

## **Jeff Guzzetti**

*President, Guzzetti Aviation Risk Discovery, LLC*



Molded by over 35 years of aviation safety analysis and accident investigation experiences, Jeff Guzzetti is a successful and experienced aviation safety consultant, instructor, investigator, auditor, and writer. He is the president of Guzzetti Aviation Risk Discovery LLC (GuARD), an independent safety consultant firm he founded in February 2019. Some of his current activities include instructing short courses at the University of Southern California (USC) Safety and Security school, conducting safety surveys of air medical helicopter operations for the Commission of the Accreditation of Air

Transport Systems (CAMTS), and providing expert testimony to the Department of Justice in a criminal trial involving helicopter accidents.

Jeff began his career with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in 1985 as an aerospace engineer at the FAA Technical Center during which he participated in a flight test program involving helicopter wake turbulence characterization to determine air traffic control separation standards. He later held positions in systems safety engineering for the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command Investigated and analyzed Navy and Marine Corps airplane and helicopter accidents/incidents to provide meaningful technical inputs and engineering resolutions of identified safety hazards. Jeff also served as an air safety investigator with the Cessna Aircraft Company, where he traveled to accident sites across the U.S. to assist FAA inspectors and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators by providing technical expertise on the safety aspects of Cessna airplanes.

Jeff was then recruited by the NTSB in 1992 and worked in the agency's Office of Aviation Safety for 17 years -- first as a field investigator, then as a systems engineer for the NTSB "go-team," and later as an investigator-in-charge of major aviation accidents and incidents. He led key aspects of many notable investigations including the Alaska Airlines flight 261 crash that occurred off the coast of California in January 2000, the John F. Kennedy Jr. Piper accident in 1999, and numerous airplane and helicopter accidents in the U.S. and abroad. Jeff was then promoted to Deputy Director for Regional Operations in 2002 and was responsible for overseeing the NTSB's investigation and probable cause determination of about 1,600 general aviation accidents each year, including all helicopter accidents.

In August 2010, Jeff left the NTSB to accept an appointment as the Assistant Inspector General of Aviation Audits at the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Office of Inspector General (OIG). He was responsible for the issuance of DOT OIG audit reports addressing major FAA programs, including those involving safety oversight of aviation. He also testified before Congress regarding aviation safety.

In 2014, Jeff accepted a position as the Director of FAA's Accident Investigation Division, where he was responsible for ensuring implementation of FAA's policies for the investigations of all civil aircraft accidents and incidents in the U.S. He served as FAA's primary liaison with the NTSB, and supervised an elite group of senior investigators who represented the FAA Administrator during high-visibility airplane and helicopter accident investigations. He was the FAA spokesperson at three NTSB Public Hearings involving fatal commercial aviation accidents, and he provided expert counsel for FAA when required, including depositions, regarding aviation safety and helicopter operations. Jeff also served as the FAA representative on the Helicopter Association International (HAI) Safety Committee.

Jeff retired from the FAA in February 2019 and established Guzzetti Aviation Risk Discovery LLC (GuARD). He is a graduate from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a B.S. degree in Aeronautical Engineering. Jeff is also an FAA-certificated licensed commercial instrument-rated pilot.