

## Historical Note No. 2: Pathfinders of System Safety

The beginnings of “organized, formally documented” system safety occurred during the years 1956 to 1966. The origins of the System Safety Concept (SSC) are summarized in “Historical Note No. 1,” which can be found on page 21 of the Spring/Summer 2014 *Journal of System Safety*.

In my opinion, this transformation of this concept into practice can best be summarized through brief biographies of five of the early pathfinders of system safety who, each in their own unique manner, some 50 years ago, conceived and implemented activities which today form the basis of our current practice of system safety.

- C. O. (Chuck) Miller — A member of the USC faculty, Miller was a key developer of the system safety concept that was translated into military contract requirements. He was also the leading advocate for effective system safety program management techniques. A skilled test pilot and aircraft accident investigator, Miller was later appointed to head the aviation division of the National Transportation Safety Board.
- Col. George Ruff (USAF) — Ruff led the development and release of initial system safety pro-

gram requirements for ballistic missile programs, which subsequently evolved into MIL-STD-882.

- Niel Classon – As manager of system safety, Boeing Aerospace Division, Classon implemented the initial contractual system safety programs, including the Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), a model for many subsequent DoD programs.
- George Peters — An engineer/attorney/author, Peters initiated *Hazard Prevention*, the forerunner of *Journal of System Safety*. He pioneered the expansion of the system safety concept via technical papers and books. This helped prompt the expansion of system safety practices into numerous government and commercial projects and products worldwide.
- Roger Lockwood – A member of the USC faculty, Lockwood initiated the legal documentation to gain a state charter for what would become the International System Safety Society. This activity culminated in its acceptance by the 10 charter members of the Society at the charter meeting. Lockwood served as the Society’s initial president, and later as its executive secretary and newsletter editor. ☛

## Mark Your Calendar

### The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual SAFE Symposium

November 3-5, 2014

Caribe Royale - Orlando, Florida  
<http://www.safeassociation.com/index.cfm/page/symposium-overview>

### Safety in Autonomous Systems

December 4, 2014  
London, U.K.

<http://www.safety-club.org.uk/e299>

### 2015 Symposium on Human Factors and Ergonomics in Health Care

April 26-29, 2015

Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel  
Baltimore, Maryland  
<http://www.hfes.org>



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