



Grand Fellowship Award Jack Hessburg - Boeing Chief Mechanic (retired)

SEATTLE, Washington, USA, July 24 2013. Jack Hessburg, who retired as Chief Mechanic at Boeing in 1999, has been awarded the Grand Fellowship, the highest Award that the MIRCE Akademy can bestow on an individual, *“for the unique contribution to the scientific understanding of the aviation maintenance process that is the building block of Mirce Mechanics”*.

Hessburg was the first person designated chief mechanic by a commercial airplane manufacturer. In his role as chief mechanic at Boeing, Hessburg led a group of more than 100 mechanics in designing features into the 777 that have made it one of the most maintenance-friendly airplanes in the world. In this role he fought many battles with the Boeing designers on behalf of the airline maintainers, continuously stressing *“aircraft manufacturers are in airplane business while airlines are in transportation business”*.

One, of the numerous examples, was moving the recirculating fan motor from its original location. The initial design placed it in an overhead compartment and at arm's length from a mechanic, requiring the mechanic to stand on a ladder to reach it. When Hessburg realised that the motor weighed 20 pounds, he asked one of his 777 mechanics to stand on a ladder and hold a 20-pound barbell at arm's length. The mechanic nearly fell off the ladder, Hessburg said, proving the point that the motor needed to be relocated.

Many of the maintenance improvements Hessburg suggested for the 777 have contributed to the success of that model, as well as other Boeing twinjets. In addition, the design standards and methodologies developed for the 777 are successfully used in subsequent Boeing designs.

"Jack's groundbreaking efforts on the 777 helped make it the world's most technologically advanced airplane and allowed us to offer extremely high initial dispatch reliability," said George Field, Boeing Commercial Airplanes Group vice president - Technical Services.

Since the first delivery of 777 to United Airlines in May 1995, more than 1000 have been delivered worldwide. The fleet regularly delivers schedule reliability rate of over 99% per cent, meaning that 99.percent of the time the airplane departs the gate within 15 minutes of its scheduled departure. This high rate is one indicator of how well the 777 performs and how it requires little or no unscheduled maintenance between flights.

His efforts on behalf of maintenance features in the 777 design have been praised by airline customers and, in 1994, won him the Joe Chase Award from the Flight Safety Foundation and the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association. He was a recipient of the 1995 Commercial Aviation Engineering/ Technical Achievement award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. In 1997 Jack received an Industrial Fellowship from the University of Exeter for his contributions to the field of systems maintainability. In 1999, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Aviation MRO from Over-haul & Maintenance magazine and an Honorary Doctor of Science from the College of Aeronautics.

Both a mechanical engineer and an Airframe-and-Powerplant (A&P) mechanic, he served in a number of maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) capacities during his career. Before joining Boeing in 1973, he had a variety of jobs, including designing fuel cell power plants for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Director of Maintenance Training for Civil Air Transport, Director of Flight Crew Training for Saturn Airways, Instructor at Parks College in the Maintenance Engineering and A & P Mechanic Departments, and Systems Engineer at Northwest Airlines.

On 26th May 1999 Jack Hessburg officially opened the MIRCE Akademy and regularly participated in numerous activities organised and run by the Akademy, world wide.

Dr Knezevic, the founder and president of the MIRCE Akademy has delivered the Grand Fellowship Award to Jack Hessburg at the Seattle Medical Post Acute Care, where he was recovering after surviving a stroke earlier this year.

