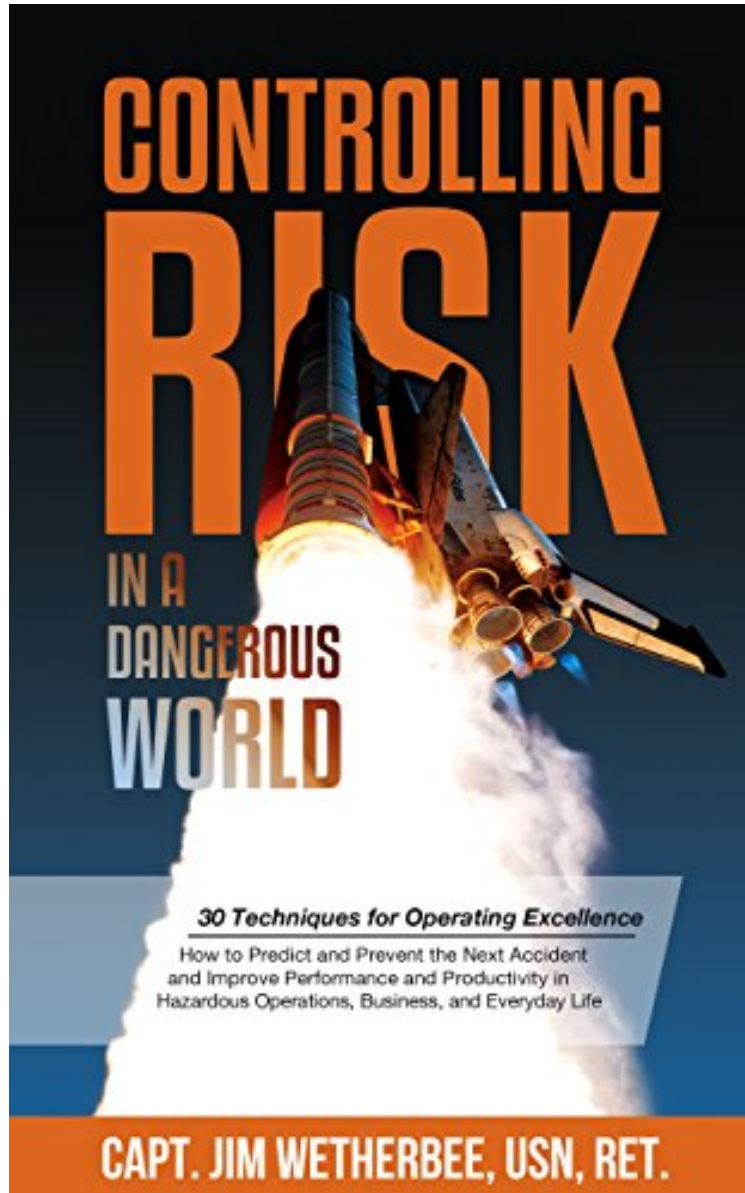


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Controlling Risk: Thirty Techniques for Operating Excellence

Jim Wetherbee

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Jim Wetherbee : Controlling Risk: Thirty Techniques for Operating Excellence before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Controlling Risk: Thirty Techniques for Operating Excellence:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing book, fun read, powerful adviceBy Jonathan H. WardJim Wetherbee was the only five-time space shuttle commander. When your butt is on the line, he's the guy you would really want calling the shots and pushing the buttons."Controlling Risk" is not your average textbook on risk

assessment and mitigation. Wetherbee draws on his extensive experience as a Navy pilot, space shuttle astronaut, and consultant in the oil and gas industry to provide seemingly countless examples of techniques for improving operating excellence. He has included photos from many of his Navy and space missions as illustrations. He even liberally uses photos taken from his car (while stopped) to identify risky situations or ask thought-provoking questions. Does that pack of cigarettes on the motorcycle dash say something about the bikers' attitude toward risk? Wetherbee brings the book to life with his self-effacing stories and humility. He readily shares many stories of when he screwed up and what he learned as a consequence. For example, he discusses learning the hard way that he had not paid sufficient attention to the procedures for using the zero-gravity toilet before his first space mission. I learned a lot from this book, and it's helped me change the way I approach even relatively minor tasks. Starting up my leaf blower, let's use The Three L's: Have I Lined up the parts properly? Is anyone in the Line of fire? What's the List of possible outcomes if something goes wrong? I also enjoyed trying to put myself in the mindset of someone who has to undertake such complex actions as starting up the hydraulic units on the space shuttle. Of the 22 switches you have to flip, some of them don't have immediate negative consequences if they're in the wrong position at the start. But they will blow the back end off the ship once you get into space if they're set wrong. So you follow the procedures in setting them - but your double-check is to have thoughtfully memorized what the overall pattern of switches should look like. That's relatable to the frustration I felt in writing up the process for my mother to use the three remotes she needed for turning on her TV and cable system. If she missed a step, she didn't know what the proper configuration was supposed to look like, so the written procedure was useless at that point. Wetherbee's book is a very enjoyable read. Maybe not something you'd take to the beach with you, but it's very interesting to think about how to apply his techniques to everyday life.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My favorite piece of the blue print is buried deep in ...By Customer While at its core a blue print for "operating excellence" in hazardous operations, Captain Wetherbee has much to offer to those of us who deal with the welfare and safety of individuals in far less dramatic environments. It is a reminder that we are no less called to excellence in our own work and personal environments, and that in making the effort to meet this call, our own lives and the lives of others with whom we work, live and play are enhanced. Well documented and preeminently researched, Captain Wetherbee's first hand, vivid accounts of experiences drawn from years of service over a distinguished career, coupled with his insightful analysis and reflection, are what really drive its lessons home. From split second thinking during a heart racing fighter jet aircraft carrier landing to the calm, controlled landing of the Space Shuttle decades later, the reader is treated to a memorable firsthand account of excellence. My favorite piece of the blue print is buried deep in Captain Wetherbee's book. He writes, "Balance confidence with humility. Keep your confidence inside and let your humility shine outside to highlight others." With each page of this wonderful book, Captain Wetherbee shows that he built his career based on this personal maxim. He does not miss an opportunity to give credit to, acknowledge, or thank those who played a part in his accomplishments. This, as much as anything else, is sound and universal advice from a man who has literally and figuratively soared to the pinnacle.

Patricia Tuckman, Esq. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book is an excellent read! Beautifully written - Captain Wetherbee expertly combines ...By Customer This book is an excellent read! Beautifully written - Captain Wetherbee expertly combines knowledge, experience and humor while earning credibility from his readers. His personal anecdotes are somehow simultaneously relatable and extraordinary (literally and figuratively out of this world!), which make it easy for me to confidently apply his recommended techniques to both my personal and professional lives. The contents are incredibly versatile in that Captain Wetherbee's suggestions are not confined to any one particular field - as he claims, they are techniques for a "dangerous world" and thus are functional in a variety of workplace conditions. As advertised, this book is perfect for any manager or frontline worker in a dangerous field, but to my great surprise, it is also beneficial and applicable for any layman looking to expand his knowledge and increase his chances of survival and success. I learned a great deal from this book. As a doctor working in a clinical setting, I have been able to apply several of Captain Wetherbee's techniques to improve care for my patients. Not only that, many of the techniques encourage introspective examination and have allowed me to enhance my interpersonal relationships with colleagues and friends. I cannot overstate how inspired I feel after finishing Captain Wetherbee's book! I intend to live a long, healthy life, and I am confident the knowledge gleaned from this book will help me do so!

Controlling Risk—In A Dangerous World How do operators prevent the next accident that is inevitably trying to kill them? How do they improve performance? Can they do both simultaneously? On the front lines of danger, operators face hazards and make life-and-death decisions in dynamic, complex situations. They are the last line of defense trying to prevent death and destruction. What happens if they don't succeed? After accidents, organizations typically issue new rules. These will work—for a while—in preventing similar accidents. But accidents are rarely simple. Hardware does not "just break." A company may be blindsided by another accident that no one thought would occur. Investigators determine the latest catastrophe was tragically similar to a forgotten previous accident. Again, new rules are issued and procedures are updated—yet the cycle of accidents continues. Organizations, and operators, must need something more than rules and procedures. Since the beginning of

the space program, astronauts have been developing techniques to help flight crews stay alive and accomplish dangerous missions in the unforgiving environment of space. Astronauts—and operators in every hazardous profession—have learned how to achieve better performance and accomplish more missions with higher quality. In *Controlling Risk*, you will learn how to operate better, work together, improve performance in your high-risk business, and accomplish much more in your dangerous world!

About the Author Jim Wetherbee is the only astronaut to have commanded five Space Shuttle missions. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in Aerospace Engineering, he began his life-long journey of controlling risk as a naval aviator, while flying in single-seat cockpits from aircraft carriers on the high seas. Wetherbee's leadership roles as a military test pilot, astronaut, and safety executive in the oil and gas industry from the front lines to the executive level—have given him valuable experiences and insights into dangerous businesses.