

JANUARY 1990

Effects of alcohol and aging on radio communication (Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA; Decision Systems, Stanford, CA; and Veterans Administration Medical Center, Palo Alto, CA): "This study finds that alcohol and pilot age impair radio communication during simulated flight. Young (mean age 25 years) and older (mean age 42 years) pilots flew in a light aircraft simulator during alcohol and placebo conditions. In the alcohol condition, pilots drank alcohol and flew after reaching 0.04% BAC, after reaching 0.10% BAC, and then 2, 4, 8, 24, and 48 h after they stopped drinking at 0.10% BAC. They flew at the same times in the placebo condition... Notably, performance was as impaired 2 h after reaching 0.10% BAC as it was at 0.10% BAC. Moreover, overall performance was impaired for 8 h after reaching 0.10% BAC."⁴

International membership (From the AsMA President): "Along with many AsMA members, I belong to a number of other professional organizations. These groups, like the AsMA, are oriented to advancing scientific knowledge and stimulating investigations in their areas of interest. Unlike our Association, however, none of these organizations has significant numbers of members from countries other than the United States. Currently, 975 AsMA members, out of a total membership of 4,250, are from other countries..."

"I appreciate even more the difficulties many of our meeting cities pose for individuals who are not fluent in English, and I am glad our International Activities Committee, the Wing, and other AsMA members work to provide assistance to attendees from other countries. I salute our international colleagues for the efforts they make to contribute to and support our organization, and I thank them for helping make the AsMA more effective and enjoyable than it would be without their presence."⁵

JANUARY 1965

Exposure to radioactively contaminated aircraft (Capt. R. E. Luehrs, MC, USN, medical officer aboard USS Enterprise CVA(N)-65): "Repeated surveys for the presence of radioactive contamination of aircraft, flight personnel and maintenance personnel aboard USS Enterprise CVA(N)-65 from 7 Feb. 1963 through 2 Aug. 1963 showed appreciable amounts of beta and gamma radiation due to fallout from nuclear weapons detonations. No man aboard, however, attained the maximum permissible [sic] exposure as a result..."³

Chronic acceleration sickness in chickens (University of California, Davis, supported by the Office of Naval Research and NASA): "The long-term exposure of chickens to centrifugal forces may lead to a highly lethal 'chronic acceleration sickness.' ...

"In understanding this disease, its ready reversibility upon removal of the stressor (i.e., return to normal gravity), is quite important. Even when individuals have advanced symptoms, recovery occurs within 24-72 hours at normal gravity... This reversibility indicates that the disease does not involve organic debility..."

"Some individuals exhibit symptoms after brief exposure to moderate forces (2-3 days at 1.5 G), but others develop the disease

only after many months' exposure to greater forces (3 G)... The incidence of chronic acceleration sickness is affected by many factors: age, sex (sexual maturity), intensity of the force, rate at which the force develops, etc. The majority of the mortality, however, does occur during the first two weeks after a new (increased) intensity of accelerative force has been established."²

JANUARY 1940

Backlog of pilot physical examinations (Chief, Medical Section, Civil Aeronautics Authority): "Most of you are making examinations for the Authority and have been suddenly confronted with the Civilian Pilot Training Program. Due to the rapidity with which we have been forced to work, this program has placed quite a strain on our office as well as upon yourselves.

"To date we have finished the examinations of a little more than half of the expected applicants. Due to the modified procedures and standards there are a number of new errors which are being made in connection with these examinations. We are receiving many letters asking questions which... [cause] us to feel that some examiners are failing to read these instructions..."

"Parent's consent, as always, is required if the applicant is less than twenty-one. The Authority recommended that, for the protection of the college, it would be wise to have the college obtain parental consent from every applicant. This, however, is a recommendation and not a specific requirement and does not affect the work of the medical examiners..."

"In connection with student pilot certificates, I would like to give you some advance information. It is expected that, in the near future, the issuance of temporary student pilot certificates will be discontinued. The examiner will issue a permanent certificate and this will do away with a great deal of the delay and annoyance now being experienced. These certificates... will be issued by the medical examiner, and will be renewable by periodic endorsement by the examiner and not by reissue as at present."¹

REFERENCES

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