John Illson

John Illson is Chief of the ICAO Integrated Safety Management Section, which is responsible for development of international safety management Standards as well as associated safety analysis capabilities that support implementation of the Global Aviation Safety Plan and other ICAO safety programmes.

Mr. Illson began his aviation career in 1979, as a pilot with US Airways where he spent 27 years as Captain on various models of Airbus, Boeing, British Aerospace and Fokker aircraft, accumulating over 18,000 hours of flying experience.

Captain Illson left US Airways in 2005, to join the International Air Transport Association (IATA) as Assistant Director, Safety. While at IATA, he was responsible for numerous safety initiatives including analysis of aviation safety data, development of an integrated Safety Management System concept.

In 2007, Captain Illson joined the Mitre Corporation, where he managed multiple safety research projects related to SMS development for air operators and maintenance organizations as well as the evolution of FAA's Air Transportation Oversight System.

Captain Illson holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Georgetown University, as well as Master's degrees from the University of Pittsburgh in international affairs and business management.