

Efficient Flight Operations

Captain Richard Sowden

Air Canada Flight Operations

Agenda

- > Building a Strong Foundation
- > Efficient Flight Planning
- > Efficient Flight Operation
- > Making it work



Foundation for Success

Four "corner posts" required to support improving efficiency:
 Accountability

- > All departments & employees must be financially accountable for fuel consumption
- » Measurement
 - > Efficiency must be continually measured & reported
- » Policy and SOP's
 - > Consistent policy & SOP's that promote efficiency
- » Employee engagement
 - > Employees must be actively engaged through education, training and checking activities to be efficient



Efficient Flight Planning

- Vertical & lateral optimization yield valuable efficiencies, but the biggest returns come from two key areas:
 - » Alternate Selection
 - » Additional Fuel
- > Fuel choices must be "risk based", informed decisions
- Clearly defined policy, in addition to safety & regulatory requirements, is needed to define corporate expectations to pilots and dispatchers

Alternate Selection

- Select and manage the destination alternate based on the likelihood of actually going to the alternate
 - » Alternate choice is based on analysis of destination & alternate weather and approach facilities
 - » Use collaborative decision making for "hub" airports
 - » If the likelihood of going to the alternate is:
 - > Low, choose the closest legal alternate
 - > High, choose an alternate that is commercially beneficial as well as safe & legal



Additional Fuel

- > Additional fuel is a risk management tool, the challenge is to make informed decisions
- Additional fuel is boarded for four primary reasons:
 - » ATC Delays
 - » Flight below planned altitude for a period of time
 - » Weather deviation (Convective Storms)
 - » Go-around & second approach
- > The problem no/limited guidance provided to pilots & dispatchers for these scenarios
 - » Result inconsistent, inaccurate and excessive amounts of fuel being boarded



ATC Delays

- Two key strategies to make better decisions:
 - » City pair, time based analysis of actual flight data to derive a statistical value of additional fuel for each flight
 - > Provide the flight crews with time/fuel details on the Operational Flight Plan (OFP)
 - » Use of Air Traffic Service Provider airport capacity/demand tools
 - > Append information to OFP and/or make tools available to pilots & dispatchers



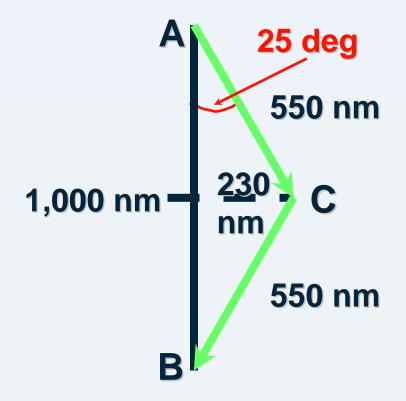
Flight Below Planned Altitude

- Provide pilots & dispatchers with guidance on the best way to calculate the fuel required for flight at lower than planned altitudes for a portion of the flight:
 - » Encourage the use of flight planning systems to analyze alternate altitude scenarios and board incremental fuel difference
 - » In table form, based on manufacturer's data for pilots to carry on board the aircraft



Weather Deviation

- > Typical values added 15 minutes
- > What does 15 minutes buy?



Weather Deviation

> What do you really need?



Second Approach

- Use aircraft manufacturer's data to calculate:
 - » Go-around fuel
 - » Approach fuel
 - » Fuel for positioning vectors
- Provide pilots & dispatchers with information on the fuel required for a go-around & second approach, including reasonable expected values for ATC vectoring



Efficient Flight Operation

- Operating flights efficiently must consider all phases of flight, key focus areas are:
 - » APU use
 - » Engine-out taxi
 - » Departure profiles
 - » Decelerated approaches
 - » Reduced flap landings
 - » Idle Reverse Thrust on Landing



APU USE

- > SOP's to minimize APU use:
 - » Key requirement is full ground support (electrical & conditioned air) at all times
 - » Start APU 10 minutes prior to departure
 - » Start APU Prior to gate arrival for immediate engine shutdown
 - » APU shutdown 5 minutes after gate arrival
- Ground handling contracts to specify:
 - » Full ground support requirement
 - » Financial penalties for non-compliance



Engine-out Taxi

- > Define as normal & expected SOP
- > Debunk the urban myths:
 - » One engine at higher power setting actually burns less than two engines for same thrust output
 - » APU & Engine start cycle costs
 - » Engine thermal stabilization requirements
 - » Flight deck workload
 - » Checklist management
- > Train crews from day one
- Reinforce requirement during recurrent training & checking events



Departure Profiles

- Vertical departure profile selection by flight crew needs to be dependent on requirements to make on-course turn
- > If on-course turn is:
 - » Distance dependant, then accelerate and retract flaps as soon as possible
 - » Altitude dependant, climb at V_2 + 10 to achieve required altitude, commence turn, and when within 90° of on-course track accelerate and retract flaps



Decelerated Approaches

- Aircraft configuration for landing (flaps & landing gear) to be based on aircraft altitude rather than distance from final approach fix (FAF), resulting in:
 - » Superior aircraft energy management
 - » Consistent approach technique
 - » Continuous idle descent profile to 1,000 ft. AGL stabilization point
 - » Lower noise levels



Reduced Flap Landings

- > Full flap not required in many cases
- > Reduced flap landings offer:
 - » Fuel savings
 - » Time savings
 - » Quieter approaches
 - » Superior go-around performance
 - » Superior engine-out performance



Idle Reverse Thrust

- Aircraft landing performance data is in most cases based on not using reverse thrust
- > Carbon brakes have different properties than steel brakes and the wear rate is:
 - » Reduced at higher temperatures
 - » A function of the number of applications
- Using idle reverse thrust on landing results in:
 - » Improved fuel efficiency
 - » Reduced engine FOD maintenance costs
 - » Noise reduction
 - » No negative effects on brake wear



Making it work

- > Success is driven by:
 - » Education:
 - > Each employee and department has a role to play in being fuel efficient
 - > Every business decision must consider fuel right after safety
 - » Measurement:
 - > Attribution of fuel consumption costs must be measured as rigorously as fuel purchasing costs
 - » Accountability:
 - > Upper management must hold all departments financially accountable for activities that impact fuel burn by cross-charging department or third party for fuel consumption costs

