Paper ID: 16329 oral

SPACE OPERATIONS SYMPOSIUM (B6) Flight Control Operations Virtual Forum (4)

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LESSONS LEARNED FROM COMBINING ASTRONAUT TRAINING AND FLIGHT CONTROL OPERATIONS

Abstract

Previously, NASA had two distinct and independent groups for training astronauts for missions and for operating systems in the Mission Control Center (MCC). After a major reorganization, the groups were combined and cross training between the two areas of expertise was encouraged by management. This presentation will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the reorganization. For example, there are tangible advantages to a crew trainer operating their system in MCC for the same mission in which he/she trained the crew. A major hurdle in the merger was creating a cross training flow in which to certify established MCC operators to train crew or experienced crew trainers to operate systems in MCC. Additionally, best practices from NASA spaceflight training and mission operations will be shared. The focus of this presentation will be on the communications systems of the International Space Station (ISS), and the lessons learned during the merger of the two functions of human-based flight control.