

MICHAEL BENTON



michael.benton@vyclimb.com

EXPERTISE

- Aviation Operations & Compliance
- Safety Management Systems (SMS)
- Relationship Management (FAA/NTSB)
- Leadership
- Positive Team Building
- Effective Communication
- Emergency Response Planning

EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

Colorado State University

Master of Science, Aeronautical Science

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Bachelor of Science, Professional Aeronautics

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Helicopter Accident Investigation Course

National Transportation Safety Board

Safety Management System & Aviation Program Management

USDOT, Transportation Safety Institute

EXPERIENCE

2015 - Present

President & CEO

VyClimb Consulting, LLC

- Aviation operations, communications & safety advisor to the CEO of a major Level I trauma center
- SVP, Aviation Operations and Safety for fixed-wing and rotor-wing air medical operator
- Senior Consultant for HEMS Solutions Group, managing international HEMS training project
- Director of Operations for twin engine, single pilot, IFR helicopter air medical transport program
- Business & process improvement consultant for world's largest air medical transport company
- Technical operations advisor & solutions architect on helicopter projects for DTN and GTD; developing operational control management, tracking and hazard alerting cloud software for aviation industry
- Line Operations Safety Audit (LOSA) observer and project manager for The LOSA Collaborative – assisted with development, implementation and execution of offshore helicopter, helicopter air ambulance (HAA/HEMS/HMT) and search & rescue (SAR) LOSA
- International operations experience in China, United Kingdom, Mexico, Haiti, Australia, Brunei, and Canada

2011 - 2015

Aviation Compliance Director/Regional Aviation Director

Air Methods

- Served as the Director of Operations and Chief Pilot in their absence
- First tier member of team that developed, implemented, and maintained an industry leading Safety Management System (SMS) pilot project from start through the fully implemented continuous improvement phase
- Directed operational control center (OCC) responsible for nearly 400 aircraft and 1,300 pilots
- Ensured OCC readiness for potential FEMA deployments
- Successfully completed multiple DoD Commercial Airlift Review Board (CARB) audits without deficiencies
- Risk assessment and risk management subject matter expert
- Created OCC disaster recovery plan and facility which was later successfully tested through real-world use for over 50 continuous hours without interruption during OCC modernization
- Accident investigator and NTSB party coordinator

2008 - 2011

Aviation Training Manager/Aviation Compliance Evaluator/Check Airman

Air Methods

- Scheduled and coordinated decentralized resources including aircraft and human capital
- Responsible for training and evaluations at over 65 base locations throughout the United States

MICHAEL BENTON

Certification

Commercial Pilot/CFI/CFII

Helicopter; Instrument

Remote Pilot

Small Unmanned Aircraft System

Memberships

Member & Former Chair

Flight Operations Working Group
Helicopter Association International (HAI)

Advisor

CAMTS Aviation & Safety Advisory
Committee

Member

Association of Air Medical Services
National EMS Pilots Association
Royal Aeronautical Society
The Honourable Company of Air Pilots

Awards/Recognition

2019 Jim Charlson Aviation Safety Award

Recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the overall enhancement, development, and promotion of aviation safety

EXPERIENCE (Continued)

2008

Pilot-in-Command/National Relief Pilot

Med-Trans Corporation

- Emergency medical services helicopter pilot-in-command

1993 – 2008

Standardization Instructor Pilot/Instrument Flight Examiner Interrogator/Linguist

United States Army

- Member of the Directorate of Evaluation & Standardization (DES) representing the Army Aviation Commanding General (DES is likened to the FAA of Army Aviation)
- Aviation subject matter expert with civilian industry and foreign militaries, including liaison with high level French military leaders and major vendors such as Lockheed Martin
- Helicopter pilot deployments (OH-58D Kiowa Warrior)
 - Combat – Operation Iraqi Freedom 2003-2004
 - Peacekeeping – Operation Joint Guard (Bosnia) 1997-1998
- Korean linguist and tactical interrogator

Instruction/Speaking Engagements

“After the Accident: Working with the NTSB”

NTSB Training Center; HAI’s Heli-Expo, AAMS SMTA Graduate Course

“Qualities of an Effective Safety Leader”

CHC Safety & Quality Summit

“Shine Light Into the Darkest Corners of Your Program”

AAMS Medical Transport Leadership Institute Graduate Course

“The Concept of LOSA & Application in Helicopter Emergency Medical Service”

“LOSA: Helicopter Operators Starting to See the Benefits”

“Benefits & Lessons Learned from Helicopter LOSA Projects”

AIRMED World Congress; CHC Safety & Quality Summit; HAI Heli-Expo

“Helicopter Air Ambulance: Business & Communication Models”

Shanghai Air Medical System Conference

“Implementing a Safety Management System (SMS)”

“Building a Helicopter Air Ambulance Program”

“FAA Part 135 Blueprint: Getting Your Own Certificate”

Keynote Speaker at various client events