

## **69. Aviation Accident Boards (2:55)**

In aviation accidents, you have the investigation and the report. It's almost always pilot error. Yeah. Well those reports are really important - finding out what happened - not who's at fault.

That's not a fault finding investigation. Aircraft accident boards are to find out what happened to avoid it happening again. Were you ever on one? Yeah you were on an Aviation mishap board. Oh yeah. That's the one I had with the CO and the helicopter.

I was on a number of accident boards. How do you get picked for that? Do you know? Just that you are a member. You fly the airplane, you're qualified in the airplane and you're on the air station and they have a board. They had minor accidents and whatever it was you get picked for the board.

Is that a judicial process? No, no - it's really a fact finding process. The aircraft accident board - again - is not to find fault. It's to find out what happened so you can then know what happened and try and let it not happen again. Obviously, sometimes you can find out whose fault it was and what happened whether it was pilot error or a failure of the controls or of a part that broke or whatever. But that's what the accident board is for.

Why I wasn't exposed to those very often was because I don't - we just didn't have many accidents. I was like all aviators but I had more hours than some people For the years I was in the military. I had more hours than a lot of people. So my exposure was greater.

We just didn't have many accidents. We just didn't and fortunately I went through my whole career and I never lost - I was never at an air station where we lost a crew. Now they've lost crews at the air stations I've been at before and after but not while I was there and, of course, that's got to be really tough because when you lose crew members that you fly with daily - that's really tough.

### **Related Primary Leadership Principles**

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Effective Use of Resources

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Feedback

Courage

Information

Credibility

Military Core Values