

Accelerated Flight & Instrument Training

With its career instructors and 10-day guarantee, AFIT offers an instrument rating like no other

The cockpit is eerily dark even though it's the middle of the day. Looking outside, it's as if someone has thrown a heavy gray blanket over the entire airplane. There isn't time to notice as controllers issue instructions, fast and steady, and you wrestle with checklists, instruments and keeping the bouncing airplane under control. The solid gray seems to thin a little as your peering eyes catch a small patch of ground below. The cloud floor gives way, and you see lights and the wet runway ahead welcoming you home. It was an almost flawless instrument approach.

The instrument certificate is the big daddy of ratings. Earning it requires discipline, study and practice. From your judgment to your ability to control the airplane in a precise manner, every one of your skills is exercised and tested. Aside from your private ticket, no other rating has as direct an influence on your safety and that of your passengers as the IFR certificate.

Because the instrument rating is demanding to earn, dedication is the secret to success. But some pilots will wallow in the quagmire of instrument training for years as they start and stop and forget everything in between. Accelerated Flight & Instrument Training (AFIT) is changing all that.

AFIT is dedicated to providing instrument training. While it also offers other advanced ratings, AFIT rests its reputation on its ability to get you instrument-rated. It boasts one of the most unique approaches (pardon the pun) to instrument training, which is based on three inventive ideas: 1) the school comes to you, 2) AFIT



uses only seasoned flight instructors and 3) training happens in a dedicated, 10-day block of time.

Coming To An Airport Near You

There's no dedicated AFIT training school; instead, AFIT comes to you. AFIT pairs each instrument student (the school prefers the term "client") with a dedicated instructor. That instructor comes to the client and conducts the training at the client's location, in the client's airplane. This is a huge advantage for busy executives or just about any pilot who dreads the thought of having to live out of a suitcase while training for the instrument rating at some distant school.

Nothing Beats Experience

The recent crash of the US Airways jet

in the Hudson River and the media's reference to it as the "Miracle on the Hudson" is an exemplary reminder that nothing beats experience in the cockpit. Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger not only kept his cool during the whole event, but also used his decades of experience to maneuver the Airbus into the river with hardly a splash. His nearly 40 years in the air gave him the confidence and skill to do what he did.

AFIT believes in that kind of experience. The average age of its instrument instructors is 55 to 58. "It's possible that it's up to 59," says Tony Montalte, AFIT's president and general manager. "We're talking about pilots with 2,000 IFR hours and 8,000 to 10,000 total hours of experience."

AFIT instructors are selected for their teaching ability, maturity and IFR operational experience. Instructors come to the program with a proven record of accomplishment—you won't find



people who are eager to build instructor time as a springboard to another flying job. Most of the 46 senior instructors have been with the company since its inception, and they're there because they enjoy what they do. These aren't pilots looking for a part-time job instructing at the local airport. "Their passion is instrument training," notes Montalte. "This is their full-time job." In return, AFIT treats its instructors well and affords them the benefits of a career position.

The instructor is assigned to a client for the entire training period. Because instructors treat instrument training as their career, the quality of instruction is miles beyond most facilities where CFIs are green twentysomething's with little real-world experience.

Give Us 10 Days

AFIT guarantees that it will get you instrument-rated in 10 days. The pace ensures that it'll be the most intense 10 days of training you've ever experienced. AFIT accomplishes this seemingly impossible task by immersing the client in the instrument world. According to Montalte, the client usually spends four or five hours in the morning doing ground training. After lunch, the client flies another four or five hours, sometimes more depending on the student. "They eat and sleep instrument training," says Montalte.

The Real World

An example of AFIT's successful training formula is Mike Corcoran, an orthopedic surgeon in Illinois and a consulting physician for the Chicago Bears. He sought an instrument rating because of the rigors of Midwestern weather systems. Corcoran's busy practice and his work with the Bears and other sports

organizations made regional travel a necessity, but finding time to earn the rating was a challenge.

Corcoran turned to AFIT and was paired with an instructor named Bill who had flown for more than 30 years in everything from Cessnas to Falcon jets. The training involved not only getting the rating, but also learning how to use the Garmin G1000. "Bill had me flying approaches five to six hours a day," recalls Corcoran. "We flew in real IFR right from the beginning and topped that with night IFR too."

When I spoke with Corcoran, he was still coming down from the experience. "At first, it was like drinking from a fire hydrant," he laughs, "Bill was imparting knowledge on me every waking moment. It was an amazing experience!" The training was so thorough that Corcoran calls his checkride, "the easiest day in the plane I've had." Corcoran and Bill formed a bond that continues to this day, and Corcoran calls his instructor, "a friend for life." Corcoran is pursuing more ratings as he builds on his mere 200-something hours in the air.

AFIT usually trains in your airplane, but if you don't have access to an airplane, AFIT has training relationships with FBOs across the country. The cost is \$595 per day, not including aircraft rental fees. AFIT provides course preparation documents that detail what you need to start training.

It's intense and it's demanding, but AFIT's unique training program will make you an instrument-rated pilot. After all, AFIT guarantees it. Learn more by visiting www.afit-info.com or calling (866) 270-8224. P&P

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