



KURT L. REESMAN, Ph.D.

AVIATION HUMAN FACTORS EXPERT WITNESS

Pilot Performance • Pilot Training & Standard of Care • Flight Operations Safety

Manvel, Texas 77578 • Cell: 214-354-4771 • kurt@kurtreesman.com
www.kurtreesman.com • [linkedin.com/in/kurtreesman](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kurtreesman)

An aviation case that turns on human factors is won or lost on whether the expert can make it clear to a jury and stand up under cross-examination. I have spent more than forty years doing exactly that work — and I still do it every week. I am a type-rated Boeing 737 flight instructor and human factors subject matter expert at a major U.S. airline, adjunct faculty at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and the principal of an aviation human factors consulting practice. My opinions are grounded in current, hands-on practice, explained with the clarity of a career instructor, and defended with the composure of a military evaluator pilot.

QUALIFICATIONS SUMMARY

Current practice. Boeing 737 flight crew training instructor and Flight Operations human factors SME at a major U.S. airline; adjunct faculty, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Expertise grounded in present-day practice, not recollection.

Pilot-training authority. Designer of the FAA-mandated Airline Transport Pilot Certification Training Program (ATP-CTP), authoring twelve of its eighteen ground-school courses; sixteen years a USAF instructor and evaluator pilot (T-37, F-15E/S); twelve years a Part 141 university flight instructor, stage-check, and spin pilot; fifteen years a university aviation professor and lecturer (Liberty, Auburn, Middle Tennessee State).

Safety education & reach. AOPA Air Safety Institute national presenter and instructor — 120 safety seminars to nearly 18,880 attendees, and 61 Flight Instructor Refresher Courses producing 2,548 instructor renewals.

Standards & rulemaking. Industry member, FAA Human Factors Task Force (Aviation Rulemaking Committee); industry member, FAA Airman Certification Standards initiative (PTS-to-ACS); FAA Pilot Examiner (Administrative) and Airman Certification Representative, Part 141.

Credentials. Ph.D.; Airline Transport Pilot with Boeing 737 type rating; CFI (ASEL/AMEL/Instrument); Fellow, Royal Aeronautical Society; no FAA certificate actions.

AREAS OF EXPERT OPINION

Qualified to render opinions in matters involving:

- Human factors and human error in flight operations — attention, workload, fatigue, situational awareness, and decision-making
- Pilot training adequacy, curriculum design, and evaluation — Part 121 / AQP, Part 141/142, and ATP-CTP contexts
- Standard of care for pilots, flight instructors, and training providers

- Crew Resource Management (CRM), crew coordination, flight-deck communication, and pilot monitoring
- Aeronautical decision-making, command judgment, and information management
- Automation use, mode awareness, and human–automation interaction; checklist and procedure design
- Airman certification and FAA testing and checking practices (PTS / Airman Certification Standards)
- Flight instructor qualification and instructional methodology
- Aviation safety culture, safety management systems (SMS), and training-organization oversight

CURRENT ROLES

Founder & Principal — Aviation Human Factors Consultant

2012 – Present

Kurt Reesman Consulting, LLC

- Aviation human factors and pilot-training consulting — curriculum development, instruction, and advisory work, including engagements with the AOPA Air Safety Institute. Now provides expert-witness services to plaintiff and defense counsel: case review, human-factors and training analysis, and standard-of-care assessment.

Flight Crew Training Instructor & Flight Operations Human Factors SME

2024 – Present

A major U.S. airline — Boeing 737

- As a type-rated B-737 flight instructor, trains flight crews — new-hire first officers and captain upgrades — in the classroom and simulator under the FARs, the Advanced Qualification Program Manual, and the Flight Operations Training Manual.
- Serves in the Flight Operations Human Factors group: conducts literature reviews and research supporting human-factors proposals, advises multiple safety groups on operational initiatives, and leads extended-reality (XR) training-technology research.

Adjunct Faculty — Aviation Psychology

2026 – Present

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Worldwide)

- Teaches an undergraduate Aviation Psychology course online.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lecturer & Assistant Chief Flight Instructor, School of Aviation

2017 – 2023

Auburn University — Auburn, Alabama

- Created and taught Human Factors in Aviation, Commercial Aviation Safety, and related courses. Co-Principal Investigator, FAA grant HF0015 on training and checking methods for the emerging pilot workforce (information management, decision-making, command judgment). Helped lead the safety, compliance, and instructor supervision of a Part 141 program; FAA Administrative Pilot Examiner and Airman Certification Representative.

Curriculum Development & Program Manager (Contractor)

2014 – 2017

Aerosim Technologies / L3 — Burnsville, Minnesota

- Program Manager and lead developer for the FAA-mandated ATP-CTP course; authored twelve of eighteen ground-school courses. Developed and gained FAA approval of the A-320 type-rating curriculum and the Part 142 quality-assurance program.

Lecturer, Professional Pilot Concentration

2016 – 2017

Middle Tennessee State University — Murfreesboro, Tennessee

- Collaborated with Professional Pilot faculty to increase productivity in student training and the efficient, effective use of existing resources.

Quality Assurance SME & Instructor (Contractor)

2015 – 2016

Convergent Performance — Colorado Springs, Colorado

- Quality-assurance SME for United Airlines' Leadership, Excellence and Professionalism (LEaP) training program; presenter at the Textron Aviation Customer Conference.

National Safety Presenter & FIRC Instructor (Contractor)

2008 – 2016

AOPA Air Safety Institute — Frederick, Maryland

- Delivered 120 safety seminars (nearly 18,880 attendees) and 61 Flight Instructor Refresher Courses (2,548 instructor renewals) nationwide, and authored FIRC lessons and test items.

Associate / Assistant Professor of Aviation & Flight Instructor

2005 – 2013

Liberty University — Lynchburg, Virginia

- Taught Aerospace Law, Human Factors, and Aeronautical Decision Making; Airplane Aerodynamics; and Flight Instructor Ground School, among others. Flight and spin instructor for all FAA certificates and ratings.

USAF Instructor / Evaluator Pilot (T-37, F-15E)

1989 – 2005

United States Air Force

- Flight, simulator, and classroom Instructor/Evaluator for pilots and weapon systems officers, from initial pilot training through combat-ready and instructor-upgrade qualification; Chief of Standardization for two training squadrons.

F-15S Instructor / Evaluator Pilot

2000 – 2001

Royal Saudi Air Force — King Khalid Air Base, Saudi Arabia

- Instructed and evaluated Royal Saudi Air Force F-15S aircrew; authored five training syllabi and manuals and advised squadron and wing leadership on combat readiness.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Adult Education

2022

Auburn University — Auburn, Alabama

Dissertation: *Training the Emerging Pilot Workforce: Does Generation and Gender Influence Curriculum Design?*

Master of Aeronautical Science — Aviation Operations

1994

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

B.A., Psychology & Religious Studies (double major)

1982

Western Kentucky University

PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION

- **Middle East Orientation Course (MEOC)** — in residence; Hurlburt Field, Florida · 2000
- **Air Command and Staff College (ACSC)** — by seminar; Maxwell AFB, Alabama · 1997
- **Arctic Survival School** — in residence; Eielson AFB, Alaska · 1995
- **Squadron Officers School (SOS)** — in residence; Maxwell AFB, Alabama · 1992
- **Combat Survival Training** — in residence; Fairchild AFB, Washington · 1986
- **Water Survival School** — in residence; Patrick AFB, Florida · 1985

FAA CERTIFICATES, RATINGS & FLIGHT EXPERIENCE

- **Airline Transport Pilot** — Airplane Multi-Engine Land; B-737 Type Rating (-700NG/-800NG, MAX8).
- **Commercial Pilot** — Airplane Single-Engine Land; Instrument Airplane.
- **Flight Instructor** — ASEL, AMEL, Instrument Airplane; Tailwheel endorsement.
- **FAA Pilot Examiner (Administrative) and Airman Certification Representative**, Part 141 flight school.

- **Flight time:** 3,887 total hours — 3,625 pilot-in-command, 2,078 instructor, 174 evaluator. Aircraft include the T-37, T-38, RF-4C, and F-15E (USAF), the F-15S (Royal Saudi Air Force), and a range of general aviation aircraft. Command flying is in military and Part 141 university programs.
- **No certificate actions or violations.**

FAA RULEMAKING & COMMITTEE SERVICE

- Industry Member — FAA Human Factors Task Force Aviation Rulemaking Committee.
- Industry Member — FAA Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC), Airman Testing Standards and Training Working Group; contributed to the Private, Instrument, and Commercial Pilot Airman Certification Standards (PTS-to-ACS transition).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL WRITING

1. Birdsong, J., & Reesman, K. L. (2024). Training methods research opportunities for a pilot workforce in transition: A literature review. *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research*, 33(2).
2. Birdsong, J., & Reesman, K. (2023). Effective training and checking methods for a pilot workforce in transition. *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research* (accepted).
3. Birdsong, J., & Reesman, K. (2023). Business aviation days: Mentorship and partnership. *Collegiate Aviation Review International*, 41(2), 193–201.
4. Reesman, K., & Birdsong, J. (2023). Do different learning style inventories report similar findings among pilots? *Collegiate Aviation Review International*, 41(1), 148–179.
5. Birdsong, J., Reesman, K., Sefton, J., Miller, M., & Witte, J. (2023). *Effective training and checking methods for the emerging pilot workforce* (Final Report, FAA-sponsored grant).
6. Birdsong, J., Reesman, K., Sefton, J., & Miller, M. (2023). *Efficacy of using virtual reality to support the training of the emerging pilot workforce*. International Symposium on Aviation Psychology (ISAP).

Author of professional articles on aviation human factors — including pilot monitoring, fatigue, risk management, aeronautical decision-making, and professionalism. A full publication, presentation, and writing list is available on request.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & HONORS

- Fellow, Royal Aeronautical Society (FRAeS) • Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society
- Reviewer, *Journal of Aviation/Aerospace Education & Research* (JAAER)

LITIGATION & CONSULTING SERVICES

Available for retention as a consulting (non-testifying) or testifying expert: case review, human-factors and training analysis, standard-of-care assessment, report preparation, and deposition and trial testimony, for both plaintiff and defense counsel. Fees are for professional time and are not contingent on the outcome or the substance of any opinion. A Rule 26(a)(2)(B) testimony list, fee schedule, and references are furnished on request.