

# SAFETY GRAM 4.0

June 2021



## Air Force Aero Clubs,

In the past 5 months Air Force Aero Clubs have had three mishaps that have resulted in significant damage to aircraft. Fortunately there were not any injuries to pilots or passengers. Although each of these incidents are unrelated and specific causes are still being examined and investigated by each affected club I wanted to stress the importance of maintaining good Flight Discipline.

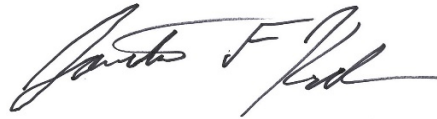
Good flight Discipline is following checklists, rejecting opportunities to take shortcuts, planning and preparing for problems before they arise, and operating in accordance with established procedures and regulations. Aviation statistics have shown that a majority of mishaps have some type of human error as casual factor. From student pilots to the most experienced instructors we need to learn to recognize when we are not practicing good flight discipline and immediately spot correct ourselves from negative and hazardous attitudes like impulsiveness, invulnerability, resignation, and complacency. We also need to be comfortable in recognizing and calling out pilots when they exhibit poor flight discipline. Even the most experienced pilots can have lapses where they may make poor decisions and it is important that that behavior pointed out and corrected.

Flight Discipline is the foundation of airmanship and must be practiced at all times to include preparation, in flight, and in debriefing. Managing hazardous attitudes is a central part of flight discipline and without it can lead to increased stress, higher workloads, and significant human errors. As professional aviators we must continue to strive to exhibit good flight discipline and overall character because the consequences if we don't are dire.

It is an enormous privilege to be able to grasp the stick or yoke and take flight and with that comes a greater responsibility to act accordingly. We must respect and protect the resources we have available to fly in within the Air Force Aero Club Enterprise and most importantly we need to understand if we don't and exhibit poor flight discipline the consequences may be more than repairing or replacing an aircraft it could cost someone their life.

Every Aero Club should have a candid conversation about flight discipline at their next Safety meeting and I encourage anyone who feels they need to report behaviors that exhibit poor flight discipline to do so to me via e-mail and I will keep the report anonymous or report via the Air Force ASAP program.

Fly Safely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan F. Koch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jonathan" and the last name "Koch" being the most prominent parts.

Jonathan "SAS" Koch, Lt Col, USAF  
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