

Elements of Airmanship

Airmanship Defined:

Airmanship is the consistent use of good judgment and well-developed skills to accomplish flight objectives.

This consistency is founded on a cornerstone of uncompromising flight discipline and is developed through systematic skill acquisition and proficiency. A high state of situational awareness completes the airmanship picture and is obtained through knowledge of one's self, aircraft, environment, team and risk.

Discipline

The will and ability to fly safely:

- Adhere to SOPs and rules
- Control your attitude
- Don't take chances in order to impress others or make flying more exciting
- Focus on immediate safety issues and prioritize tasks
- Think ahead and plan for problems that could occur

Skill and Proficiency

Develop through training and master through experience:

- Practice perceptual-motor and cognitive skills
- Practice under high stress, time pressure and high workload
- Take recurrent training seriously
- Practice recognizing when you have lost Situational Awareness
- Study decision making; look at good and bad decisions others have made
- Practice communicating with a variety of people
- Know how to assess yourself and the team
- Practice abnormal situations

Elements of Airmanship (continued)

Knowledge

Know your aircraft, environment, risks, mission, self and team:

- Understand all systems of the aircraft
- Know the limits of the aircraft
- Be aware of risks associated with maneuvers
- Review emergency procedures for the aircraft
- Review the flight plan
- Review flight conditions
- Know your own limitations
- Know the capabilities of other crewmembers
- Ask for help if you do not know something

Situational Awareness

Gather, interpret and plan:

- Gather as much information related to the flight as possible
- Understand which information is important and which is not
- Plan ahead and create a mental model of what should occur
- Constantly search for new relevant information
- Update your mental model based on new information
- Manage stressors that may affect situational awareness

Judgment

Evaluate and decide:

- Know how much time you have to make a decision
- Eliminate as much uncertainty as possible
- Use discipline, skill and proficiency, knowledge and situational awareness to evaluate the consequences of your decision
- Ask others for input if time permits
- Fully commit to your decision