Personal Safety Culture: A New Measure for General Aviation Pilots

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Presentation Overview

- Why did we do it?
- How did we do it?
- What is next?
Why did we do it?

• Loss of Control Working Group
  — Two-year review
  — Multiple safety recommendations

• Safety Enhancement 33 (SE-33)

Need for a scale to measure safety culture of those general aviation pilots who operate outside of a formal flying organization
How did we do it?

• Conducted literature review
  — 167 documents
  — Key theme in literature: organizational safety culture
• Developed an initial instrument
  — Identified 5 themes w/ 5-7 questions per theme
  — Adopted risk perception from Hunter (2006)²
  — Enlisted expert review for Face Validity
• Collected data
  — 379 surveys collected
  — Target was 300 for statistical analysis
• Analyzed and provided initial psychometrics
  — Instrument revised based on analysis
Methods

- Surveyed 379 pilots (45 female); average participant age was 22.03 (SD = 5.17) years old
- Minimum requirements; 18 years old and at least private pilot certificate
- Participants reported an average of 377.38 (SD = 727.12) total flight hours with an average of 19 (SD = 20.97) hours in previous 30 days
- A 33-question instrument was developed using a 5-point Likert scale
- Data gathering occurred during the Spring 2018 semester
- Sample of 300 was the target for the principle components analysis (PCA)
Results

- 344 of 379 questionnaires were deemed usable due to skipped questions

- Six questions removed; 27 items met criteria for the PCA
  - Three did not meet correlation coefficient requirements
  - One did not meet Kaiser-Myer-Olkin (KMO) requirements
  - Two were incorrectly coded in the instrument design

- PCA pre-checks indicated remaining data could be factorized

- Five components had eigenvalues greater than one suggesting retention
  - This make-up explained 60.94% of the total variance
  - Used Varimax orthogonal rotation; solution was a ‘simple structure’

- Bottom line: the components were deemed consistent with safety culture
Preliminary 5 Factor Scale Sections

Proposed Factors
- Personal commitment – 5 items
- Risk perception – 9 items
- Responsibility – 6 items
- Safety reporting – 7 items
- Learning – 6 items

Identified Factors
- Safety Attitudes – 11 items
- Risk Perception – 6 items
- Safety Citizenship – 3 items
- Safety Reporting – 4 items
- Safety Practice – 3 items
What is next?

- Expand data collection
- Conduct confirmatory factor analysis
Summary

• Improving GA safety is vital; ERAU provided expertise to aid safety efforts

• Project based on comprehensive literature review

• Initial data analysis resulted in development of 5 factor scale

• Next step is to expand data collection
Acknowledgement

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QUESTIONS?
References

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