

Captain Helena (Reidemar) Cunningham has held the position Director SMS in the ALPA Air Safety Organization since March 2019, prior to that she held the position of Director of Human Factors for six years.

She was elected as IFALPA SM Working Group Chair in 2021 and in that capacity serves as an advisor to the ICAO SMP Annex 19. At present she is the Central Air Safety Chair for Delta ALPA. She is currently a Captain of the Boeing 757//767 at Delta Air Lines. Before that, she was a 717 Captain and previously a DC-9 First Officer instructor for 10 years.

She has participated in human factors specific industry and academic research and has been published in numerous journals and books over the past 20+ years. She served as a CIRP coordinator for 5 years and Human Factors Subcommittee chair for nearly 20 years at Northwest Airlines and Delta Air Lines ALPA and three years ago, she was appointed as the sub-chair for SMS at DALPA.

Captain Cunningham earned a BS in aviation management from Southern Illinois University; dual specialization (safety & operations) MAS in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University–Daytona Beach; and a PhD ABD in safety engineering. Currently, she is an adjunct professor at the University of Memphis graduate human factors certificate program and has been teaching for over nine years at three universities.

Co-chair of A Practical Guide for Effective Pilot Monitoring working group with deliverable document published by the Flight Safety Foundation in 2014.

She was elected Fellow at the Royal Aeronautical Society in London in 2014.

She received the 2014 Air Safety Award from the Air Line Pilots Association, International

She served six years in the Illinois Army National Guard, and currently resides in Ann Arbor, Michigan with her husband and children.