



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **New Director of Flight Operations and Safety Selected**

**Richmond, VA** – Steve Harris has been selected as the new Director of the Flight Operations and Safety Division for the Virginia Department of Aviation. His responsibilities include management of the agency's air transportation services, safety programs, IS-BAO certification, and the overall management of the division.

A retired naval aviator and active general aviation pilot, Mr. Harris brings a strong background in flight operations and aircraft maintenance. He comes to the Department of Aviation from Tropic Ocean Airways where he was Vice President of Operations. Previously he was an Aviation Safety Inspector for the General Aviation Commercial Operations Branch (AFS-820) of the Federal Aviation Administration, Special Assistant to the President and Chief Pilot for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and spent 20 years as a naval officer and pilot flying maritime patrol aircraft throughout Europe and the Caribbean.

Mr. Harris holds an airline transport pilot certificate with the following ratings: airplane multi-engine, airplane single-engine land and sea; Certified Flight Instructor (CFI), Certified Flight Instructor – Instrument (CFII), and Multi-Engine Flight Instructor (MEI). He has flown military and general aviation aircraft for over 30 years and over 7,000 flight hours.

The Flight Operations and Safety Division operates two Hawker Beechcraft King Air 350 twin engine turboprop aircraft and one Cessna 206 single engine aircraft that provide air transportation services for state government. It also holds Aviation Safety Week programs across the Commonwealth to educate and inform Virginia's pilots about safety-related issues. The Virginia Department of Aviation's Flight Operations and Safety Division is the only International Standard for Business Aircraft Operations (IS-BAO) registered, state operated, flight department in the nation.

The Virginia Department of Aviation continually strives to become the standard of excellence among state aviation agencies through its cultivation of an advanced aviation system that is safe, secure and provides for economic development; its promotion of aviation education and awareness; and by providing flight services for Commonwealth leadership and state agencies.

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