



MEETING REPORT: F-35 AEROMEDICAL COMMUNITY OF INTEREST

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Abstract: The following report provides an overview of our attendance at the F-35 Aeromedical Community of Interest held in New Orleans, LA, U.S. The meeting took place on 21 May 2023 and aimed to bring together medical professionals, aviation experts, and stakeholders involved in the aeromedical aspects of the F-35 aircraft program.

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REPORT

The F-35 Aeromedical Community of Interest (COI) held its meeting on May 21, 2023 at New Orleans, LA, U.S. The meeting aimed to bring together medical professionals, aviation experts, and stakeholders involved in the aeromedical aspects of the F-35 aircraft program. The COI provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and discuss advancements in aeromedical practices related to the F-35 aircraft.

The meeting commenced with opening remarks from the chairperson, welcoming all attendees and expressing gratitude for their participation. The chairperson emphasized the importance of the COI in ensuring the health and safety of F-35 pilots and identified the objectives of the meeting.

A key highlight of the meeting was a comprehensive presentation on the aeromedical challenges and solutions associated with the F-35 aircraft. The presentation covered various topics, including:

- the presentation provided an overview of the physiological episodes experienced by F-35 pilots and the ongoing efforts to investigate and mitigate them. It highlighted the collaboration between medical experts, engineering teams, and pilot feedback to identify potential causes and develop solutions,
- the discussion focused on the human-machine interface and its impact on pilot performance and well-being. The presentation outlined research initiatives aimed at optimizing cockpit design, display systems, and control mechanisms to reduce pilot workload and improve situational awareness,
- the influence of environmental factors, such as G-forces, temperature on pilot health and performance. The presentation highlighted ongoing research to mitigate these effects and ensure the physiological well-being of F-35 pilots.

The presentation panel was followed by a panel discussion with subject matter experts and experienced aviation medicine specialists. The discussion centered around lessons learned and best practices related to the aeromedical aspects of the F-35 program. Key points discussed during the panel included:

- the importance of collecting and analyzing comprehensive data on pilot health and performance to inform decision-making processes and improve aeromedical practices;
- the need for continued collaboration among medical professionals, engineers, and pilots to share experiences, lessons learned, and best practices across different F-35 user countries;
- the panel also emphasized the significance of comprehensive training and education programs for F-35 pilots, focusing on aeromedical factors, physiological awareness, and emergency procedures.

In the closing remarks, the chairperson expressed gratitude to all attendees for their active participation and valuable contributions. He highlighted the importance of the F-35 Aeromedical COI in ensuring the continuous enhancement of aeromedical practices for F-35 pilots.

CONCLUSION

The meeting of the F-35 Aeromedical COI provided a platform for medical professionals, aviation experts, and stakeholders to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and discuss advancements in aeromedical practices related to the F-35 aircraft. The presentations, panel discussions, and working group sessions facilitated the sharing of experiences, lessons learned, and best practices. The meeting's outcomes will contribute to ongoing efforts.

AUTHORS' DECLARATION:

Manuscript Preparation: Katarzyna Sowa, Rafał Lewkowicz. The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.