

# Medical News

## CAMA Stands Against Elimination of Pilot Exams

The Civil Aviation Medical Association (CAMA) has expressed grave concern about the proposed elimination of most physical examinations for student, private, and recreational pilots.

"CAMA cannot in good conscience endorse a proposal which is sure to lead to more aircraft accidents. This proposal will result in an increased risk to the public, to general aviation passengers, and to the pilots themselves who would supposedly benefit from it," said Dr. F. M. Bird, CAMA President.

According to Dr. Bird, himself an experienced pilot, "It has been touted as lowering the cost of flying, but the individual savings—about \$25 per year for each pilot—is so small as to be inconsequential. This is equal to the cost of 30 minutes of flying each year in a typical light aircraft."

Dr. Bird further argued that the biennial exam actually picks up medical problems early while they can still be corrected, and, thus, extends pilots' good health and flying careers.

Critics have mentioned that CAMA members, aviation medical examiners who perform the safety medical exams, have an economic interest in this issue.

Dr. Bird disagrees: "Examining physicians look upon their work as a public responsibility and service in which they take pride. No physician who examines student and private pilots finds it profitable because of the amount of time each exam requires compared to the fees charged. But they do enjoy the chance to contribute to flight safety."

The CAMA Board of Directors, all physicians associated with pilot examinations, have recently met to consider this issue. The Board agrees that the current Federal Aviation System, which ultimately turns down about 0.5% of all applicants, also discourages those with serious illness from applying in the first place. Without that system, many persons with major illnesses will attempt to fly. According to the CAMA Board, the resulting accidents will be simply unacceptable.

## Fatal General Aviation Accidents Lowest Since 1958

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association Air Safety Foundation (ASF) cheered National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) statistics showing a 13.9% drop in fatal aircraft accidents in general aviation—the non-airline, non-military, civilian aviation segment that includes private, business, corporate, industrial and government flying.

Fatal accidents in 1993 totaled 385, compared to 447 in 1992, and broke below 400 for the first time since 1958. Total accidents were down by more than 50 to 2,022, compared to 2,074 in 1992. All information represents preliminary 1993 results released by the NTSB.

Accident rates of 1.67 per 100,000 flight hours (fatal) and 8.79 per 100,000 hours (total) are actually about equal to or better than 1992, but not comparable with 1992 preliminary data because of a statistical change in FAA-estimated flying hours.

## Noise-Reducing Nozzle for Supersonic Planes Tested by NASA

NASA is evaluating an advanced exhaust nozzle concept that could reduce noise made by 21st century supersonic jet airliners to the level of today's new subsonic jets without affecting takeoff performance.

The wind tunnel tests at NASA-Ames Research Center, Mountain View, CA, uses an experimental nozzle attached to the rear of a one-tenth scale model of a jet engine. The subscale engine simulates the exhaust of a future supersonic airliner under takeoff conditions. Jet engine noise comes from a plane's exhaust or "plume" of turbulent air in its wake.

The nozzle is an "ejector suppressor" type which scoops in outside air and mixes it with the high-energy jet exhaust. This lowers the speed of the exhaust and, consequently, the noise.

## AsMA Resolutions/Position Papers/Letters: Status Report

### SUBJECT

1. Letter to President Clinton in Support of Preventive Medicine Features of his Health Security Plan.
2. Resolution 94-1—Space Station
3. Resolution 94-2—No Smoking Inflight

### STATUS

Sent November 15, 1993

To Council and May Business Meeting  
To Council and May Business Meeting

This publication is available in microform from University Microfilms International.

Call toll-free 800-521-3044. Or mail inquiry to: University Microfilms International, 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

