

Operations. A Wholistic View.

EI AI

July 17, 2023



All technical systems fail

- Much of the cost of building and running technical systems goes into figuring out how things can fail, building in defenses, fail-safes, and redundancies.
- Safe organizations invest in failure
 - Procedures and backup plans
 - Practice, simulation, and training
 - Hard work, fortitude, and culture

Failure investment \neq Failure proof

- All of this investment does not make systems failure proof!
- The goal of this investment should not just be to prevent failures from happening, or problems from occurring.
- The goal should also include preparing for, responding to, and recovering from failures (which will happen).

How do we think about the Operation?

Traditional Thinking (“Safety-I”)	
Focused on ensuring that “as few things as possible go wrong”	
Humans are a source of errors and hazards: Control and correct	
Variability is a threat—minimize it	
Focus on incident rates	
Focus on what we don’t want: injuries and incidents	
Procedures are complete and correct	
Systems are well designed, work as designed, and are well maintained	

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Procedures are complete and correct	Procedures are under-specified and must be interpreted and adapted
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* See Hollnagel, Wears, & Braithwaite (2015)

Impacts of systematically limiting data (by thinking only in terms of “safety I”)

- Human performance includes both desired and undesired actions – actions that promote safety, as well as actions that can reduce safety.

- When our safety thinking systematically restricts the data we collect and analyze, it
 - Restricts our opportunities to learn, and it
 - Affects our policies and decision making.

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A thought experiment

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- Pilots intervene to manage aircraft malfunctions on 20% of normal flights (PARC/CAST, 2013).
- World-wide jet data from 2007-2016 (Boeing, 2016)
 - 244 million departures
 - 388 accidents

A thought experiment

		Outcome		
		Not Accident	Accident	
Attributed to Human Intervention	No	?	?	?
	Yes	20%	80%	?
		?	388	244,000,000

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	Yes	48,799,922	310	?
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A thought experiment

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		Not Accident	Accident	
Attributed to Human Intervention	No	195,199,690	78	195,199,768
	Yes	48,799,922	310	48,800,232
		243,999,612	388	244,000,000

When we characterize safety only in terms of errors and failures, we ignore the vast majority of human impacts on the system.

A Couple of Problems with our Assumptions

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Pilots intervene in various ways on 100% of flights!

Our thinking affects our policies and plans

- When policy decisions are based only on failure data, they are based on a very small sample of non-representative data
 - Without understanding the mechanisms by which problems are solved, any estimate or claim about the predicted safety of autonomous machine capabilities is inherently suspect.
 - Removing the human demonstrated reliable source of safety-producing behavior without first understanding the capability being removed introduces unknown risks.

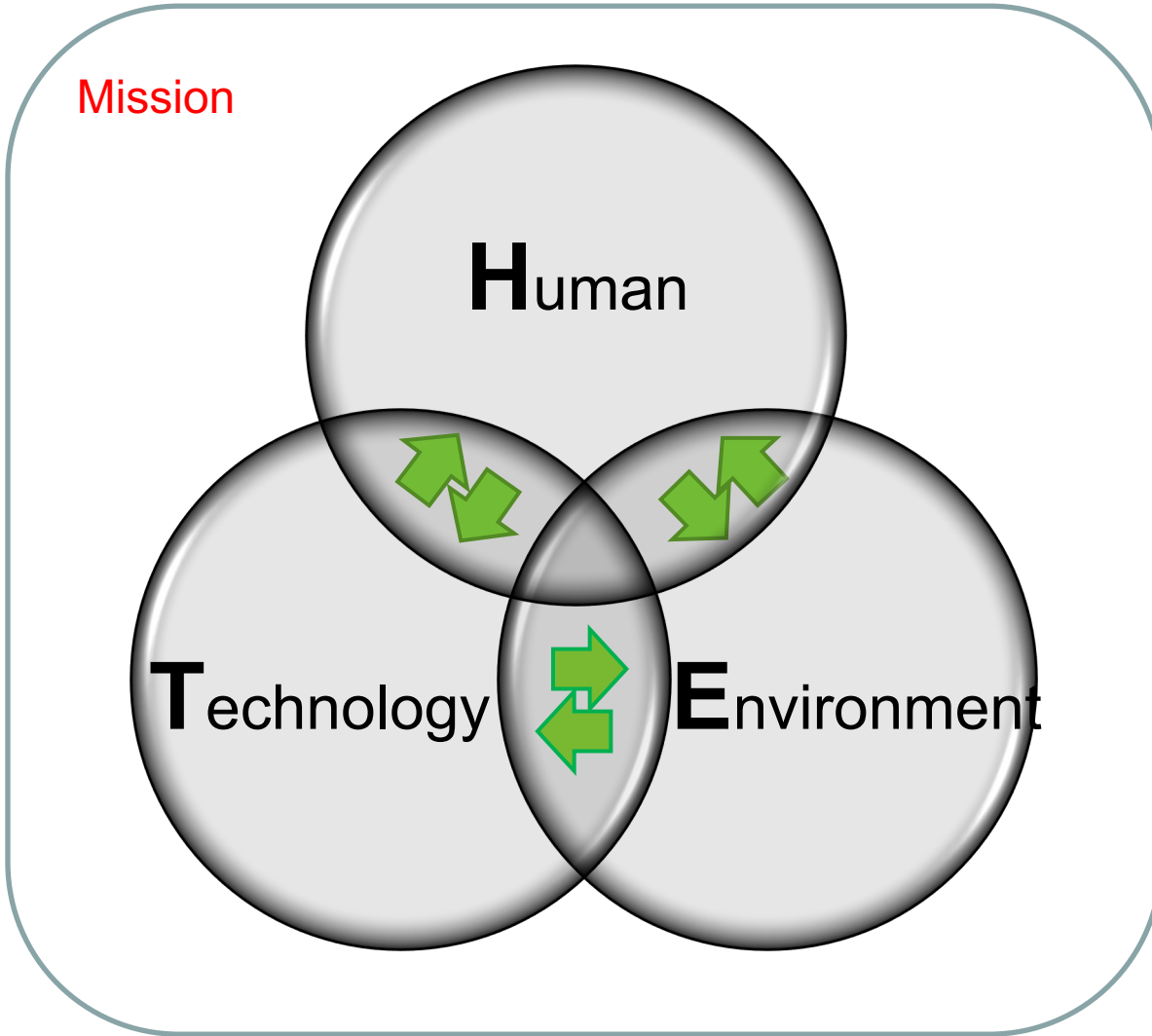
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Guiding the Operation. But how?

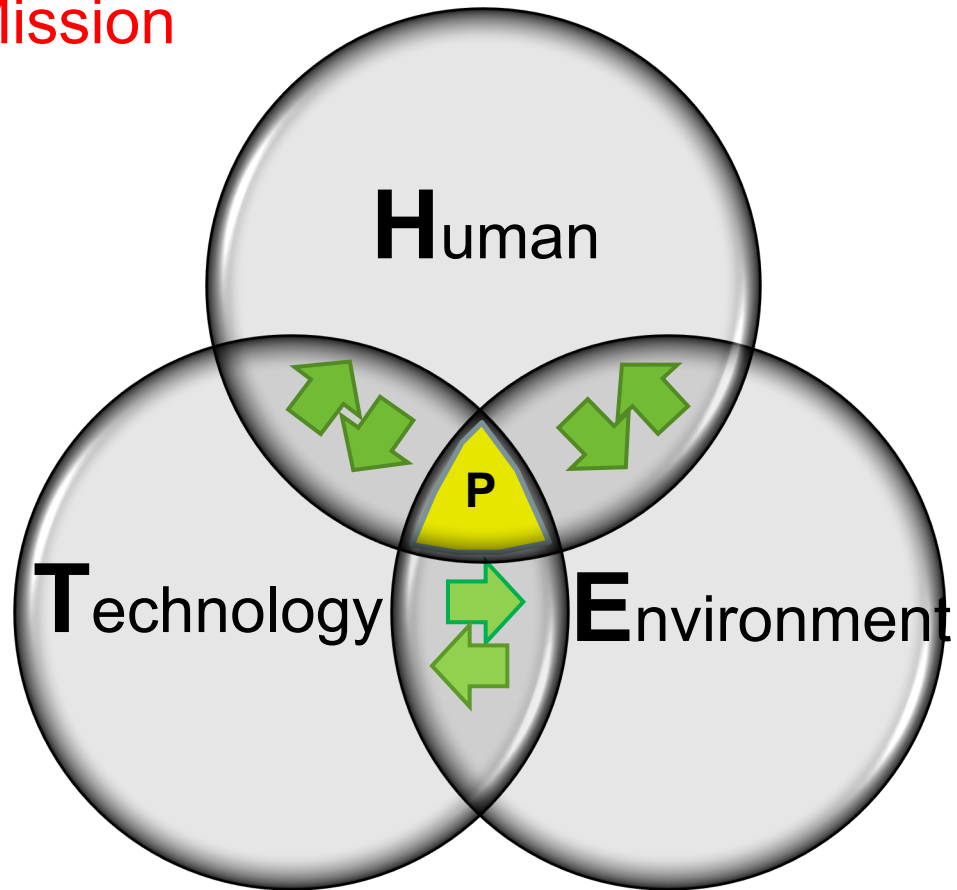
- By understanding the complexity of the operation and of the operator.
- By creating a clear, coherent, consistent, and comprehensive guidance throughout.
- The 4C's, THE Model, and the 4P's.



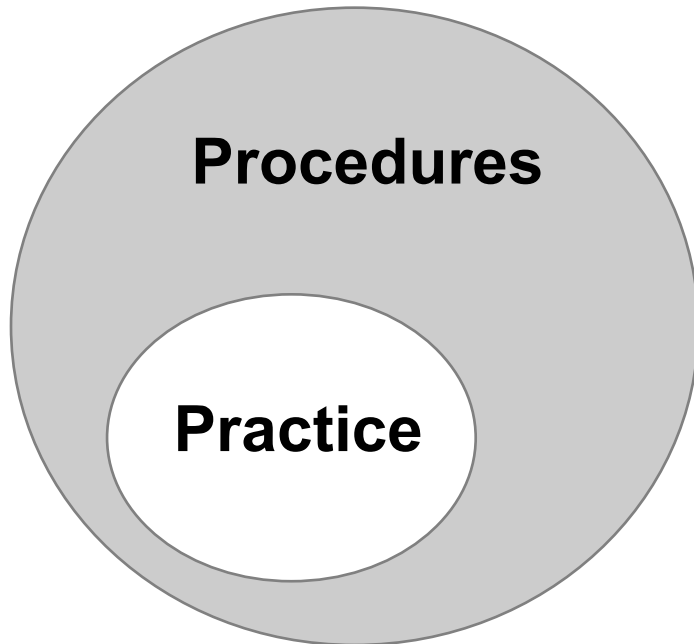
THE Model

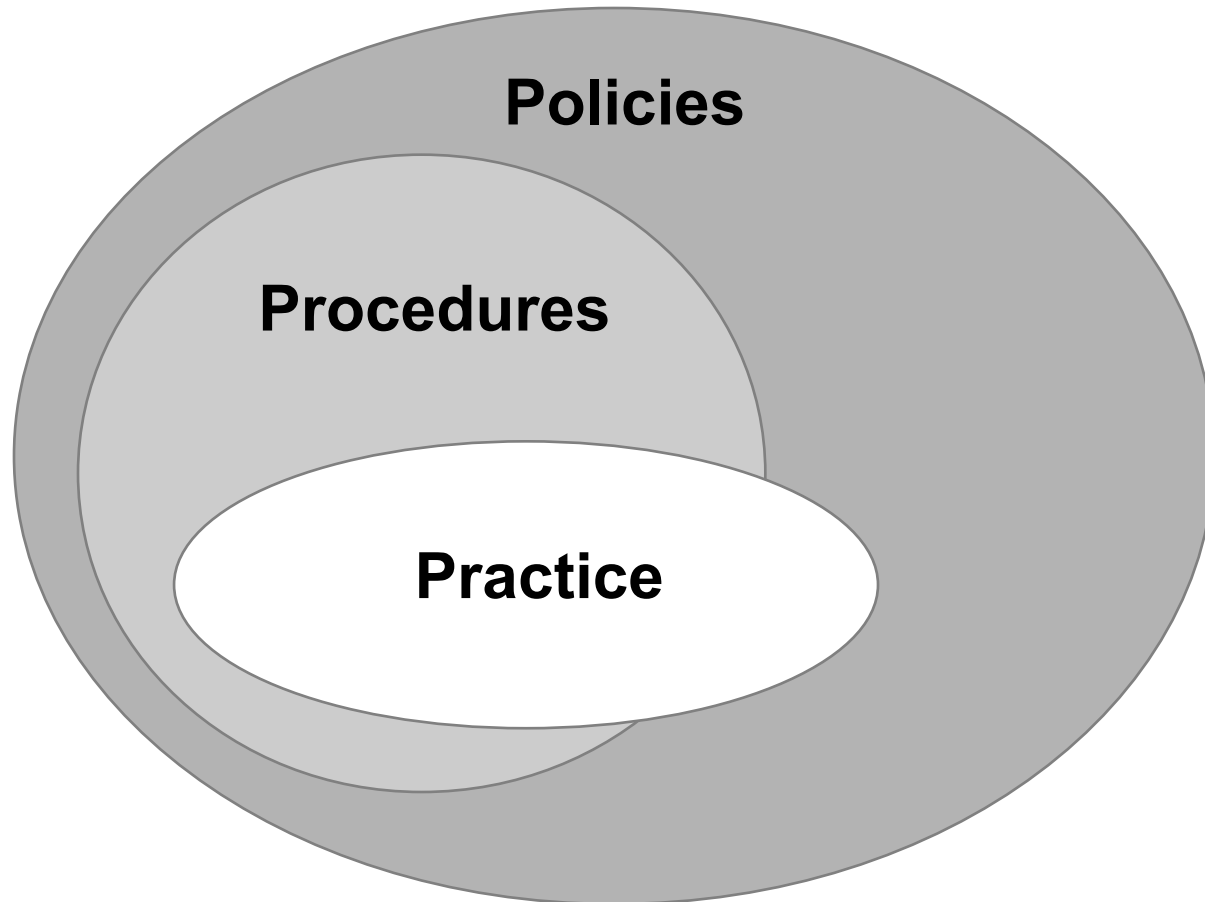
Culture

Mission



THE Model





Philosophy

Policies

Procedures

Practice

The 4P's

Philosophy



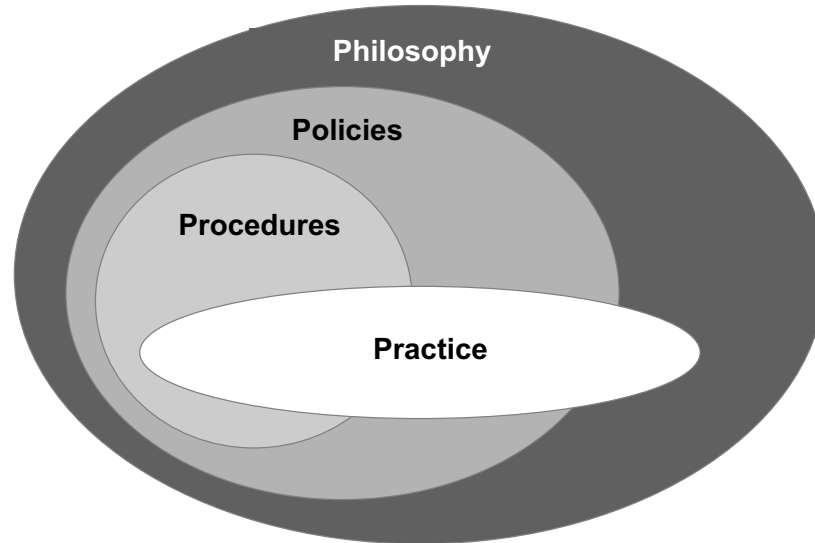
The diagram consists of four overlapping ovals arranged in a nested fashion. The outermost oval is dark gray and labeled 'Philosophy'. Inside it is a medium gray oval labeled 'Policies'. Inside that is a light gray oval labeled 'Procedures'. The innermost oval is white and labeled 'Practice'. The ovals overlap, with the 'Practice' oval being the most prominent and central.

Policies

Procedures

Practice

The 4P's



- Not a theoretical model.
- The result of observations.
- That's the way it's out there right now.
- The question is whether you want to make it explicit or not.

Figure 1. Mean Number of Problems on Target Items per Flight

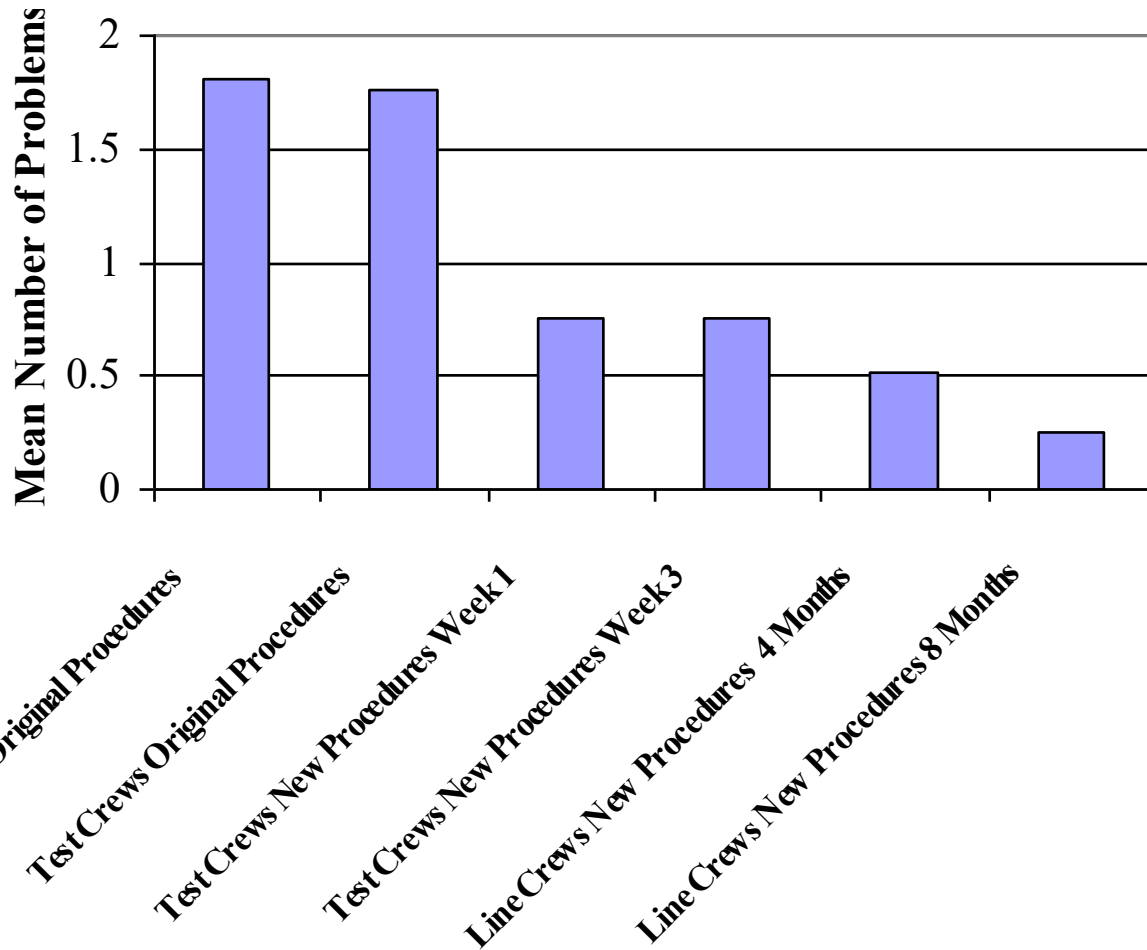


Figure 2. Average standard deviation in proportion of problems

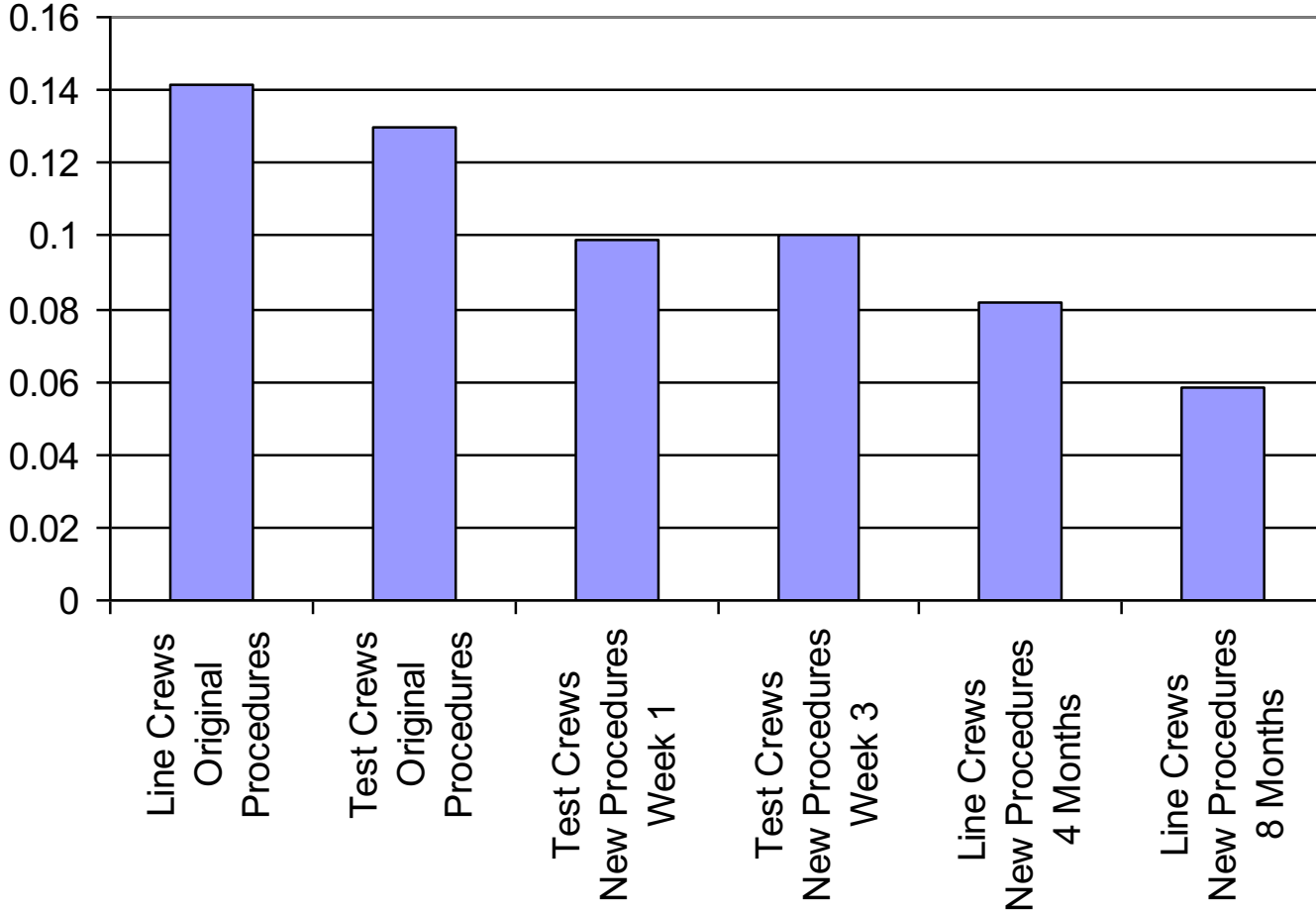
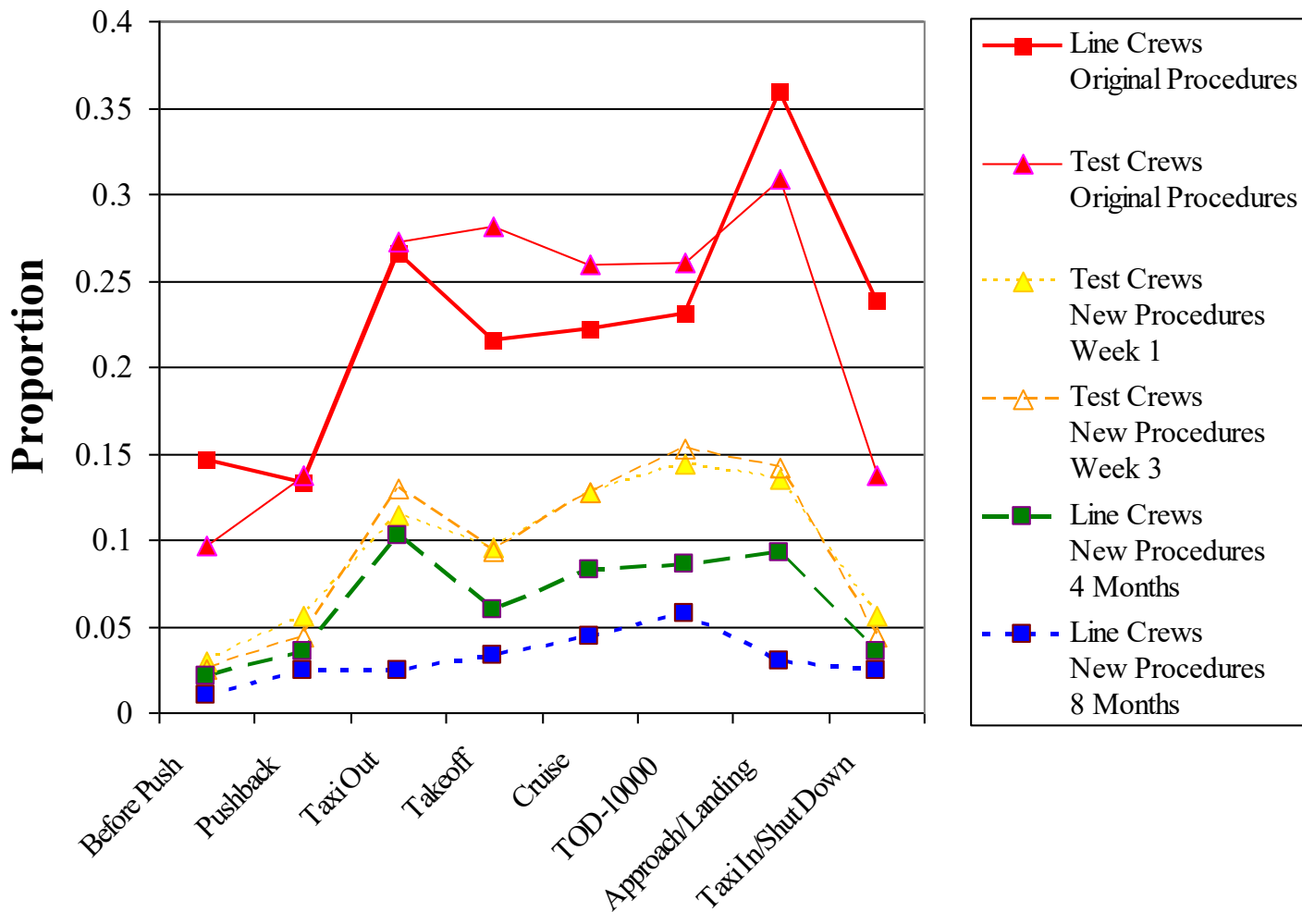


Figure 3. Problems on Target Items by Phase of Flight



Additional Information:

NASA/TM—2016–219421



Designing Flightdeck Procedures

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NASA/TP—2017–219479



Designing Flightdeck Procedures: Literature Resources

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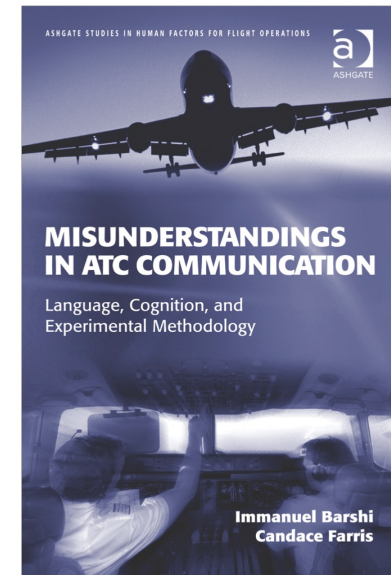
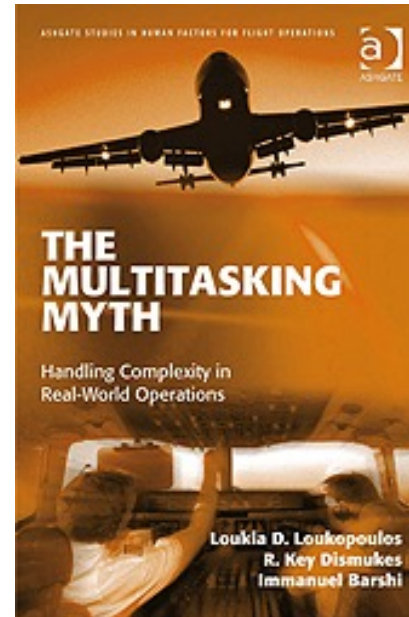
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Thank you!

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