



News Release

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The National Business Center's Aviation Management Directorate Earns Their First "Star" in the Medallion Foundation's Five Star Shield Program

Washington –The Department of the Interior's (DOI) National Business Center's (NBC) Aviation Management Directorate (AMD) is breaking new ground by being the first government entity to achieve the Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT) Avoidance Star Award in the Medallion Foundation's Five Star Shield Program. The achievement was recognized by Medallion Foundation presenting NBC's AMD Alaska Region the CFIT Avoidance Star Award to in August 2008.



NBC's AMD employees receiving the CFIT Avoidance Star Award, from left to right Howard Penland, Harry Kieling, and Dick Harding.

"DOI pilots in Alaska often face very challenging weather situations. Completing the CFIT Avoidance Training and being active in Medallion gives us one more risk management tool to maximize flying safety" says Mr. Harry Kieling, Alaska Regional Director for AMD.



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63 % of NBC's AMD Alaska Region, along with their DOI Partners, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM); pilots completed the CFIT Avoidance training ahead of the Medallion Programs required deadline. The Medallion Program requires that 50% of an organization's pilots complete the training within the first year; AMD far surpassed the Program requirement.

AMD's CFIT Avoidance training program begun in 2007 and emphasizes recognition and operation in flat-light, white-out and deteriorating visibility weather conditions, using Aircraft Training Devices or simulators. In August of 2008 the Medallion Program performed an audit on AMD, which measured their compliance with program requirements. NBC's AMD successfully passed the audit and achieved a major milestone by earning their first "Star" in the Medallion Foundation's Five Star Shield Program. "AMD's involvement in the Medallion Program is a key element of our broader strategy to partner with industry and government aviation stakeholders to continually improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and safety of DOI aviation operations," explained Mark Bathrick, Associate Director of AMD.

"I am proud of the NBC/AMD and the DOI Aviation Programs for receiving the CFIT Avoidance Star Award. It recognizes our commitment to excellence for government aircraft management and training. It is an honor to be the first government agency to achieve this success."

Douglas J. Bourgeois
Director
National Business Center

The Medallion Foundation's Five Star program includes a: Safety Program, CFIT Avoidance Program, Operational Control Program, Maintenance and Ground Program, and an Internal Audit Program. Upon gaining all five stars an operator is eligible to apply for a Shield award. Both the Star Program and the Shield Program is voluntary and focused on establishing and sustaining an elevated level of safety performance through application of Safety Management Systems (SMS) principles.

To read more about the Medallion Foundation, please visit:

<http://www.medallionfoundation.org/OverviewOfPrograms.asp>



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