



Sunny Swift

'Operations manual for parachute clubs'

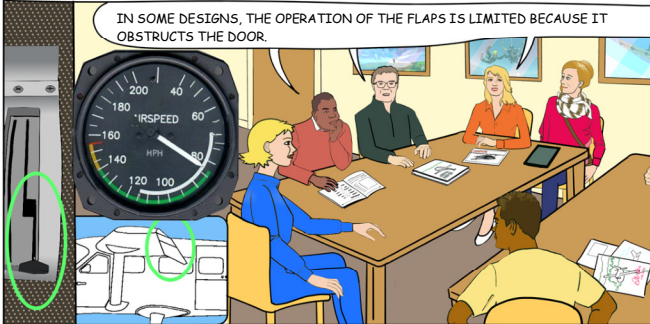
THE AERO CLUB IS PLANNING TO BUY A NEW AIRCRAFT MODEL. PILOTS AND PARACHUTISTS ARE COMPARING THE CHARACTERISTICS AND DISCUSSING ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ONES FOR PARACHUTE OPERATIONS.

SEE? THE AFM DOESN'T ALWAYS SPECIFY THE JUMP SPEED, AS A PILOT, TO HAVE A SUFFICIENT MARGIN FROM STALL, I RECOMMEND A MINIMUM JUMP SPEED OF 1.3 VS (STALL SPEED).

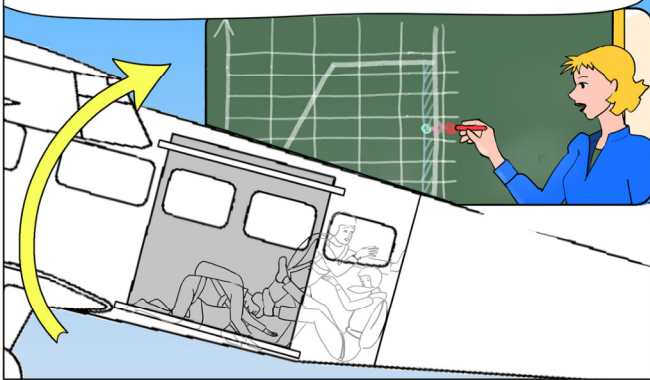
BUT THAT SPEED MIGHT BE TOO HIGH FOR THE SKYDIVER, HAVING DIFFICULTY HOLDING ON OUTSIDE, AND WITH THE RISK TO HIT THE AIRFRAME. A SPEED OF 110 KNOTS CAN BE UNCOMFORTABLE TO JUMP.

HMM, I SEE IT IS IMPORTANT TO USE THE RIGHT FLAP SETTING TO KEEP THE SPEED LOW.

IN SOME DESIGNS, THE OPERATION OF THE FLAPS IS LIMITED BECAUSE IT OBSTRUCTS THE DOOR.



ALSO, WHEN PLANNING THE LOAD, IT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ENSURE THAT **WEIGHT AND BALANCE** ARE WITHIN THE ENVELOPE **AT ALL TIMES**. THE MOMENT WHEN THE PARACHUTISTS MOVE BACK BEFORE JUMPING CAN BE CRITICAL. THEY MAY UPSET THE AIRCRAFT, CAUSING A STALL AND LOSS OF CONTROL – OR EXCESSIVE SPEED AND POSSIBLY A STRUCTURAL FAILURE.



TO PREVENT THIS, IT IS NECESSARY TO BE WELL PREPARED AND BRIEFED, AND DURING THE FLIGHT/DROP, DISCIPLINE AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PILOT AND LOAD ORGANISER ARE ESSENTIAL. IT'S WORTH HAVING CLEAR GUIDELINES. I KNOW THAT THE FINNISH AERONAUTICAL ASSOCIATION'S PARACHUTING COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED A GUIDE FOR OPERATIONS MANUALS FOR SKYDIVING CLUBS*.



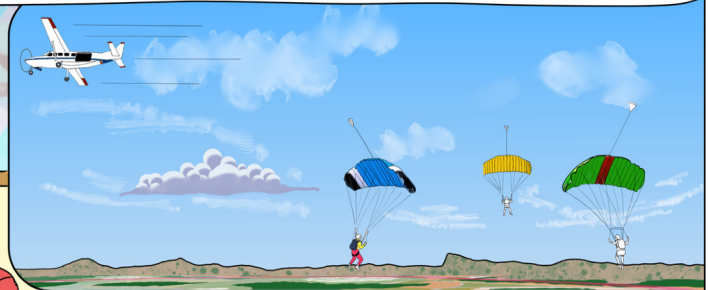
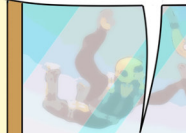
*WITH THE FACILITATION OF TRAFICOM AND THE SUPPORT OF AOPA FINLAND.

THE CLUB DECIDES TO DRAFT AN OPERATIONS MANUAL FOR ITS MEMBERS.

I SEE VALUE IN CREATING AIRCRAFT-SPECIFIC CHECKLISTS FOR PILOTS, LOAD ORGANISERS AND SKYDIVERS.

I AGREE BUT BE CAREEFUL – THIS HAS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE AFM. IN NO CASE SHOULD OPERATIONAL PILOTS AND/OR SKYDIVERS PERFORM ANY KIND OF EXPERIMENTATION/TESTING BY THEMSELVES TO DETERMINE THE RIGHT DROPPING ENVELOPE AND PROCEDURES.

LET'S DRAFT A MANUAL ADAPTED TO THE CLUB'S AIRCRAFT AND CHARACTERISTICS. THERE ARE SEVERAL ASPECTS WHICH MAY BE WORTH CLARIFYING, SUCH AS TRAINING, FLIGHT PREPARATION, CENTRE-OF-GRAVITY MANAGEMENT, INSTRUCTIONS FOR SKYDIVERS, ETC.



WHEN APPROVING AN AEROPLANE FOR DROPPING OF SKYDIVERS, IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO INCLUDE INTO THE AFM SUPPLEMENT ALSO NORMAL, ABNORMAL AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR PARADROPPING ACTIVITIES, AS APPROPRIATE

You can find links to:

- Operations manual for parachute clubs
 - Workshop for the skydiving community
 - Parachute operation accidents
- in the 'RELATED CONTENT' section

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