

# Key Elements of Academic Training

*Jeffery Schroeder*

ICAO Regional Workshop on Loss of  
Control in-Flight and UPRT  
November 17, 2020



Federal Aviation  
Administration



# Main Points

- COVID-19 is a UPRT learning opportunity!
- Read and understand the Airplane Upset Recovery Training Aid, **REVISION 2**
  - It's free
  - Reread until you can pass its test
- Don't oversimplify the past...it can happen to you

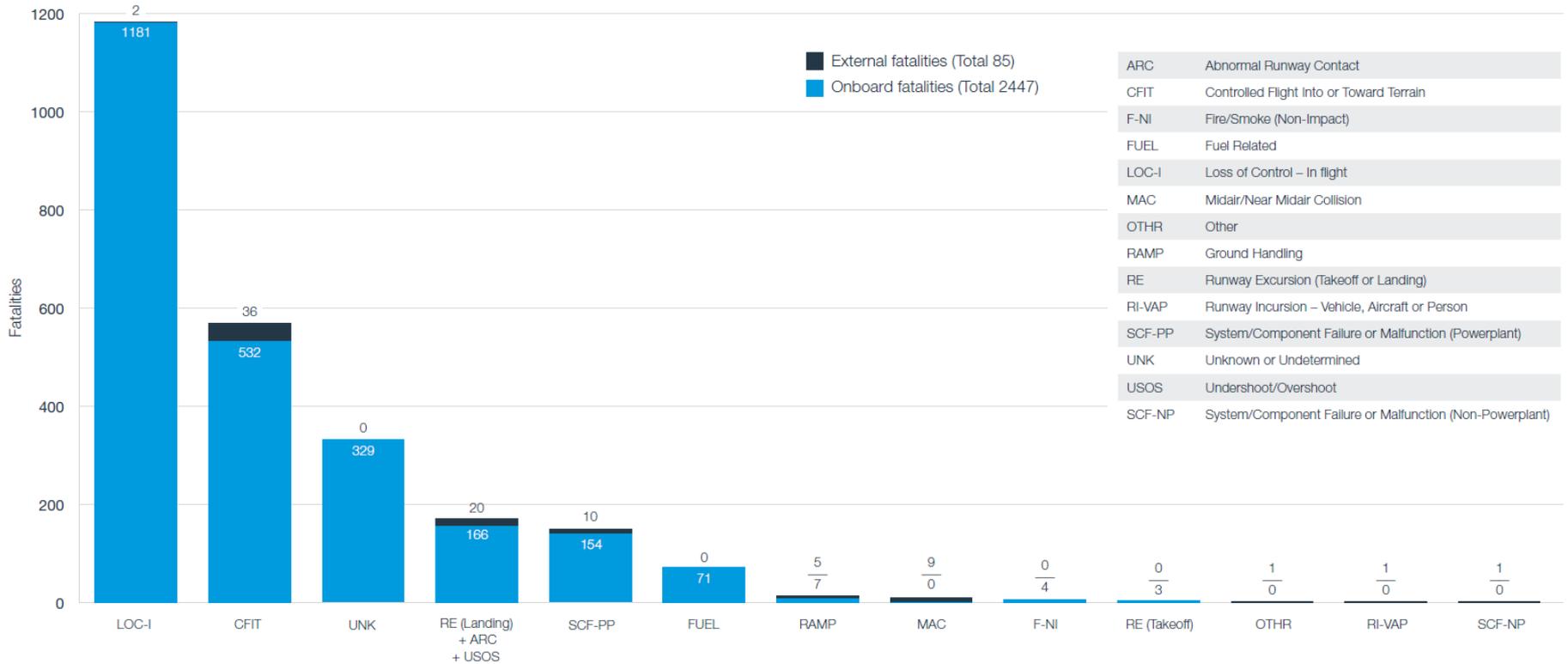
# Groups Who Have Taken FAA Course



No one from Africa yet, but you are welcome – it's free

# Upset Accidents and Incidents

Fatal Accidents | Worldwide Commercial Jet Fleet | 2009 through 2018



# Where to find academic topics

AC 120-109A, Chapter 3

AC 120-111, Appendix 1



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration

## Advisory Circular

**Subject:** Stall Prevention and Recovery  
Training

**Date:** 11/24/15

**AC No:** 120-109A

**Initiated by:** AFS-200 **Change:**

This advisory circular (AC) provides guidance for training, testing, and checking pilots to ensure correct responses to impending and full stalls. For air carriers, Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 contains the applicable regulatory requirements. Although this AC is directed to part 121 air carriers, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) encourages all air carriers, airplane operators, pilot schools, and training centers to use this guidance for stall prevention training, testing, and checking. This guidance was created for operators of transport category airplanes; however, many of the principles apply to all airplanes. The content was developed based on a review of recommended practices developed by major airplane manufacturers, labor organizations, air carriers, training organizations, simulator manufacturers, and industry representative organizations.

This AC includes the following core principles:

- Reducing angle of attack (AOA) is the most important pilot action in recovering from an impending or full stall.
- Pilot training should emphasize teaching the same recovery technique for impending stalls and full stalls.
- Evaluation criteria for a recovery from an impending stall should not include a predetermined value for altitude loss. Instead, criteria should consider the multitude of external and internal variables that affect the recovery altitude.
- Once the stall recovery procedure is mastered by maneuver-based training, stall prevention training should include realistic scenarios that could be encountered in operational conditions, including impending stalls with the autopilot engaged at high altitudes.
- Full stall training is an instructor-guided, hands-on experience of applying the stall recovery procedure and will allow the pilot to experience the associated flight dynamics from stall onset through the recovery.

This revision of AC 120-109 reflects new part 121 regulatory terms and incorporates the full stall training requirement of Public Law 111-216. Considerable evaluation of the full flight simulator (FFS) must occur before conducting full stall training in simulation. Reference Appendix 5 for FFS evaluation considerations.

John S. Duncan  
Director, Flight Standards Service



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Aviation  
Administration

## Advisory Circular

**Subject:** Upset Prevention and Recovery  
Training

**Date:**

**AC No:** 120-UPRT

**Initiated by:** AFS-200 **Change:**

This advisory circular (AC) describes the philosophy and recommended training for airplane Upset Prevention and Recovery Training (UPRT). The goal of this AC is to provide recommended practices and guidance for academic and flight simulation training device (FSTD) training for pilots to prevent developing upset conditions and ensure correct and consistent recovery responses to upsets. The AC was created from recommended practices developed by major airplane manufacturers, labor organizations, air carriers, training organizations, simulator manufacturers, and industry representative organizations. This AC provides guidance to Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 121 air carriers implementing the regulatory requirements of §§ 121.419, 121.423, 121.424, and 121.427. Although this AC is directed to air carriers to implement part 121 regulations, the FAA encourages all airplane operators, pilot schools, and training centers to implement UPRT and to use the guidance contained in this AC, as applicable to the type of airplane in which training is conducted.

Although a stall is categorized as an upset, this AC does not cover stall prevention and recovery training. This training, which includes the requirement for full stall training, is contained in the current edition of AC 120-109, Stall Prevention and Recovery Training.

Core principles of this AC include:

- Enhanced instructor training on the limitations of simulation.
- Comprehensive pilot academic training on aerodynamics.
- Early recognition of divergence from intended flight path.
- Upset prevention through improvements in manual handling skills.
- Progressive intervention strategies for the pilot monitoring.

**CAUTION:** Prior to commencing UPRT, air carriers should review and implement Guidance Bulletin 11-05, *FSTD Evaluation Recommendations for Upset Recovery Training Maneuvers* to ensure FSTDs are specifically evaluated for UPRT maneuvers. Otherwise, negative transfer of training could occur.

John S. Duncan  
Director, Flight Standards Service

# Big picture academic recommendations

## Inputs

Incidents

Accidents

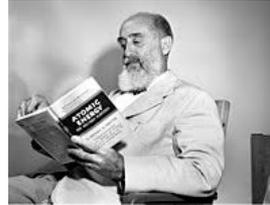
ASAP data

FOQA data

ASRS data

Airplane Upset  
Recovery Training Aid

## Method



General to specific

## Building result

Situational  
awareness

Insight

Knowledge

Skills



# Knowledge areas from FAA guidance

- Airplane certification differences
- Factors leading to a stall event
- Normal and degraded modes for envelope protection
- System malfunctions
- Aerodynamics
- Energy management
- High altitude considerations
- Causes and contributing factors
- G awareness
- Specialized flight training elements
- Airplane-specific systems knowledge
- Flightpath management
- Recovery procedures
- Example events
- Review of accidents and incidents
- Recognition

# Knowledge areas from FAA guidance

- Airplane certification differences
- Factors leading to a stall event
- Normal and degraded modes for envelope protection
- System malfunctions
- Aerodynamics
- Energy management
- High altitude considerations
- Causes and contributing factors
- G awareness
- Specialized flight training elements
- Airplane-specific systems knowledge
- Flightpath management
- Recovery procedures
- Example events
- Review of accidents and incidents
- Recognition

Least important



Most important

**Note: This is MY unscientific ordering, not the FAA's**

# Knowledge areas

- Airplane certification differences
  - The rudder
- Factors leading to a stall event
  - Mach effects
- Normal and degraded modes for envelope protection
  - Effects of degraded protection modes
- System malfunctions
  - Partial automation effects
- Aerodynamics
  - Stability
- Energy management
  - Late awareness of an energy problem
- High altitude considerations
  - Effects of thrust
- Causes and contributing factors
  - Can't control Mother Nature
- G awareness
  - Bridging the training gap to the airplane
- Specialized flight training elements
  - Loss of reliable airspeed
- Airplane-specific systems knowledge
  - Effective use of displays for prevention and recovery
- Flightpath management
  - Manual flight skill deficiencies
- Recovery procedures
  - Smooth, deliberate, positive inputs
- Example events
  - The thinking that they can't happen to you
- Review of accidents and incidents
  - Oversimplifying
- Recognition
  - Crew inefficiency

# Biggest issue for each knowledge area

- Airplane certification differences



3.8g symmetrical load limit

Asymmetrical (rolling while pulling) limit scales to that



2.5g symmetrical load limit

Asymmetrical (rolling while pulling) limit scales to that

# Biggest issue for each knowledge area

- Factors leading to a stall event
  - Mach effects

## A330 example



$M=0.3$ ,  $AOA_{stall} = 10$  degs



$M=0.82$ ,  $AOA_{stall} = 4$  degs

# Knowledge areas

- Normal and degraded modes for envelope protection
  - Effects of degraded protection modes
    - Example: Stabilizer trimming in Alternate vs Direct

# Knowledge areas

- System malfunctions
  - Partial automation effects
    - Example 2007 Thomsonfly B737-300 stall incident



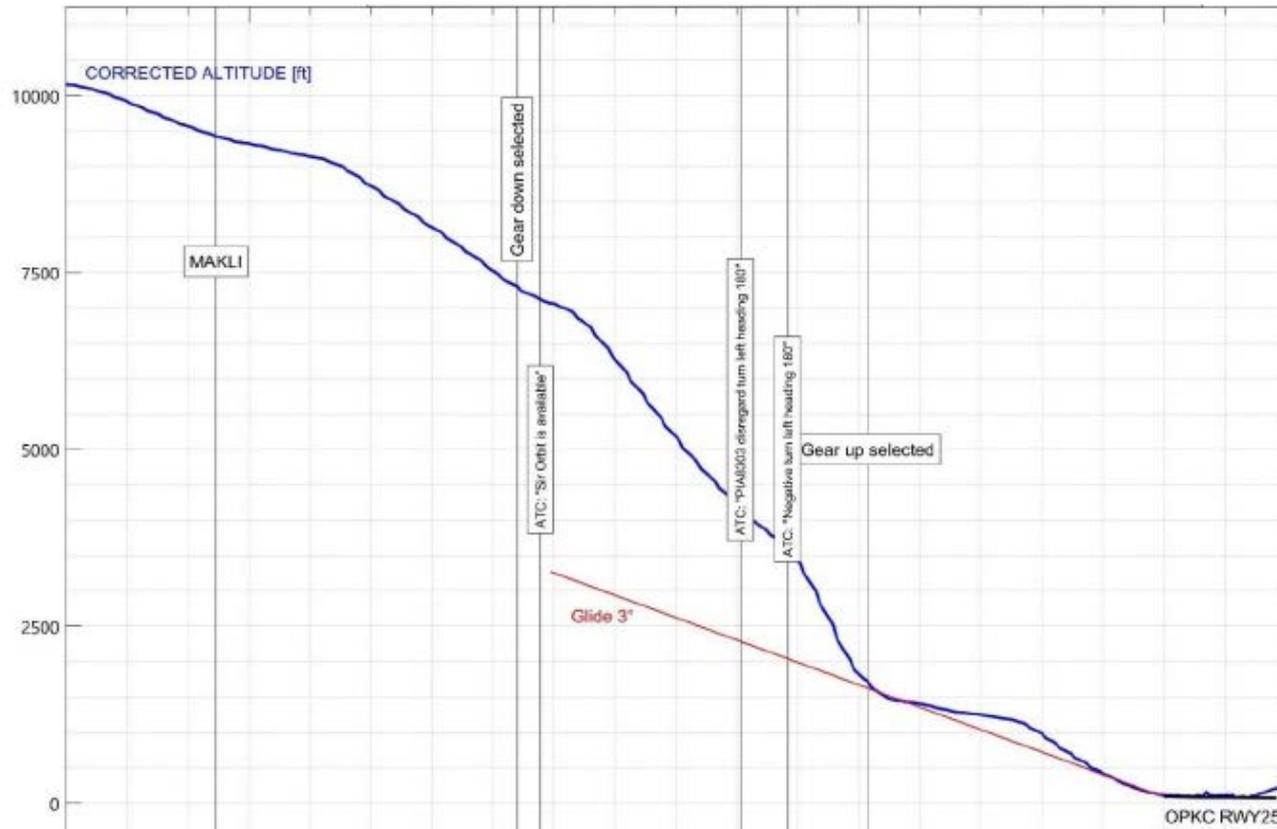
# Knowledge areas

- Aerodynamics
  - Stability
    - Examples – high-altitude CRJ stalls when on backside



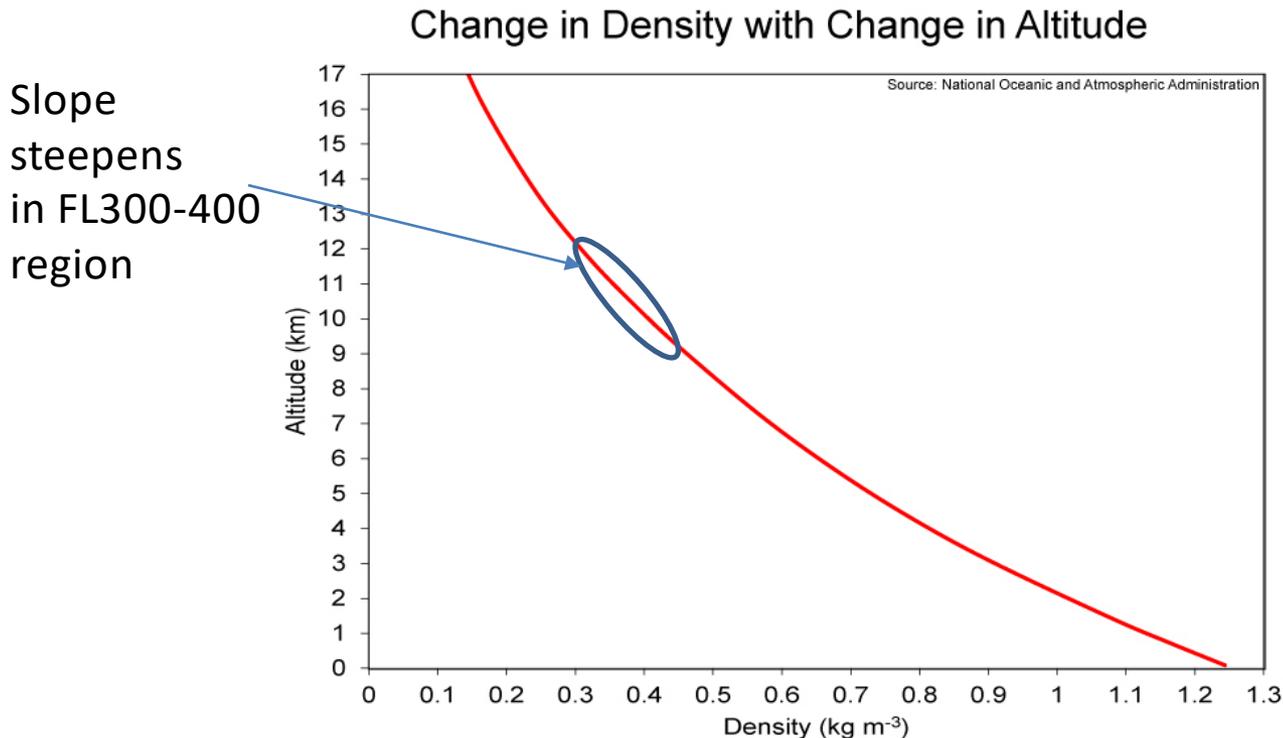
# Knowledge areas

- Energy management
  - Late awareness of an energy problem
    - Example Pakistan International Flight 8303



# Knowledge areas

- High altitude considerations
  - Effects of thrust
    - $\text{Thrust}_{\text{altitude}} \approx \text{Thrust}_{\text{sea level}} * (\text{density ratio})$



# Knowledge areas

- Causes and contributing factors
  - Can't control Mother Nature
    - Still have instances of flying into known, poor conditions



# Knowledge areas

- G awareness
  - Bridging the training gap to the airplane
    - Talked about in “lessons learned”
    - Instructors must bridge the gap between sim and flight



# Knowledge areas

- Specialized flight training elements
  - Loss of reliable airspeed
    - Often too much time taken to recognize and correct
    - Get the most “fails” of all our simulator scenarios
    - Condition continues to occur across many aircraft



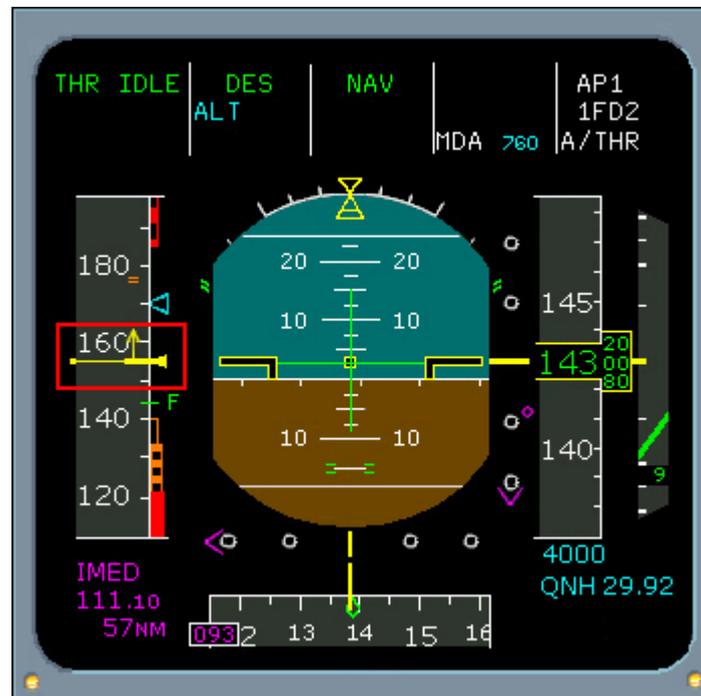
CPT PFD



FO PFD

# Knowledge areas

- Airplane-specific systems knowledge
  - Effective use of displays for prevention and recovery
    - A lot of information that is not completely appreciated



Current mode  
Mode transition  
AOA and its limit  
Speed trend and target  
Pitch limit indicators (some)  
Sideslip  
Descent rate  
Attitudes  
Flightpath

GREAT for academics – Can set up “describe what’s wrong here” exercises

# Knowledge areas

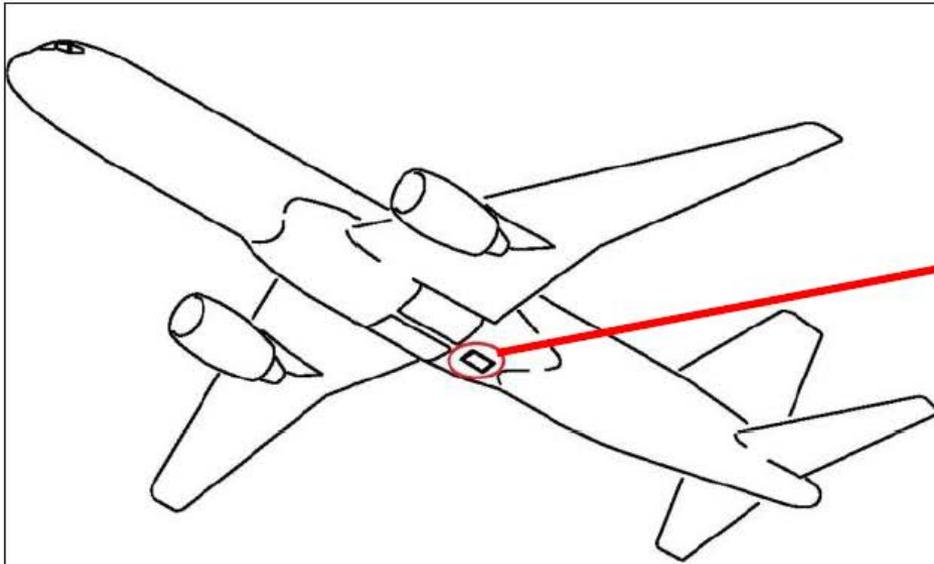
- Flightpath management
  - Manual flight skill deficiencies

*The safety systems that the industry has developed and implemented over the last twenty years are based on the assumption of two fully trained, capable and experienced pilots in the cockpit, with each pilot able to be the absolute master of the aircraft in every possible situation at every moment.*

Chesley B. Sullenberger III,

# Knowledge areas

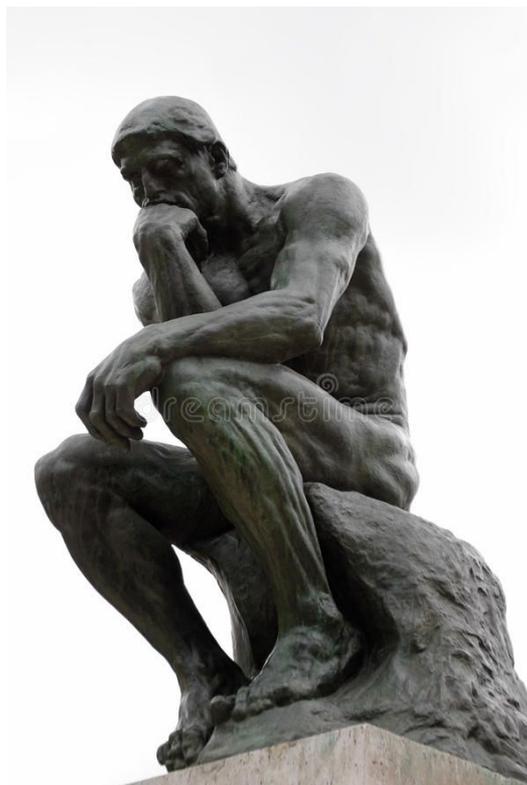
- Recovery procedures
  - Smooth, deliberate, positive inputs
    - Average airline pilot is smooth
    - Have instances of overcontrol



United Airlines 2013 757 Serious Incident, below 0g three times: -0.36g to 1.72g

# Knowledge areas

- Example events
  - The thinking that they can't happen to you
    - Reflection and introspection is hard for humans (and pilots)
    - Many accident reports now also cover similar instances!



# Knowledge areas

- Review of accidents and incidents
  - Beware: human nature is to oversimplify
    - Oversimplifying is comforting
    - Oversimplifying requires less thought and effort
    - Oversimplifying allows you to easily rationalize
  - Example: Air France 447. Many oversimplify.
    - They should have went to reasonable pitch and power settings
    - They shouldn't have had two F/Os flying in that situation
    - They shouldn't have followed the flight director
    - They should have known they were stalled with that buffet
    - They should have lowered the nose with that stall warning
    - They should not both have been flying (at times)
    - They should have been trained for that situation
    - They should have known they were stalled with that ROD
    - They should have used the trim wheel to lower the nose
  - It wasn't that simple...

# Knowledge areas

- Recognition
  - Crew inefficiency
    - In my opinion, there are opportunities for working better as a crew for UPRT
  - Instruction aims almost exclusively at pilot flying
  - We give little guidance to the pilot monitoring
  - We know “two heads are better than one”
    - Yet, several eye tracking studies suggest both pilots have similar scans
  - One airline had arguments over the pilot flying saying “My airplane” ...particularly when that was the F/O
    - That hints at the opportunity for improvement
  - I don't have the solution yet

# Conclusions

- COVID-19 is a UPRT learning opportunity!
- Read and understand the Airplane Upset Recovery Training Aid, **REVISION 2**
  - It's free
  - Reread until you can pass its test
- Don't oversimplify the past...it can happen to you

# Backups

## Pitch damping at different altitudes, with same IAS

5,000 ft



FL350



- Same pitch rate gives different tail lifts!
- This causes less pitch damping at higher altitudes

## AoA difference at the tail (IAS=200 kts, 5 deg/sec, 747 example)

5,000 ft



True airspeed = 215 kts



# AoA difference at the tail

(IAS=200 kts, 5 deg/sec, 747 example)

5,000 ft



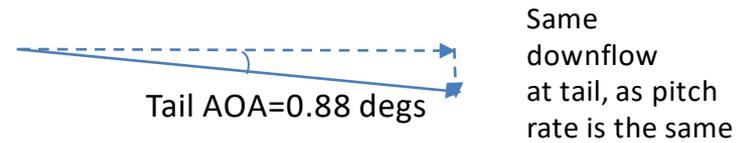
True airspeed = 215 kts



FL350



Higher True airspeed = 347 kts



# AoA difference at the tail

(IAS=200 kts, 5 deg/sec, 747 example)

5,000 ft



True airspeed = 215 kts

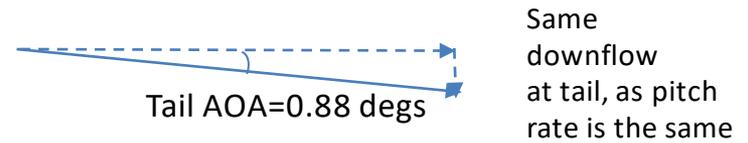


FL350



37% less tail lift

Higher True airspeed = 347 kts



## AoA difference at the tail (IAS=200 kts, 5 deg/sec, 747 example)

5,000 ft



True airspeed = 215 kts

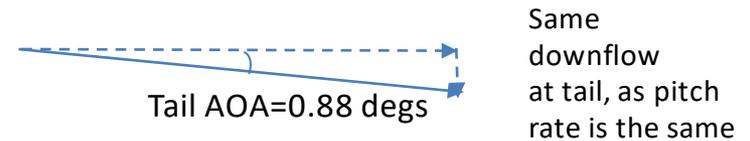


FL350



37% less  
tail lift

Higher True airspeed = 347 kts



So, pitch damping is 37% less at the higher altitude, which makes it harder to control