

MENTAL HEALTH: AN ISSUE THAT REQUIRES AN APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT BY AME

SANTE MENTALE: A PROBLEME QUE L'EXIGE UNE APPROPIE GESTION AU AME

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Introduction: interview of aircrew/ATCO is critical in order to get a real knowledge of the psychosocial and psychopathological history of the candidate. EASA GW Task Force recommends that NA should strengthen the psychological and communication aspects of aeromedical examiners training and practice. EASA started in June 2016 the arrangements of a WG on "AME's: Management of Psychological issues in aircrews and ATCO's." Objectives of the WG were defined according to NA needs, gaps identified and experience. Among them, perception that candidate interview/questionnaire has very little impact in mental health, lack of adequate training in mental health problems and shortness of standardization in the psychological approach and assessment of candidates.

Objectives: To define a mini-questionnaire in order to help AME in the mental health evaluation of airmen/ATCO, to provide appropriate guidelines, to produce a comprehensive syllabus of training, and finally to standardize the psychological approach and psychometric testing of initial Class 1/ATCO exams.

Methods: WG composition was arranged with medical and psychologist experts in aviation. Also main related institutions were represented such AESA, AEMC's, SEMA, Psychology College, Spanish Society of Aviation Psychology and the University. Discussions were arranged by a monthly meeting and electronic communications. Results were finalized in January 2017.

Results: Mini-questionnaire and Open Questions were established, along with specific guidelines in order to carry out adequate assessment. Full Mental Health Guidelines were completed. A Mental Health Syllabus and training program were defined, and finally we concluded what psychological testing need to be standardized in the initial evaluation of pilot and ATCO candidates.

Conclusions: EASA recommendations in relation to assessment of mental health status by AME can be fully accomplished by following directions and procedures established by procedures established by the AESA Mental Health WG.