

## Airplanes pilot skills (2): FAA urges an increase of courses

Washington, Usa - "A new kind of training is required"

(WAPA) - A Federal Aviation Administration report, due to be published later this year, is expected to establish a connection between accidents and inadequate training of pilots

FAA human factors expert, Kathy Abbott, is leading a team carrying out a study provisionally entitled "Operational use of flightpath management systems". Acknowledging the capability of today's sophisticated flight management systems, the study examines how successful pilots are at using them and the effect they have on pilot performance overall.

Abbott's mission is to "Review the operational use of, and training for, on-board systems for flightpath management". She presented her initial findings from the ongoing study at the Flight Safety Foundation international aviation safety seminar held on 3-5 November 2010 in Milan.

At the same event, four aviation industry heavyweights from Airbus, Boeing and the US Airline Pilots Association presented on subjects that acknowledged a worrying decline in line pilots' basic flying skills. There were three presentations on stalling and stall recovery and an entire presentation on the art of the go-around. Both subjects were topical because of recent stalling and go-around events in which pilots demonstrated insufficient knowledge and skill to handle them safely.

Abbott reveals that training is also failing to impart skills for managing advanced automation, suggesting that training at many airlines is deficient on all counts when it comes to ensuring that pilots gain and retain the skills needed for the job.

The evidence gathered by Abbott suggests, among other things, that pilots concentrate on programming the automation at the expense of monitoring the flightpath.

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