

Now Available: The Aviator's Model Code of Conduct

By Michael S. Baum

How can every pilot improve safety? One answer, and perhaps the most important, is to look inward: recognize that pilot error remains the central cause of aircraft accidents and fatalities, and that sound judgment and effective decision making are the keys to reducing pilot error. Looking inward to forthrightly assess strengths and weaknesses enhances self-knowledge and encourages improvement. It's an active form of taking personal responsibility to make General Aviation safer and more fun.

A new resource has been developed to facilitate this approach, and to advance flight safety and airmanship—the *Aviators' Model Code of Conduct* (AMCC). Rigorously researched and peer-reviewed, the AMCC and its commentary serve to help pilots make better decisions. It stimulates thinking about self-regulation, promoting General Aviation (GA), and making flying a more rewarding experience. The AMCC may also contribute to safety management systems for small GA operations.

Since its launch in 2003, several versions have been published including Light Sport Aviator, Seaplane Pilot, and Student Pilot. Glider and Very Light Jet editions are forthcoming. The AMCC has also been translated into Chinese, Danish, French, German, Hebrew, and Spanish. All versions and translations plus sample passenger briefings and supporting materials are available at www.secureav.com. The project is overseen by a Permanent Editorial Board and an international team of professionals working together to provide expertise across diverse and relevant disciplines.

The AMCC is presented in the following seven sections: General Responsibilities of Aviators; Passengers and People on the Surface; Training and Proficiency; Security; Environmental Issues; Use of Technology; and the Advancement and Promotion of General Aviation. The AMCC will have a significant and positive impact on flight safety worldwide as recognition and acceptance grow. Here is a partial list of organizations around the world that have embraced the project:

- Avemco has published and distributed the AMCC free of charge to its 40,000+ policyholders and initiated, published, and distributed the Student Pilot version to all student pilots shortly after receiving their FAA Medical Certificates (to date reaching more than 6,000 student pilots).
- The FAA has recognized the AMCC by including it as an online pilot resource at www.faasafety.gov and has accepted an AMCC-based seminar providing national WINGS credit.
- The Cirrus Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) has created a COPA version of the AMCC, the “CCC” (COPA Code of Conduct). The CCC is distributed to all members, integrated into training and education programs, and published as a series in *Cirrus Pilot* magazine (circulation 3,000; association membership more than 2,000).
- Cirrus Design, Indus Aviation, Flight Design, Rotary Airforce, and Seawind have agreed to include the AMCC with each new aircraft delivery, and communicate its availability through other channels.
- The National Association of Flight Instructors has adopted the AMCC and posted it on its website.
- A number of flight schools have embraced the AMCC, including the world's largest non-profit flight school, West Valley Flying Club, Seattle-based The Flight Academy, and Las Vegas' FlyRight Aviation.
- The Flight Safety Foundation has distributed the AMCC to its membership in more than 140 countries around the world.
- *Flying* magazine featured the AMCC, as have other major GA publications.
- The Danish Flight Safety Council has published and distributed the AMCC at all Danish airports.
- Individual users continue to create unique implementations for diverse aircraft including gyroplanes and microlights, demonstrating the Code's broad adaptability.

Jim Lauerman, Exec. Vice President of Avemco Insurance Co. stated, “We are forced to look at the ugly side of aviation accidents every day and have a passion to see an improved safety record for this industry that we love so much. New technology can only take us so far. What we need is a culture change in general aviation and I believe the AMCC will be a major player in bringing that about.” Mike Radomsky, president of the Cirrus Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) remarked, “COPA's primary mission is to enhance safety among its members, and among the broader aviation community. Our version of the AMCC, the COPA Code of Conduct, is featured in our safety and training seminars, and is the center-

piece of a regular feature in *Cirrus Pilot*, our association magazine, where its emphasis on excellent aviation citizenship is always very well received by our readers.”

To support the project, an extensive written commentary has been developed to provide interpretive guidance and aid in implementing the AMCC. The commentary is intended primarily for implementers, policy administrators, and aviation association managers, as well as for pilots who wish to explore the code in greater depth. Sections of commentary are accessible on the web via hyperlink from corresponding text within the AMCC Web version. New sections of commentary are constantly under development.

The Web-version of the AMCC and associated resources are available at <http://www.secureav.com>. Your comments and suggestions about the AMCC are solicited – email the Permanent Editorial Board at: PEB@secureav.com.

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