



Debriefing Flight Training and Operations

Objective To develop methods by which flight crews can debrief themselves in order to learn the most from flight simulation training and from line operations.

Approach Line Oriented Flight Training (LOFT) is used by airlines to provide continuing training to enable aircrews to manage effectively the challenges of line operations in both normal and abnormal situations. With the guidance of an instructor crews debrief themselves after LOFT to analyze what happened, why it happened, what they did well, and how they might improve their performance. We have recently completed a study that analyzes these debriefings and have prepared a training manual with which instructors can learn how best to facilitate self-analysis by crews. We are currently working with members of the operational community to show

- (i) how crews can enhance performance by debriefing themselves following line operations
- (ii) how safety departments can use facilitated debriefs to help crews understand and resolve problems resulting in safety deviations, and
- (iii) how companies can use facilitated debriefs to help employees deal with the emotional shock following accidents and critical incidents.

Impact Our findings will help the aviation community to understand its vulnerability to this class of error, to design flight simulation scenarios that realistically challenge crews, and to develop methods for managing concurrent task demands effectively. The net result will be safer operations.

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<http://humansystems.arc.nasa.gov/flightcognition>

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