



# **Airfreddy's Flying Stories**

## **Stories That *All Pilots* Can Learn From**

### **Story #1 Airfreddy's Interview**

This was a long time ago when I was trying to get on with a major airline as an instructor, not a pilot. I thought being a simulator instructor would be a pretty cool job, even though I hate the thought of working for someone. But I had an interview with this airline. I was about an hour early and brought the first version of my private pilot syllabus. I met one of the gentlemen that was interviewing me and ended up talking to him for my entire wait. I showed him my syllabus and told him how I loved teaching pilots and that I was an instructor and didn't want to sleep in hotels. We waited and waited. Soon another gentleman came in the room and said to the gentleman I was talking to that it was just them. They were the two people from the flight training department who were interviewing me. There were supposed to be two more from human resources but they didn't show up for the interview.

So we went thru the interview and I ended up talking to the gentleman again for about an hour after the interview. Then I waited and waited and waited. Then the dreaded day came. I opened the mail and there it was Dear Fred: Thank you for taking part in our interview process bla bla bla. We are sorry bla bla bla. What a bummer!

Finally I called one of my friends and told him the story. He said just call the person up and find out what happened. So I did and believe it or not he invited me

down to the airline training center to sit in on two days of training. I had a family member at the time who was a retired Pan Am Pilot and I told him the story and He said “They Don’t Do that, you grabbed their attention somehow”.

I went down to the training center got my two day temporary pass and went to class. The class was the two day recurrent ground training for the Airbus A-320. I heard so many stories about that plane in two days; I think I can write another book just on my experience. Anyhow I learned a lot about the Airbus and if I ever have to get in the cockpit I know who I am going to call on the radio!!

At the end of the second day the gentleman( who I found out was the Director of Flight Training ) invited me to chat in his office. He stated that human resources just took over the flight training department. That is why I was only interviewed by two people and not four as e it was supposed to be. He said if he had my application about two weeks before he would have hired me on the spot. Then he said that the human resources department wanted astronauts and he wanted someone who could teach. He said they are hiring them and I am firing them. Yes this was a major airline!

I didn’t have any jet time so I didn’t get the job and this is kind of funny as I had more flight instructor time than some of the line pilots had total time. They were also going to pay to train anyone they hired, type rating and everything. But while the human resources department didn’t like me; the flight training department loved me.

So the moral of the story is you may come across the best pilot in the world but if he/she can’t get the point across to you, you are not going to learn anything. Most flight instructors get to the magic hiring number, get a job and that is the end of flight instructing. They will keep their flight instructor certificate current just because they don’t want to take the flight instructor flight test again. (Yes it is that bad)

On the other hand there are airline pilots out there that are actively flight instructing and stay in the general aviation community though most don't . General aviation and the Airlines are two completely different ballgames. So don't get glossy eyed when you meet someone who says they are an airline pilot and an instructor. Remember almost all of them are. That is the time to start asking questions. Are you actively teaching? How long have you been actively teaching? Get some recent references.

Bottom line in choosing a flight instructor, make sure you find someone who enjoys teaching and has been around for a while and will commit to finishing your training. You don't want to loose your instructor half way thru your training.



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