

# Fatigue Countermeasures Training

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# Flight Attendant Fatigue

- **84% of flight attendants reported experiencing fatigue during their last bid period**
  - 71% reported that safety-related performance was affected
- **35% of flight attendants reported that their carrier provided fatigue training or education materials**
  - 79% reported that the fatigue training or education materials provided did not help to minimize fatigue



# Training Benefits

- **Individual benefits of fatigue-related training across industries**
  - ✓ Greater fatigue knowledge
  - ✓ 49% made changes at work
  - ✓ 47% made changes at home
  - ✓ 61% thought recurrent training was a good idea
  - ✓ Some reported that the organization made positive changes

Gander, Marshall, Bolger, & Girling, 2005; Rosekind et al., 2001



# Training Benefits

- **Individual benefits (cont.)**

- ✓ Fewer workers found it difficult to..
  - Fulfill domestic responsibilities
  - Find time for entertainment and recreational activities
  - Believe that their health would improve with a different schedule
- ✓ Gastrointestinal symptoms decreased
- ✓ Use of excessive caffeine dropped (32% vs 8%)
- ✓ Average sleep increased from 4.8 hrs to 5.8 hrs



Kerin & Aguirre, 2005



# Training Benefits

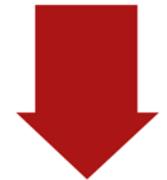
- **Organizational benefits**

- ✓ Reduced turnover and absenteeism
- ✓ Fewer fatigue and morale problems
- ✓ Increased worker perceptions safety
- ✓ Fewer accidents and injuries
- ✓ Even very seasoned workers have positive responses to fatigue training
  - 96% report using course lessons and plan to continue using course lessons

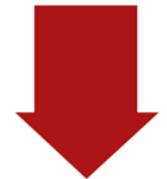
Turnover



Absenteeism



Accidents



Injuries



Arboleda, Morrow, Crum, & Shelley, 2003; Dinges, Maislin, Brewster, Krueger, & Carroll, 2005; Kerin & Aguirre, 2005; Moore-Ede, Heitman, Dawson, & Guttkuhn, 2005.



# Current Project



- **Purpose:**

Given the benefits of existing training programs, the purpose of the current project was to identify the essential components of a fatigue countermeasure training program for flight attendants

# Method

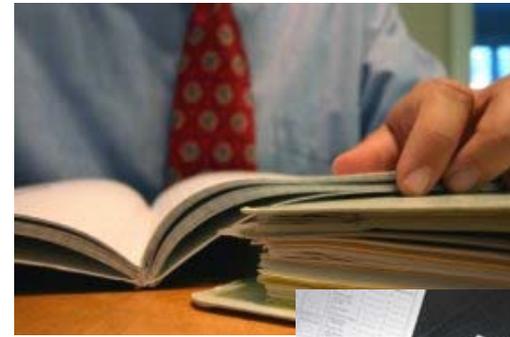
- **Step 1: Review of existing training programs**

- Identified existing fatigue-related training programs and materials

- Scientific literature, public and private educational materials, fatigue researchers

- Inclusion criteria

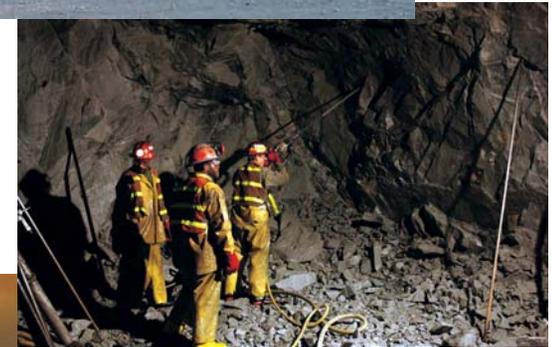
- ✓ Provided education or training on fatigue management, shiftwork, or alertness management
- ✓ Created or published after 1985
- ✓ Included an outline and summary



# Method

- **Step 1 results:**

- ↳ 49 usable training programs
  - Multiple audiences
  - Multiple media venues
  - Outline vs full training programs



# Method

- **Step 2: Content analysis**

- Reviewed existing training programs to develop a comprehensive outline of topics

- 37 topics coded

- Two raters independently identified the presence of each topic within each training program

- Must include at least 3 sentences or at least 1 prescriptive, specific prescriptive recommendation
- Inter-rater agreement ( $\kappa = .85$ )

The image shows two documents. The top one is a 'Skills Checklist for Immunization' with a grid for tracking various immunization tasks. The bottom one is an 'HPAA Privacy Audit Checklist' with columns for 'Area', 'Description', 'Status', and 'Date'.

Area	Description	Status	Date
Privacy Policies and Procedures	Identify all health plans, direct or indirect, medical plans, dental plans, vision plans, health flex spending accounts, prescription plans. All of these generally have to comply with the privacy rules.		
Privacy Policies and Procedures	Document how data is captured (i.e., manual or automated), and the means that are used and the workflow of the various plans.		
Privacy Personnel	A covered entity must develop and implement written privacy policies and procedures that are consistent with the privacy rules.		
Privacy Personnel	A covered entity must designate a privacy officer responsible for developing and implementing its privacy policies and procedures, and a contact officer responsible for receiving complaints and providing individuals with information on the covered entity's privacy practices. Verify that has been done.		
Workforce Training and Management	Verify that workforce members including employees, contractors, and business have been trained in privacy policies and procedures.		
Workforce Training and Management	Verify the company has procedures in place to sanction employees who violate the privacy policies and procedures or the Privacy Rule.		
Data Safeguards	Plan, implement and appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to prevent destruction or unauthorized disclosure of information.		

# Results

- **Step 3: Developed topic outline**

- Identified topics to be included in the final training outline

- Fatigue experts agreed consistently on the most important topic areas

- Differences were mostly a function of the level of detail and the specific focus of the training program

- All topics included in at least 8 programs



 Recommend that they all be included to create a comprehensive fatigue countermeasure training program

# Results

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Overall (n=49)</b>	<b>Aviation (n=13)</b>
<b>Fatigue</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Circadian Rhythm</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Sleep</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Napping</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Work hours</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Nutrition</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Hydration</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Exercise</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>85%</b>



# Results

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Overall (n=49)</b>	<b>Aviation (n=13)</b>
<b>Substances</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Sleeping Disorders</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>77%</b>
<b>Family &amp; Social Life</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Work Environment</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Commuting</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Jet Lag (n=8)</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Exercise</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>85%</b>



# Organizing the Training Outline

- **Step 4**

- Topics were sorted into three primary areas

- Basic fatigue information, off duty rest and activities, on duty specific issues

- Each topic was further delineated

- **Final product**

- A comprehensive fatigue countermeasure training outline

APPENDIX B  
Recommended Training Course Topics

III. ON-DUTY FATIGUE ISSUES & STRATEGIES	I. INTRODUCTION: FATIGUE INFORMATION	II. OFF-DUTY FATIGUE ISSUES: PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES
1. Duty Area	1. Goals of Training	1. Type Loads
a. Work environment	a. Educate crew on the causes and consequences of fatigue	a. Sleep fundamentals
b. Time	b. Provide strategies for fatigue management on and off the job	i. Stages of sleep
c. High workload tempo		ii. Sleep quality & quantity
d. Time		iii. Sleep debt
e. Cabin pressure		iv. Alternatives and the circadian rhythm
f. Substituting effects of sleep		v. Common sleep disorders
2. Workload		vi. Performance & subjective assessment
a. Physical		i. Countermeasures
b. Mental		1. Tapping
c. Scheduling		2. Sleep management
d. Extended duty time		3. Good sleep habits
e. Rest periods		4. Scheduling sleep
f. Contingency time		
g. Single flight		
h. Night flight		
i. Rest/contingency time used		
j. Rest/contingency time used		
k. Fatigue effects		
3. Fatigue effects		
a. Performance decrements		
b. Increased risk of errors		
c. Communication		
d. Sleep patterns		
e. Sleep patterns		
f. Sleep patterns		
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# Conclusions

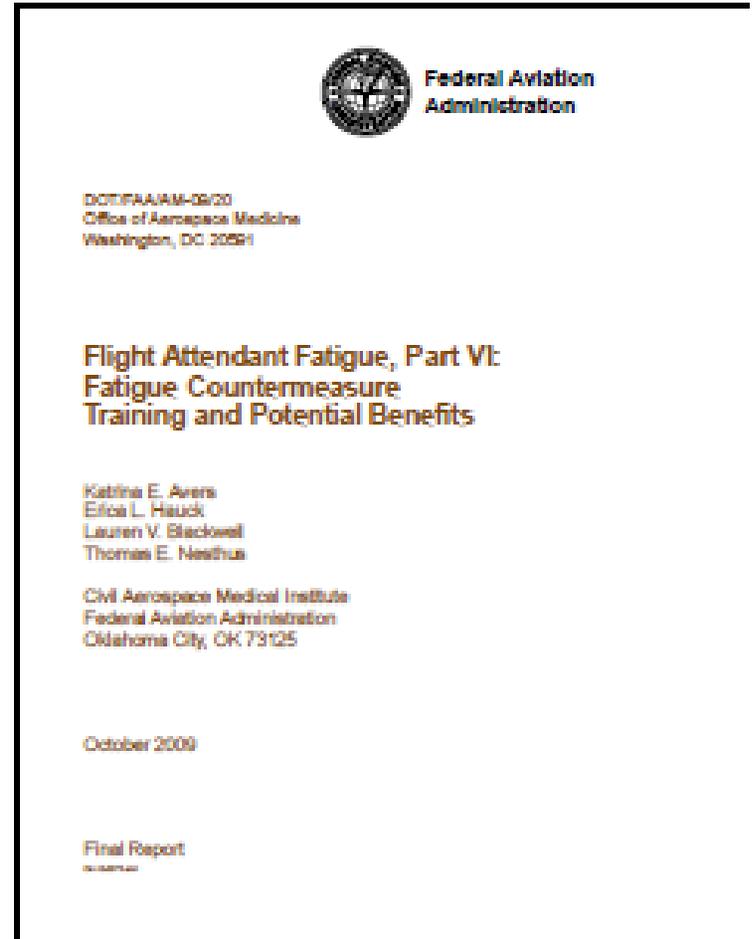
- **Mitigating fatigue is a challenging proposition**
- **Well-developed training can help to manage fatigue in aviation operations**
  - Individual benefits
  - Organizational benefits
- **Training is the first step in active fatigue risk management**
- **Proviso**
  - Training is only part of the solution
  - It cannot extend human physical and mental capabilities



# Questions?

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[http://www.faa.gov/library/reports/medical/oa\\_mtechreports/2000s/media/200920.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/library/reports/medical/oa_mtechreports/2000s/media/200920.pdf)



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