



Press Release

For Immediate Release 18 March 2014

IBAC Announces Transition of IS-BAO Team

Tampa, Florida, 18 March 2014 – The International Business Aviation Council (IBAC) announced today the selection of Sonnie Bates as Director of the International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (ISBAO) and Lawrence Fletcher as Audit Manager, effective July 1, 2014. They will replace James Cannon and John Sheehan, respectively.

“Sonnie and Larry bring great experience and energy to the ISBAO Program. They have demonstrated themselves as skilled proponents of safety management for business aviation,” said Kurt Edwards, IBAC Director General.

Mr. Bates has built IBAC’s training program and curriculum since 2011, providing most of the IS-BAO workshops attended by operators and auditors. Prior to joining IBAC, he served as chief pilot and pilot and safety manager in three flight departments in the Northeast, flying Dassault and Gulfstream aircraft and implementing IS-BAO. He was also program manager for pilot training for CAE from 2006 to 2008. Mr. Bates started his career in aviation in the United States Air Force. During his 14 years of service, he flew C-5 Galaxy humanitarian missions around the world, commanded a training detachment, and served as Safety Program Manager for the Boeing C-17.

Currently serving as IBAC Assistant Audit Manager, Mr. Fletcher has extensive experience in private, commercial, and military aviation. He has provided conformity assessment services for Part 135 operators, directed teams of engineers and drafted Part 145 manuals for airfreight operators, and managed product leasing for GE Aircraft Engines. Prior to civilian engagements, Mr. Fletcher supported the U.S. Army and Air Force in a number of locations in the U.S. and around the world, providing leadership in organizational maintenance and quality control with a focus on rotorcraft.

Jim Cannon and John Sheehan will continue to be members of the IS-BAO team on a part-time basis. “Jim and John have brought to the IS-BAO Program incomparable experience in business aviation. IBAC has been fortunate to benefit from their insight, and I am grateful that they will continue to share it with IBAC and the business aviation community,” said Edwards.

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IBAC represents the interests of business aviation worldwide. IBAC is a non-profit international trade association with permanent observer status at the International Civil Aviation Organization, the UN Specialized Agency for aviation matters, in Montreal, Canada. www.ibac.org