PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF PILOTS IN THE CONTEXT OF AIRLINES PILOT APTITUDE TESTING – pilots’ view

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The International Federation of Air Line Pilot’s Associations IFALPA

- represents over 100,000 pilots and flight engineers in almost 100 countries worldwide
- The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of professional pilots by providing representation, services and support in order to promote the highest level of aviation safety worldwide

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German Wings Task Force vs. BEA Accident Investigation
German Wings Taskforce Recommendation

**Recommendation 2:** The Task Force recommends that all airline pilots should undergo psychological evaluation as part of training or before entering service. The airline shall verify that a satisfactory evaluation has been carried out. The psychological part of the initial and recurrent aeromedical assessment and the related training for aero-medical examiners should be strengthened. EASA will prepare guidance material for this purpose.
“IFALPA recommends that systematic psychological/psychiatric evaluation should be limited to pre-employment testing.”
Initial psychological evaluation

What is the current situation?
• Mainly personality tests
• Aim to exclude unsuitable applicants with personality disorders or with disposition of those
Initial psychological evaluation

Issues that need to be clarified:

• What is the purpose of the tests?
• What kind of & what tests are accepted? (ref. colour vision tests around the world)
  – Internationally agreed standards of testing
• Issue of “failed” personality test
Initial psychological evaluation

Issues that needs to be clarified (cont´)

• Tests have to be validated
• Are all the tests valid in different cultural environments?
• Language issues
• Who or which organization is allowed to perform the tests?
• Acceptance of the tests by different countries/airlines?
“The airline shall verify that a satisfactory evaluation has been carried out”

• Without more detailed regulation, is an airline able to perform that kind of evaluation?

• Need for quality control!
Mental assessment during medicals

Current requirements are quite enough. Today’s regulation gives the possibility of referring

How to train a regular AME?
They will by no means become “small psychologists or psychiatrist”
Conclusions

**OK** for **initial**, if the **issues concerning tests** mentioned before **are agreed on & solved**.

**NO** for **any additional** tests during routine medicals, as current requirements are adequate (incl. possibility of referring)
Thank you
Questions?