

The Medallion Foundation: **Improving Aviation Safety in Alaska**

NTSB Public Hearing

Anchorage, Alaska – August 17, 2017

***Presented by:* Jerry Rock, Executive Director**



Background and History

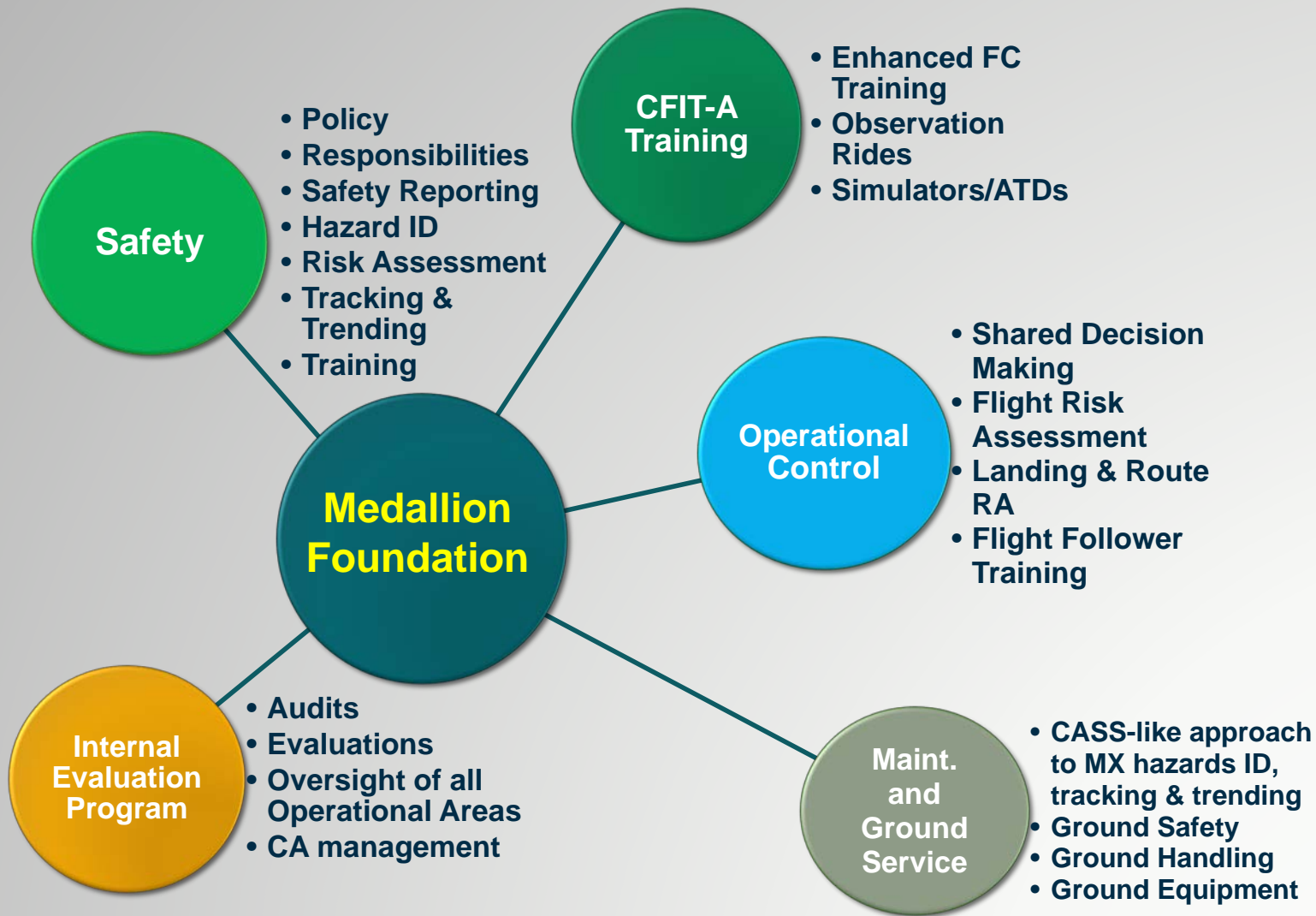
- **The Medallion Foundation** - a non-profit organization promoting aviation safety through systems enhancements by providing management resources, training, and support to the aviation community.
- **History** - Many Alaska aviation accidents in the 1990s prompted need for change. Medallion formed by the Alaska Air Carriers Association in 2001 to establish safety standards that exceed FAA requirements. Initial funding provided by FAA with support of Sen. Stevens.
- **Mission** - To reduce aviation accidents by fostering a proactive safety culture and promoting higher safety standards through one-on-one mentoring, research, education, training, auditing and advocacy.



Benefits of Membership

- **Mentorship for air carriers to enhance safety culture**
- **Training in SMS, Human Factors, ISO 9000 Auditing and other safety courses**
- **TapRoot Root Cause Analysis Training**
- **Free ATDs and Flight Simulator available statewide**
- **Frequent internal Auditing of air carrier operations**
- **Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP)**
- **Recognition for Successful completion of each Safety Programs (*see next slide*)**
- **Minimal Membership and Training Fees - allowing small operators to participate with Medallion providing the infrastructure to improve safety**





Medallion Safety Programs for Air Carriers



Stars and Shield: Medallion's Audit Process

- Air carriers submit to annual audits for each achieved “star”
- Auditors work independently of program managers
- Program manager assists carrier to verify that training and all records are maintained to carrier standards
- *If a carrier fails the audit* - we require a timeline to fix, or to provide more data so that the operator can voluntarily decide to continue toward success
- *If carrier fails to move forward* -- leads to suspension or removal from the program (last resort)
- No guarantee that a carrier will achieve a star or shield.
- New members need 2-3 years to achieve shield status, assuming dedication & continuous work to meet standards.



CFIT Avoidance Program

- Well-established safety program that recognizes CFIT to be a significant challenge in Alaska
- Provides a framework for an air carrier to build an effective CFIT-A training program for pilots
- Combination of classroom and FREE ATD/Simulator scenario-based curriculum
- Focuses on recognition, avoidance and operational decision-making aspects when flying into flat-light, white-out, and/or deteriorating weather conditions.



Proactive Actions to Improve Safety

- Medallion is proactive in working with carriers, FAA, and others to address issues discovered from accident/incident investigations.
- As a result of two fatal accidents in 2013, and within the span of 16 months, Medallion and its partners produced and provided materials to effectively combat CFIT hazards



Medallion is **NOT** ...

- **NOT** a regulatory or oversight body
- **NOT** an enforcer
- **NOT** a reporting conduit to FAA
- **NOT** a clearinghouse for voluntary safety data

Medallion is built on **TRUST**

- Member carriers **TRUST** Medallion with their confidential information that we use to provide suggestions to improve their operations and those of others.
- **TRUST** is the foundation of our success and the success of our partners.



Recent Changes since Togiak

- **CFIT avoidance Star Program Modified**
 - February 2016, effective February 2017
- **Operational Control Star Program Modified**
 - February 2016, effective 2017
- **Shield Program Policy Changes**
 - *“Administrative Hold”* following an accident. Must notify Medallion within 10 days
 - No new Stars or achievements recognition until Hold is lifted.
 - Carrier completes TapRoot within 45 days w/corrective actions
 - Carrier to maintain existing Stars/Shield w/ regular audit cycle
 - Medallion to confirm corrective actions implemented by carrier
- **Star/Shield Audit Process Changes:**
 - Separation of pre-audit process from the annual audit
 - Conduct program review (formerly “pre-audit”) 6 months after annual audit to determine if lapses exist in the programs.
 - Any deficiency noted after program review to be corrected within 30 days



In Conclusion ...

- We provide a valuable service to our members.
- More than a membership - it is a *partnership*
- Ask our members – they will tell you how Medallion is making their operations safer.
- We are making a difference every day in a challenging environment of extreme weather, rugged terrain, limited infrastructure, and seasonal operations.
- Our success has attracted interest from other commercial aviation operations in other states, such as in the Hawaii air tour industry.
- Air travel is essential to Alaska. Safety would suffer if we did not offer our services.



For Further Information:

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