

# From the Editor's Desk...

*JSS Technical Editor*  
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## Evidence for the Evidence

A few years ago, a colleague contacted me about a paper they were working on concerning the “evidence” they felt was needed to show that safety-critical software was indeed safe. I asked if there was any evidence that the long list of items they were developing had any proven efficacy for safety. That is, is there any evidence that the items actually reduce the risk of a mishap?

After some thought, the individuals admitted that the items they were developing arose purely from the “bunch of guys sitting around talking” (BOGSAT) process I have discussed in previous columns. I only bring this up because MIL-STD-882 is being updated, and I hope that the community goes a bit beyond BOGSAT when developing new requirements.

The first technical paper in this issue, “Ionizing Radiation Hazards: Dangerous Goods” by Dr. Richard Zito, focuses on hazards that result from ionizing radiation.

Our second technical paper, “Implications of STAMP for Warhead Safety at AWE” by Dr. Malcolm Jones, reviews the current safety approaches of the

United Kingdom Atomic Weapons Establishment to prevent Inadvertent Nuclear Yield (INY) as a vehicle for comparison against the STAMP methodology, both from organizational governance and technical points of view.

The third technical paper, “Failure Interval Probabilistic Analysis for Risk-based Decisions – Concord Crash Example” by Jan B. Smith, describes a new probabilistic approach to the “first opportunity to ground” decision.

This issue’s “TBD” column by Charlie Hoes discusses some difficulties with the quantification of risk and the subsequent decision-making process, while the System Safety in Healthcare column by Dev Raheja discusses some aspects of designing for safety.

As usual, I welcome your comments, letters to the editor and article submissions.

Regards  
Chuck



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