



Airfreddy's Flying Stories

Stories That *All Pilots* Can Learn From

Story # 17: Late For The Flight Test

LATE FOR THE FLIGHT TEST: This is one thing that I always tell students: "make sure you are here before the examiner! ", and be ready to go!! One other thing I will tell you is that you have a very high chance of passing the first time around! If you get on the wrong side of the examiner he/she can and may bust you "legally".

We even went thru this at the Pilot Examiner seminar in Oklahoma City. A story inside a story here: It was the last day of the week long initial pilot standardization seminar. The entire class of about 25 was broken up into groups of 5. We had to give each other simulated oral exams- not long just for about 10 minutes or so. Of course in anything like this the joke is going to be on someone. Yes, it was me. I don't know about you but if you are sitting there watching people give simulated flight tests all day long, somewhere along the line you are going to need a joke.

Anyhow, it was my turn to be the examiner. The instructor got with my simulated student when I took a trip in the bathroom. Me, being a nice guy and a pretty diplomat went as long as I could. The simulated student was just being a total wise guy. Finally I said "that's it come back when you are serious". The instructor just laughed and said "I would have busted him a lot sooner than that"

So my point here is; respect the examiner. By the way, the guys in Oklahoma City were the greatest / funniest FAA people I know with the possible exception of my long time buddy in the control tower and one of my other friends who is a maintenance inspector at Scottsdale FSDO who also happens to be a student.

So back to the first story, the flight test was scheduled for 8.00 am or so. At 7.30 I called the student and got his voice mail (at that time I think it was an answering machine/ it was quite a few years ago). I figured he was just about to the airport. About 7.50 the examiner shows up and I haven't seen or heard from the student. The examiner just sat and waited. About 7.55 my phone rings and it is the student; he was still home and had a half an hour drive. I could not believe this. I have had last minute problems and had to cancel the night before. Things do happen and we are all human. But this was the first time I ever had a student know he had a flight test at a certain time and knowingly be late.

The examiner started pacing and I knew there was a problem. The student finally showed up about 45 minutes late. In the office they went. Within 10 minutes the examiner walked out, "Fred he doesn't know all of his procedure, call me when he does". Great just what I needed.



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