



Report: British Military Aviation Safety May be Affected by Lack of Engineers

A high-ranking safety official has said that a shortage of engineers and other professionals is an imminent threat to the safety of military aviation in the U.K.

Air Marshal Dick Garwood, leader of the U.K.'s Military Aviation Authority (MAA), said in a report to U.K. Defence Secretary Michael Fallon that he could give only "limited assurance" of air safety, stating that the outlook was "mainly due to the significant and widespread shortage of suitable qualified experienced personnel." These personnel include air traffic managers, engineers and air crews.

Although Garwood reported an historically low accident rate for the past 12 months, the lack of trained professionals means that routine air worthiness issues are not being addressed, he said.

This has been an ongoing problem, according to the MAA, which has been reporting a shortage of skilled military and civil personnel since it was formed four years ago.

The report went on to state that "achieving and sustaining manpower numbers and skills is the greatest single challenge currently facing the department."

Source: DefenceNews.com

Increased Cyber Security to be Mandated for Medical Devices

As more and more devices become electronically interconnected, a new threat has moved the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to issue new guidelines on the cyber security of something many never considered at risk — biomedical implants.

The new guidelines, issued in October 2014, will instruct manufacturers to build cyber security functionality into new medical devices. These functions will be determined by the nature of the specific device, its overall vulnerabilities and the risks a malfunction would pose to the patient.

These regulations resulted after demonstrations were made by researchers, who were able to hack into devices such as wireless insulin pumps.

Source: Forbes.com

Automobile Recalls Set Record in 2014, May Climb Higher in 2015

More than 60 million automobiles — nearly one in four vehicles on the road — were recalled in 2014, nearly doubling the previous record. Analysts say, however, that this is not a reflection on the vehicles themselves, but rather a function of how the industry has restructured itself.

Leading the pack in recalls, General Motors and Takata, an air bag manufacturer, apologized publicly for having to recall millions of vehicles. Meanwhile, Toyota was fined \$1.2 billion due to unintended acceleration flaws in some of its vehicles.

While the recalls might have lowered consumer confidence, industry experts believe that increased recalls are a sign of increased safety.

"I would expect that we will actually see an increase in recalls" in 2015, said Mark Rosekind, head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, who took the position in December. "This is one of those cases where more recalls could actually mean the system is working better."

Source: mprnews.org and businessinsurance.com



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