

**FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
ORLANDO FLIGHT STANDARDS DISTRICT OFFICE
FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM**

**PROGRESS REPORT
November 19, 2004**

The following report briefly summarizes the Orlando Flight Standards District Office Flight Instructor Special Emphasis Program, since implementation of the initiative on September 1, 1998, and provides specific information regarding development of the extraordinarily successful partnership achieved between the FAA and the flight training community operating within the Orlando District. While contributing to an 80% reduction in flight training accidents and incidents occurring within the Orlando District over the past 6 years, this System Safety approach has specifically supported the Administrator's Safer Skies Agenda and could be considered an integral part of the Administrator's Flight Plan to reduce general aviation fatal accidents.

The Program was originally designed to increase awareness among flight instructors of their instructional responsibilities, to improve the quality of flight instruction within the flight schools, and to achieve a reduction in the number of flight training accidents and incidents occurring within the District. To accomplish these goals, a more direct and focused FAA involvement with the flight training community was implemented, to specifically include a more positive, educationally oriented FAA presence associated with the Orlando District's flight training operations. Additionally, increased monitoring of Part 141 flight schools was initiated, as well as FAA assignment of all initial flight instructor practical tests, comprehensive investigations of all accidents and incidents involving flight training operations, and reexamination of flight instructors who failed to meet their instructional responsibilities.

All activity has been conducted in accordance with the provisions of FAA Order 8700.1, Chapter 11, and accomplished within available resources of the office. Most importantly, however, the activity described herein has been conducted in a positive, educational manner, which has developed a very valuable, cooperative partnership between the FAA and industry, resulting in the successful accomplishment of mutual goals related to flight training safety.

The results of the Program have been remarkable. As an example, in FY 1998, prior to the beginning of the Program, 60 flight training accidents and incidents occurred within the Orlando FSDO geographical area. In FY 2004, after 6 years of operation of the Program, 12 flight training accidents and incidents occurred within the District, which represents an 80% reduction in such mishaps since implementation of the initiative. To further illustrate the progress of the Program, information representing the 6 year history of the initiative since it's implementation just prior to the beginning of FY 1999 is provided as follows:

**ORLANDO FSDO-15
FLIGHT TRAINING ACCIDENTS & INCIDENTS
FY1998 through FY 2004**

<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>
60	38	24	28	22	18	12

It is important to note that flight training hours flown during the time period indicated above increased by approximately 30% from FY 1999 through almost the end of FY2001. After the events of September 11, 2001, flight training hours flown decreased by approximately 30%, but

returned to approximately pre 9-11 event numbers at the end of FY 2004. Accordingly, the raw numbers shown in the table above represent a relatively accurate trend in the Program's record.

Development of the Orlando Flight Instructor Special Emphasis Program has been based upon an ongoing analysis of causal factors associated with flight training accidents and incidents occurring within the District, and specific documentation of deficiencies noted during initial flight instructor practical tests conducted within the District. Information derived from these efforts, as well as other critical elements associated with flight training, have been collaboratively shared with the flight training community in a pro-active, cooperative, and educational manner.

Team members of the Orlando Flight Instructor Special Emphasis Program and the Orlando FSDO Safety Program Managers have developed a variety of different methods to help "get the word out" to all personnel involved in flight training and flight testing within the Orlando District. Some of the more notable methods are listed as follows:

- The CFI Enhanced Safety Program (CFI-ESP), a monthly seminar conducted at the Orlando FSDO, aimed at initial flight instructor candidates, but open to all;
- The CFI Road Show, a series of seminars conducted at the major flight schools located within the District;
- Tailored flight testing standardization for Designated Pilot Examiners (DPE's), especially Flight Instructor Examiners (FIE's), and Aviation Safety Inspectors (ASI's);
- Bi-weekly Flight Instructor Special Emphasis Program meetings; conducted at the Orlando FSDO and through a conference call bridge line, wherein ASI's and FIE's discuss practical test results, trends, recent flight training accidents or incidents, and standardization issues;
- The CFI Workshop, an annual flight training seminar conducted at the FAA Production Studios in Lakeland, FL, for flight instructors, but open to all;
- An ongoing line-up of dynamic aviation subject matter experts conducting seminars at the FAA Production Studios and elsewhere in the district;
- The Aviation Training Network (ATN); a subscriber-based satellite downlink tailored to aviation safety awareness. The network is active in 45 states and 5 countries, and reaches over 6,000 viewers;
- Effective websites (www.faa.gov/fsdo/orl and <http://www.faa-productionstudios.com/>) to link users with various FAA and industry training resources around the country and video presentations from the FAA Production Studios;
- Particular emphasis on the Pilot Proficiency ("Wings") Award Program;
- Aggressive recruitment of Aviation Safety Counselors (ASC's) and other volunteers;
- Use of remedial training in lieu of enforcement action whenever possible;
- Aggressive promotion of the Internet-based Safety Program Airman Notification System (SPANS); www.faa.gov/faasafety

The initiatives described herein have significantly contributed to the extraordinarily successful partnership developed between the FAA and the flight training community operating within the Orlando District. Most significantly, the statistical validity of the Orlando Flight Instructor Special Emphasis Program has provided reliable evidence that strategically directed and intensified FAA involvement in flight training and pilot certification activities, conducted in a collaborative partnership with industry, is an essential core element associated with aviation safety.

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