BALPA NEW HEAD OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

As part of its vision of ‘making every flight a safe flight’ BALPA’s National Executive Council has established a new position of Head of Safety and Security and announce at the end of February that Dr Rob Hunter has been appointed to the post.

Captain Mark Searle, Chairman of BALPA, said “The creation of the new post reflects a concern that the industry is taking safety for granted. Investing in the position is a sign of the ambition of BALPA to make a difference. It is being created at a time of great change – in regulation (from the UK to Europe); in process (from specific regulations to risk analysis systems) and in the workload of flight crew.”

Dr Hunter is currently Head of the CAA’s Aviation Health Unit and a consultant specialist working in aviation medicine. He has Bachelor Degrees in Medicine, Surgery and Biomedical Sciences and an M.Sc. in Radiation Biology. During his time at CAA Rob trained and secured a commercial pilots’ licence and flew for FlyGlobespan on Boeing 767. As part of his appointment Dr Hunter will be supported in continuing to fly and keeping current.

Of his appointment he commented, “It was during my time at FlyGlobespan that I developed an appreciation of the human factors that are essential to safe flight. The current challenge of new European fatigue regulations is one of the issues that I look forward to addressing, but my excitement in securing this position is being able to work on the broad but inter-connected agenda that delivers flight safety.”

He has been a member of the Safety Risks Team (SRT) for the past four years which works across the CAA Safety Regulation Group (SRG) to consider the management of risks within the UK aviation industry. He is a member of the Loss of Control Task Force that works with industry and other stakeholders to address a principal cause of public transport aircraft accidents and incidents. He chairs the SRT Space Weather Group, a cross CAA group that manages CAA preparedness in all areas such as navigation and communications in advance of the forthcoming solar maxima. In addition he was a Non-Executive Director for the Health Protection Agency including the Emergency Response Division; a body set up to address natural and terrorist derived national emergencies. He has represented CAA at CHIRP.

Dr Hunter will play a leadership role as well as working alongside BALPA’s existing structure of experts and staff. An early task will be to identify key priorities and report to the National Executive Council on what changes are
necessary to make sure resources are focussed on their delivery.