

Mr. Col White

Mr. Col White is a Senior Systems Engineer in the Edinburgh office of Nova Systems and has been a Novan for the past 13 years. Contrary to popular belief – and mischievous rumour – Col's first Nova safari suit did NOT come from his personal wardrobe.

Col is a highly qualified test and evaluation (T&E) specialist. He is a former Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) officer who spent much of his military service in four tours of duty at the RAAF's Aircraft Research and Development Unit (ARDU) (the first one starting in Jan 1979) and a 3-year tour at the United States Naval Air Warfare Centre in Patuxent River, Maryland in the mid 80s. Col is a qualified Flight Test Engineer, being a graduate of the United States Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS - Class 78. He jokingly introduces himself as Flight Test Engineer to the Wright Brothers, but we all KNOW that introduction is actually a factual statement!!!!!!

Col has over 30 years experience in military and civil T&E, involving a wide variety of programs and he has had project engineer and project manager responsibilities in significant T&E tasks involving F/A-18 Hornet, F-14A Tomcat, F-111, F-4J Phantom, C130H Hercules, Boeing B707, KC-30A tanker and Sikorsky S-70A Black Hawk aircraft.

Over the course of his career, Col has accumulated in excess of 1100 flying hours as a qualified flight test crewmember in over 30 types of military and civil aircraft. Most notably, during his tour at the US Navy's Strike Aircraft Test Directorate, Col became qualified as a systems operator in the F-14 Tomcat aircraft, and subsequently participated as project crewmember on a number of significant USN F-14 test programs, including handling characteristics evaluations and automatic carrier landing system (ACLS) certifications. Courtesy of three ACLS certification programs (on the USS Nimitz, USS America and USS Ranger), Col is not backward in telling us whenever the opportunity arises that he has 25 cats and traps in his flight records and is a qualified tail-hooker. And to seal that "qualification", he was authorised by Commander Strike Aircraft Test Directorate to wear US Navy Flight Officer wings for the second half of his USN tour. Apparently, gold wings on a powder blue background made for interesting dialogue at the Miramar bar one Wednesday night in 1985.

In the past 13 years, Col has represented Nova Systems as an embedded Professional Service Provider (PSP) within the RAAF's Air Warfare Centre (AWC) as a Program Manager for the certification of a long-range air-to-ground missile on the F/A-18 Hornet, the flutter clearance of a number of weapon configurations on the F/A-18, the PC9 Operational Loads Monitoring (OLM) Program, and the KC-30A Air-to-Air Refuelling Clearance Programs for the RAAF F/A-18 variants, the RAAF and USN P-8A aircraft, and, most relevant to his presentation today, a wide variety of USAF boom receiver aircraft.