseph Pelletiere**

TREASURER & FINANCE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER  
**Steve Bromley**

## APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

EXECUTIVE ADVISOR  
**Edgar "Ted" Poe**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**Casey Pirnstill**

ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**Matt Miller**

SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**Nicole Stefanoni**

CHAPTERS COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**Rachael Ryan**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**Steve Roberts**

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**Stephen C. Merriman**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**Allen "Al" Loving**

JOURNAL AND EDITORIAL  
COMMITTEE  
**Dr. Camille Bilger**

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR  
**Harrison Smith**

AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**Mark Jones**

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**Joe Spinosa**

## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

CHAPTER ONE -  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**Kirsten Larsen**

GRAND CANYON CHAPTER  
**Bob LaFrance**

DFW METRO CHAPTER  
**Lizanne Luchetti**

EAST COAST CHAPTER  
**Dave DeSimone**

PACIFIC RIM CHAPTER  
**Dr. Robert Yonover**

DOWN UNDER CHAPTER  
**Steve Madaras**

ROCKET CITY CHAPTER  
**Dan Meadows**

SAFE EUROPE - CHAIR  
**Sarah Day**

MIDDLE EAST CHAPTER  
**Mohanad Alakal**

WRIGHT BROTHERS CHAPTER  
**Mark Gruber**

*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

**Steve Merriman**  
scmerriman@tx.rr.com

# Fall Symposium Update

With the Symposium fast approaching, the Symposium Committee thought it would be best to remind all members of important items related to the 59th SAFE Symposium:

- Attendee Registration open online:
  - Member Rate: \$550.00/\$650.00 (Pre-Registration/At-the-Door)
  - Non-Member Rate: \$650.00/\$800.00 (Pre-Registration/At-the-Door)
  - Government/Military Rate: \$175.00
  - Student Rate: \$175.00
  - One-Day Rate: \$200.00
- Exhibitor Registration open online (final booth balance payments due October 4, 2021):
  - Exhibitor Move-In will take place on Sunday, October 31st from 1:00pm - 7:00pm and Monday 1st from 9:00am - 7:00pm.
  - Exhibitor Move-Out will take place on November 4th beginning at 3:30pm and must be completed by 9:00pm
  - Exhibit Hall Hours scheduled:
    - 11/2: 12:00pm - 7:00pm
    - 11/3: 12:00pm - 7:00pm
    - 11/4: 9:30am - 3:30pm
- Room reservation deadline is October 8th. Rooms must be booked by this date to receive the 2021 SAFE negotiate room rate and the group code is "SAFE Assn":
  - Renaissance Battle House Hotel and Spa: 1 (866) 316-5957
  - Renaissance Riverview Plaza: (800) 922-3298
  - Government and Non-Government rates available and reservation links can also be found on our website.
- The SAFE Symposium Tentative Schedule due out early October. Final Program will be released a week prior to the Symposium.
- Rooms are still available to reserve for side meetings for our Corporate Members and 2021 Exhibitors. Please completed online reservation form found on our website.
- Golf Tournament moved from Monday, 11/1 to Sunday, 10/31! Online registration open.
- SAFE 5K Run is Wednesday, 11/3. Online registration open now and cut off is October 29th.
- We have two different Industry Events planned and information, including registration dates and announcements, can be found on our website under the Symposium tab.

Of course we can't share news on the Symposium without acknowledging and addressing the ongoing pandemic. To ensure the safety of everyone at the symposium, we are requiring proof of full vaccination OR a negative COVID test to attend. COVID tests must be completed within three days of picking up your badge at Registration. We are also requiring that face masks be worn while moving about common areas such as the exhibit floor and rooms hosting technical sessions. Masks may be removed when in your exhibit booth. The SAFE Board of Directors appreciates your cooperation and understanding of our COVID policy. For additional details on our policy, please visit our website. Until then, please make wise choices and be considerate of others around you. We are so excited to have the opportunity to meet in person this year and we are confident that our SAFE community members will make safe choices and behave responsibly.

Last, but not least, thank you to those who have already registered! And thank you to all of our 2021 Symposium Sponsors: Martin Baker, Cobham Mission Systems, Dayton T. Brown, Applied Energy Tech Corp, Massif, Nammo Defense, Revision, and Switlik Survival Products! We look forward to seeing you all in November!

- The Symposium Committee

# Human Systems Integration (HSI) Corner

**Office of the Secretary of Defense:** Responsibility for Human Systems Integration (HSI) OSD-level policy was transferred from Personnel and Readiness (P&R) to Research & Engineering during the summer. The Director, Human Systems, Dr. James (Ben) Petro, is now responsible for refining and publishing the new HSI policy for OSD. Hopefully, this new policy document will be issued by the end of 2021.

**DOD Human Factors Engineering Technical Advisory Group (DOD HFE TAG):** Minutes from the mid-2021 virtual meeting will be published within the next two months. The next meeting, hopefully face-to-face, will be in the spring of 2022 (location TBD).

## **DOD Joint HSI Working Group:**

- **CBA 1 – HSI Body of Knowledge (BOK) review:**
  - Developing content across DAU and APAN; Still looking for volunteers to contribute
  - Topics for multiple CBA work streams under review for NPS Capstone projects
  - HSI Framework Tool to be updated based on AAF and posted for the community when complete
- **CBA 2 – HSI Standards and Best Practices**
  - DoDI 5000.PR – Moved under R&E from P&R; going through formal coordination again
  - DAG replacement Guidebooks – Several people from the WG participated in the rewrite
  - SAE 1010 ready for adoption and SAE 6906 adoption in-progress
- **CBA 3 – HSI Workforce Development**
  - July - Closeout DAWDA Part 1 HCRA; Submit service/OSD R&E DAWDA Part 3
  - Jun 2021 –Delivered updates to ETM 1050 (Design Considerations)
  - Reviewed DAU work towards HSI Competency
- **CBA 4 – HSI Tools and Methodologies**
  - Looking for more support in getting Un-Funded Requests and POM processes settled
- **CBA 5 – HSI Outreach**
  - OSD R&E Newsletter HSI submission
  - APAN expansion has over 275 members in Outreach
  - HSI Brown Bag briefings to the community for CBA 1 and 5; Shared the CoP and SharePoint environments;
  - Announcements updated for key activities, meetings (VHFETAG, calls for abstracts, industry engagement)

## **SAE International, G-45 Human Systems Integration Committee:**

- HFE/HSI comments provided on SAE Integrated Product Support and Level of Repair analysis (LORA) Standards (July/August 2021)
- Established an Advanced Acquisition Framework (AAF) Committee on 10 August to assess impacts on SAE G-45 standards.
- SAE6906 (HSI best practice standard) was adopted for use by the DoD on 10 Sept 2021.
- SAE1007 best practice standard for Habitability was approved and released for use on 21 September 2021.
- SAE 1008 (Survivability) has entered its final balloting sequence (in September 2021)

# The SAFE Journal and Editorial Committee welcomes a new Associate Editor!

By Dr. Camille Bilger, 2021 Journal and Editorial Committee Chair

Dear SAFE Members,

First, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the new and revamped SAFE Journal (October 2020 edition) is out and **available for download for FREE to our paid members** on the SAFE Association website.

(Follow: <https://www.safeassociation.com/index.cfm/members/login>)

Our team of Associate Editors welcomes a new member: Dr. Nancy Curry-Gregg. **Nancy is an engineer, United States Army officer and a NASA astronaut.** Dr. Casey Pirnstill, Mr. Glenn Paskoff, Dr. Joseph Pellettiere, Mr B. Joe McEntire and I, are very grateful to Nancy for agreeing to embark on this journey with us and we look forward to working together on the next issue of the SAFE Journal.

## Welcome Nancy!

Stay tuned for Get-to-Know-our-Associate-Editors stories.

Manuscript submission is now closed for the SAFE Journal 2022 edition. However, **we welcome manuscript submissions all year round in preparation for future SAFE Journal editions.**

The process for manuscript submission and publication is comparable to any other international peer-reviewed journals. Our Guide to Authors will take you through the submission and publication process. We accept several types of publications: research articles, review articles, technical reports, Letter to the Editor and literature reviews from undergraduate/graduate students. If you are interested in publishing your work with us, please contact [Editor@safeassociation.com](mailto:Editor@safeassociation.com) for more information.



Stay Safe!

# Welcome

## NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

**Corey Littel**  
Pace, FL

**Ci Dean**  
Bangalore, India

**Amy Flotz**  
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

**Jacques Lacheney**  
Saint Cloud, France

**Tony Botticello**  
Annapolis, MD

**Pamela Crook**  
Annapolis, MD

**Daniel Johnson**  
Langhorne, PA

**Jackie Hilles**  
Pensacole, FL

**Nuria Valerrain**  
Madrid, Spain

**Rebecca Santoni**  
Langhorne, PA

**Jean Fontenot**  
Eunice, LA

**William King**  
Bruce Township, MI

**Tiffany Goodwin**  
Amherst, Canada

**Benjamin Scripture**  
Spring Valley, CA

**Nichola Lubold**  
Phoenix, AZ

## NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

**Logistics Management  
Engineering, Inc.**

**Airborne Outfitters**  
Findlay, OH

**HGH USA**  
Goleta, CA

# SAFE Membership Update – Fall 2021

Between July 2020 and December 2020, the SAFE membership experienced a 31% decrease in individual membership and a 18% decrease in Corporate members – the effect of COVID-19 on work patterns.

Between December 2020 and August 2021 SAFE membership numbers have seen an overall increase of 7%. This is a great comeback, with a particularly high increase in individual members from the US and Germany - which have increased 103% and 700% respectively.

Companies from four countries currently hold a corporate membership (Finland, Germany, UK and the US); however there are still 11 countries where there are individual members but no Corporate representatives. We intend to reach out to the companies in these 11 countries to see if they will consider Corporate Membership.

During February 2020 we sent out a questionnaire using Survey Monkey to all 2019 Symposium attendees. We gained good insight into the main reasons behind attendance and non-attendance, push & pull elements of the Symposium, as well as the use of social media. Response rates were not as high as we hoped, but this still provided valuable insight to what motivated members and non-members alike.

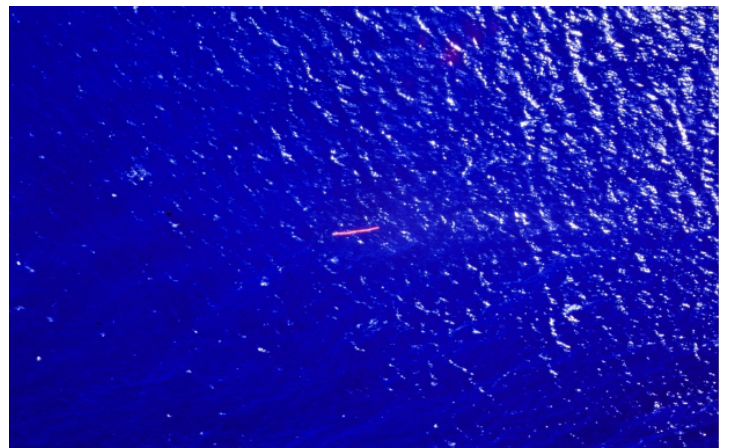
This November, after the 2021 SAFE Symposium has taken place, we will be promptly sending out another Survey Monkey questionnaire to all those who attended, with well selected questions to gain timely and useful feedback for future Symposia whilst it is still fresh in attendees minds.

During 2021, SAFE was pleased to welcome five new Corporate members including General Dynamics, LIFT Airborne Technologies, Orolia, SoarTech and Spotlight Labs.



## SeeRescueStreamer's included in Safety Gear Kits provided to Protect Fisherman in NZ/Pacific

The New Zealand Government/Pacific Community (SPC) have once again acquired SeeRescueStreamers from SEE/RESCUE Corporation to include in Grab Bags for outer island fisherman. The Pacific Community (SPC) is an international organization owned and governed by 26 country and territory members. The previous distribution of Grab Bags resulted in the life saving effort of Semi Saaga and Foe Taalava, fisherman from Tuvalu after being adrift for 15 hours.



# MARTIN-BAKER EJECTEE 2454, CDR CARLTON LAVINDER JR.

We love to hear success stories here at Martin-Baker!

Often times, the long-term impact of our equipment is hard to fathom. But, thanks to the Lavinder family, we got a look into how our equipment can impact the lives of the men and women that use our equipment, and the families that surround them.

Take a moment to read this letter that shares the story of CDR Carlton L. Lavinder Jr., who safely ejected on August 5th, 1975. This story highlights the importance of the work that goes into crafting our equipment. CDR Lavinder was a proud member of the Martin-Baker Ejection Tie Club; Ejectee #2454.



Again, a very special thanks to the Lavinder Family for sharing their story with us and allowing us to share this story with others!

15 AUG 2021

Martin-Baker USA,

I wanted to send you a thank you note for giving my dad (Carlton L. Lavinder Jr.) and extra 43 years of life. My dad had to eject from his F-14 (BUNO 159007) on 5 Aug 1975 when the arresting gear on the USS John F. Kennedy failed. If the ejection seat had not worked properly, both he and his RIO would likely have been killed.

My sister and I were recently looking through his flight logs and talked about his accident and it made me wonder if your company is aware of the long term impact of your work. I suspect you get letters of thanks immediately following an ejection, but I don't know that you ever hear what happens in the remainder of the lives of people your equipment has saved.

My dad continued to fly in the Navy another 13 years and had a positive influence on many officer and enlisted personnel who served with him. After retiring from the Navy, he was an F-14 simulator instructor at NAS Oceana who shared his years of experience with aspiring F-14 aircrew. He influenced a whole generation of F-14 pilots, relaying his knowledge of and confidence in the aircraft to make them better pilots.

Most importantly, he was there to continue to influence and support my sister and I as we grew up, and then be a loving grandfather to his 5 grandsons. I am thankful that I had him around all those years to ask questions and seek guidance about my life and career.

So again, thank you for developing and manufacturing the ejection seat that saved my dad's life and allowed him to have a long and fulfilling life until his passing in 2018 at the age of 84.

Respectfully,

## 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



# STRATEGIC ALLIANCE FOR IMPROVED MARKET ACCESS

## AUTOFLUG and East/West Industries conclude agreement on closer cooperation

**New York, August 25, 2021** – AUTOFLUG GmbH a German Company, and the American company East/West Industries Inc. an American Company have signaled the start of close cooperation by signing a teaming agreement. The focus of the agreement is mutual support in marketing their partner's range of products in their own domestic market.

AUTOFLUG GmbH is very well networked in the European market for safety products for civil and military aviation. “The range of products available from East/West Industries is an excellent addition to our sophisticated solutions that we are already successfully making available for a wide variety of programs,” revealed Martin Kroell, managing partner at AUTOFLUG, following the signing of the agreement last Wednesday. “Strategically, it is hugely beneficial for us to be able to operate with East/West on our side. In addition to the expansion of our range of products, we can now also push ahead with better market penetration in the USA,” continued Kroell. There was a special focus on AUTOFLUG FLYWEIGHT® seating systems for civil helicopters while preparing the agreement.



“The slim, lightweight design combined with the convincing performance data fits very well with our philosophy of protecting air crews being our top priority,” explained Teresa Ferraro, president at East/West Industries. “The seats are a perfect addition to our own crashworthy seat designs for helicopter seats and enable us to meet our customers needs with our planned variants,” continued Ferraro. In addition to the already approved base configurations, there will be derivatives from the FLYWEIGHT® range of seats with foldable seating (FLYWEIGHT® UP) as well as the swiveling version (FLYWEIGHT® SPIN). According to Ferraro, there are already identifiable potential markets waiting for such solutions, especially for equipping smaller cabins. All these seating variants are also suitable for use in aircraft in the urban air mobility sector and are, therefore, of particular interest for this section of the market. Accordingly, part of the agreement concluded between the companies is a license agreement for marketing crashworthy seats in the USA while retaining the brand name FLYWEIGHT®. The European market can be supported more easily and efficiently via a German partner than has been possible up to this point, said Ferraro in response to a question. “The fact that both companies have made the protection of people their core mission is a unifying element and the foundation for a trusting collaboration in the coming years, which we are both very much looking forward to,” the two partners said in a statement.

East/West Industries, Inc.  
2002 Orville Drive North  
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779  
www.eastwestindustries.com  
info@eastwestindustries.com  
Phone: +1 631.981.590

# East/West Industries Begins Full Rate Production on Enhanced Emergency Oxygen System for NAVAIR

**RONKONKOMA, NY, July 23, 2021** – East/West Industries, Inc. is pleased to announce it has received approval to begin full rate production on their innovative Enhanced Emergency Oxygen System (EEOS) by the United States Navy's Aircrew Systems program office (PMA202). This approval marks the beginning of one of the biggest delivery contracts in East/West's history with a planned production run of thousands of EEOS kits over the next several years. The EEOS allows up to 45 minutes of additional oxygen supply over the legacy Emergency Oxygen System, thereby improving the survivability of our airmen. This potentially life-saving capability was achieved with no impact to other systems and preserved all other capabilities of the survival kit. East/West Industries is proud and honored to have worked with the Navy and other critical suppliers in realizing this advancement.

“**East/West** prides itself on its responsiveness in solving our customer's most demanding design challenges,” said East/West President Teresa Ferraro. “So, when NAVAIR reached out to us for help in designing an Enhanced Emergency Oxygen System that would provide its Navy pilots and co-pilots above and beyond the fifteen minutes of oxygen supplied by the current systems in the event of an emergency, our team answered the call. We met the Navy's technical requirement by developing a system that lasts up to an hour without compromising the current system's footprint.”

**About East/West Industries:** East/West Industries, Inc., a woman-owned, small business located in Ronkonkoma, New York (on Long Island), and a recognized leader in the design and manufacture of lifesaving equipment for more than five decades.

**For more information:** Contact: 631-981-5900 [info@eastwestindustries.com](mailto:info@eastwestindustries.com)

# GENTEX CORPORATION ACQUIRES THE FILTER DESIGN COMPANY AND CORE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

**NEWS RELEASE: August 12, 2021**

**Carbondale, PA | August 12, 2021** - Gentex Corporation, a global leader in personal protection and situational awareness solutions for global defense forces and emergency personnel, announced that it has acquired the Filter Design Company (FDC) and Core Protection Systems (Corpro), two affiliated filtration and respiratory protection companies based in the UK. FDC, Corpro and Gentex share in the mission of serving the personal protective equipment market, and possess common values and a strong commitment to customers and employees.

“We are pleased to become a part of the Gentex Corporation team. FDC and Corpro have been a supplier to Gentex for many years, and our relationship has always been strong and our values have always aligned,” said Phil Scott, director of FDC and Corpro, “This acquisition strengthens our ability to support our customers, provides new opportunities for team members and gives all greater access to technical and manufacturing capabilities. We are looking forward to what the future holds for us.”

“The acquisition of FDC and Corpro provides Gentex with a world-class capability to design and manufacture filters. This not only strengthens our ability to compete in the global respiratory protection market, and bolsters our offering as a leading integrated head-borne systems solutions provider, but it also provides diversification within the OEM filtration space, enabling us to become a global center for filtration excellence,” said LP Frieder III, chief executive officer of Gentex Corporation, “FDC and Corpro have a talented team, and we are looking forward to expanding our range of products and services, supporting our newly acquired and existing customers, and getting to know our new team.”

## **GENTEX Point of Contact:**

Alexandra Brax  
Email: [abrax@gentexcorp.com](mailto:abrax@gentexcorp.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Essex Industries Acquires Stevens Manufacturing

**Saint Louis, Missouri, February 16, 2021** - Essex Industries is pleased to announce the acquisition of Stevens Manufacturing, an Aerospace and Defense manufacturing company located in Milford, CT, effective February 16, 2021.

Founded in 1947, Essex Industries is a leading supplier to the Aerospace and Defense market, providing platform controls, aircraft components, emergency breathing and liquid oxygen equipment. The company employs over 350 people in its St. Louis, MO and Huntington Beach, CA facilities.

Stevens Manufacturing provides precision machined OEM parts and sub-assemblies to aerospace and defense companies primarily supporting the rotorcraft market. Originally founded in the 1950s, the company has been a portfolio business of J.H. Whitney Capital Partners, LLC since 2014. Stevens operates from a single 62,000 sq. ft. facility with 54 employees.

The acquisition of Stevens supports Essex' business strategy of further expanding its aerospace and defense product portfolio. With Steven's location, it will also provide improved service for customers in the North East.

According to Evan Waldman, Essex CEO, "Essex and Stevens Manufacturing share common markets, manufacturing expertise and values. Working together, we will be able to offer a broader range of products and enhanced service for our customers."

The company will continue to operate as Stevens Manufacturing in Milford, CT.

For additional information about the companies, please visit [www.essexindustries.com](http://www.essexindustries.com) and [www.stevensmfgco.com](http://www.stevensmfgco.com).



**JOIN US!**  
[linkedin.com/company/safe-association](https://www.linkedin.com/company/safe-association)



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

### UP-COMING MEETING

#### MEETING

SAFE Association 59th Annual Symposium

#### DATE

November 2 - 4, 2021

#### LOCATION

Mobile, AL

### *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!!



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **SWITLIK Lunches UA-80 Evolution Underarm Life Vest – the Next Evolution of Flotation**

### **Switlik adds newest addition to Constant Wear Vest line with UA-80 Evolution Underarm List Vest**

**Trenton, New Jersey – September, 2021** – SWITLIK Survival Products, always at the forefront in aviation survival equipment innovation, is pleased to announce the launch of their newest Constant Wear product – an addition to the line that is truly the next evolution in life vest design. SWITLIK’s **UA-80 Evolution Vest** is the first FAA Approved, commercially available constant wear life vest based on the company’s revolutionary underarm flotation technology.

The SWITLIK Evolution vest is an innovative, reimagining of inflatable life vest technology. Leveraging a similar bladder design to that of the next generation US Army Aircrew Combat Equipment (ACE) program, the design integrates an underarm-style inflatable bladder with 85+ lbs. of buoyancy.

The Evolution vest is designed to solve the two biggest challenges previously posed in life vest design – increasing comfort and mobility around the head and neck, and maximizing space for professional aviators and crews to carry equipment.

The Evolution Vest forgoes the traditional yoke-style design, and instead moves the flotation around the wearer’s abdomen – totally eliminating any helmet interference or range of motion issues posed by older-style constant wear vests.

When inflated, the underarm-style bladder provides improved mobility, maneuverability, higher freeboard and superior water channeling when compared to traditional yoke-style bladders. It also provides auto-righting of unconscious aircrew to bring them into a stable, face-up position for unimpeded breathing.

As the flotation resides inside the vest, valuable space is added to the front for accessories. The Evolution Vest has more than twice the amount of available MOLLE loops than any previous Switlik design.

SWITLIK’s innovative underarm flotation bladder is dual-chambered, and features a three-layer film construction that is more fire, abrasion, and puncture resistant than traditional life vest fabrics. The bladder construction utilizes a novel manufacturing method to maintain low bulk and weight.

Like all SWITLIK products, every inch of the Evolution vest was designed for a purpose. **The vest is FAA Approved to TSO-c13G.** Are you ready for yours? Vests will be available for shipment in 2022.

Established in 1920, SWITLIK has been owned and operated by the Switlik family for four generations and is known worldwide as a manufacturer of the highest quality sewn and heat-sealed inflatable safety and survival products for the aviation, marine, and military markets.

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## Essex Industries Expanded Wall Outlet Line

**Saint Louis, Missouri** – Essex Industries has expanded its family of Oxygen Equipment with a new line of Wall Outlets which include Oxygen Gas, Medical Air, and a Vacuum Outlet.

The company utilized feedback from Operators worldwide to design a more rugged, user-friendly, and customizable product, with several fitting options available. EMS Operators can now select the correct outlet fitting at the time of order, eliminating the need for fitting adapters. Also, with Essex' Integrated Flow Control technology, there's no need for separate flowmeter devices.

The Oxygen Gas Wall Outlet provides safe delivery of supplemental oxygen and accurate prescribed flow rates to patients in multiple healthcare settings, such as hospitals, ground ambulances, rotor, and fixed-wing air ambulances. Essex Oxygen Gas Wall Outlets work with both High-Pressure Oxygen and Liquid Oxygen (LOX). LOX is a highly efficient method of oxygen storage and delivery, becoming more common in air ambulances. The larger quantities of oxygen eliminate the need to refill between flights allowing EMS operators to maintain mission tempo and reduce downtime between missions. They carry more oxygen, fly longer, and accept more missions.

In 1963, Essex began supplying Liquid Oxygen Equipment for Military Aerospace applications. The technology developed for military LOX systems has led Essex to similar advancements in the commercial medevac marketplace, providing the same payload and space savings.

Founded in 1947, Essex Industries is a leading supplier to the Aerospace and Defense market, providing platform controls, aircraft components, emergency breathing, and liquid oxygen equipment. For more information regarding Essex products, visit [www.essexindustries.com](http://www.essexindustries.com).

