Graduation Ceremony

It was a treat for all the cadets at APFT as they attended 65 of their fellow colleagues’ graduation at the new hangar. This momentus event saw a crowd of over 400 people, inclusive of distinguished guests, cadets, parents and friends. Batches 7, 8, 9, 10 stood proudly as they welcomed the guest of honour, the Menteri Besar of Kelantan Y.A.B Tuan Guru Dato Haji Nik Abdul Aziz and later did a march pass before taking their seats.

After the signing ceremony for the opening of the hangar, the four batches prepared themselves to receive their wings. Y.A.B Tuan Guru Dato Haji Nik Abdul Aziz pinned each of the cadets their wings and gave them their scrolls. He presented the Top Gun Ab-Initio trophies, the Piloting Gold Medal and Academic Gold Medal trophies.

The guests of honour, cadets and family were treated to a high tea which included local delicacies like akok. After tea, the cadets and their families took memorable pictures with the diamond and piper aircraft that were lined up outside the hangar.
Chairman’s Message

I am proud to bring you this 5th issue of The Aviator. The first quarter of year 2009 has been busy for the academy as we completed our new hangar and moved the flight operations and engineering department there. The weather too permitted us to have batches 7, 8, 9 and 10 completing their flying and we had their graduation in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the new hangar by the Menteri Besar of Kelantan.

Ground school still remains in the old building and the extra space gave us more room to enhance the ground school facilities. Ground school is now positioned and accessible on the landside of the airport.

In this time, we have established the academy Alumni, whereby cadets can keep in touch with each other and the academy. The Alumni will be arranging activities for members including assisting graduates with their job placement.

One of the activities the academy has started with is inviting outside personalities to share their knowledge and experience with our cadets. Captain Kamil from MAS and Mr. Chee have started their series of lectures on Aviation safety.

I am pleased to announce that in the month of May we had a signing of an MOU with the Yayasan Terengganu, on the sponsoring of Terengganu State students taking up the Pilot Licence course at APFT. The Menteri Besar of Terengganu was witness to the occasion.

I would expect that we will be feeling the effects of the global recession this year and ought to be prepared for it. We have to endeavor to ensure that productivity and efficiency are achieved according to the KPI we have set for ourselves.

Dato’ Faruk Othman
On the 6th of May 2009, Asia Pacific Flight Training signed a Memorandum Of Understanding with Yayasan Terengganu and Malaysia Airlines Systems (MAS) at Wisma Darul Iman Building in Kuala Terengganu. The guest of honour was the Menteri Besar of Terengganu Y.A.B Dato’ Ahmad bin Said. The agreement was signed by the State Education, Higher Learning, Human Resource, Science and Technology Committee chairman Y.B. Ahmad Razif Abd Rahman representing Yayasan Terengganu, while MAS was represented by Executive Director, Y.M. Dato’ Tengku Azmil Zahruddin and APFT by its Chairman Dato’ Faruk Othman.

Yayasan Terengganu has allocated RM8.3 million for aviation related courses where 20 very lucky ‘Anak Terengganu’ will be funded to gain a commercial airlines pilot licence in APFT and continue with a secured job at MAS.

Dato’ Faruk expressed his gratitude to MAS for their support towards the development of skilled manpower in the aviation industry. APFT is proud to be a part of the training of more future MAS cadets, now sponsored by Yayasan Terengganu. This relationship with MAS gives APFT the opportunity to realize their cadet’s dreams, as Dato’ Faruk said in his speech, “Although the cadets have the opportunity to work with other airlines after they qualify, they still insist to work with MAS.”
The afternoon of 16th February 2009 saw the opening ceremony of APFT’s new hangar together with the graduation ceremony of batches 7, 8, 9, 10.

APFT’s expansion meant more aircraft and requirements for a larger hanger. Our hangar and parking space for aircraft were becoming congested. We requested for space from MAB and the location identified is at taxiway Charlie.

For the opening ceremony, the guest of honour was the Menteri Besar of Kelantan Y.A.B Tuan Guru Dato’ Haji Nik Abdul Aziz bin Nik Mat accompanied by his wife. They were greeted with a march pass by cadets from the four batches and welcomed by the Chairman, Dato’ Faruk Othman and CEO, Datin Nik Radiah, and the Principal, Dato’ Major(Rtd) Khalid bin Ali, together with a line up of APFT instructors.

The ceremony began with the APFT choir singing Negaraku, Kelantan’s state anthem “Selamat Sultan” and APFT’s school song “Dreams Realised”. The Chairman gave his speech mentioning the milestones the school has achieved which included the building of the new hangar. The hangar comprises the facilities for flight operations, engineering and space for aircraft maintenance work.
Y.A.B Tuan Guru Dato’ Haji Nik Abdul Aziz gave his speech and congratulated the school on its growth and how this has reflected the growth of Kelantan. He was very proud of the school’s achievements and hopes that there will be more aspiring pilots coming to Kota Bharu.

To mark the occasion, Y.A.B Tuan Guru Dato’ Haji Nik Abdul Aziz signed the plaque officiating the opening of the new hangar.
External Speakers

In order to give exposure to cadets on real live situations, APFT have arranged for a series of talks by external speakers. Subjects will range from aviation safety to drug abuse and health. These talks will add knowledge on top of the classroom subjects that they attend. This is one of the efforts by APFT to ensure that cadets get the most out of the training they undergo at the academy. It is also to ensure that cadets graduating are having the correct attitude and mindset towards becoming responsible and excellent airline pilots.

Safety Awareness Lecture by Captain Kamil

Captain Kamil gave the first of our series of talks. He was a Flight Safety Director from MAS, and as he said, flight safety is a subject close to his heart. It is an honour to have him sacrifice his time to spend it with our students and we are also grateful to the MAS management for allowing him to conduct the talk.

Captain Kamil attracted the attention of the cadets by cleverly starting his talk with “Flying is years of boredom punctuated by sheer moments of terror.”

He highlighted all the necessary safety requirements of a student, First Officer and Aircraft Commander. He also stressed that mental fitness and readiness in preparation of flight subject was important. He continued with highlighting several case studies.

The first incident is a BOEING 747 taxiing into the runway without ATC clearance and at the same time another aircraft was on final and had to overshoot to avoid the aircraft on the opposite runway. After the enquiry, it was found out that the aircrew on board had poor crew co-operation and poor cockpit resource management.

In 1995, in Tawau, a Fokker 50 landed and overshot the runaway, because the approach was too steep and handling of final approach was poor.

Another incident taken as an example is the Airbus A-300 B4 in Kg Subang, whereby the captain misjudged his landing, causing the aircraft to catch fire, killing all passengers and crew.

Captain Kamil briefed and analysed these incidents to ensure that all aircrew are aware of good planning and preparation before any flight. He stressed, “It is better for us to learn from the mistakes made by others because we might not live to learn from our own mistakes.”

ATC Safety Lecture by Mr Chee You Seng

Mr Chee You Seng, formally a Senior Air Traffic Control Officer visited the Crew Residence on the 18th of April 2009, to give a lecture on safety. This is the second safety talk organized at APFT for the benefit of the cadets and instructors. Cadets from batches 12, 13, 14 and 16 attended the talk.

Mr Chee briefed the cadets on aviation safety and the culture of safety. He then explained the meaning of an error and the varieties of errors in aviation – what we know as slips, lapses, mistakes and violations. These errors lead to incidents or worse, accidents. Mr. Chee gave examples of incidents and accidents mainly due to human errors.

He further went into examples of accidents by showing a video clip of a midair collision between B757-200 and TU154M near Ueberlingen, Germany on the 2nd of July 2001. After the case study, a discussion and evaluation were done. APFT cadets participated well and were very much involved in the discussion. Obtaining views from a highly experienced ATC member allows for a different perspective on safety for the cadets to draw upon. It is important that cadets realize that they have to work together with air traffic controllers, engineers and crew to ensure that the safety of the passengers is priority.
Accident reports from AAIB

Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) was set up in the United Kingdom to help improve aviation safety by looking at the causes of these accidents in the hopes that by learning from other’s experience, pilots can prevent these mistakes from happening again. The Aviator will, from time to time publish these reports as case studies for the benefit of APFT cadets as well as APFT Alumni who are now training with airlines.

**Aircraft Type:** DA 40 Diamond Star  
**Date & Time (UTC):** 30 August 2008 at 1510 hrs  
**Commander’s Experience:** Student, 17 Hours  

The student pilot had just landed from a solo flight and was taxiing back to parking. After making a left turn, he became distracted during a radio call and did not notice that the aircraft was still rolling towards the hangar. He tried to turn away but the aircraft’s right wing tip hit the side of the hangar, causing the aircraft to pivot to the right and the propeller struck the hangar door. The pilot shut down the engine and vacated the aircraft.

**Aircraft Type:** Reims Cessna F152  
**Date & Time (UTC):** August 2008, 1300 hrs  
**Commander’s Flying Experience:** 20 hours (of which 20 were on type)  

The pilot had been checked out for his first solo flight earlier in the day and subsequently completed the solo flight and a solo navigation exercise without incident. After a break for lunch he undertook a further solo navigation exercise. On returning to the airfield, the aircraft landed heavily, damaging the nose gear leg, the propeller and the engine. The pilot believed he might have flared too early; the instructor did not see the landing.

**Aircraft Type:** Piper PA28-189 Cherokee  
**Date & Time (UTC):** September 2008 at 1300hrs  
**Commander’s Flying Experience:** 483 hours (of which 390 were on type)  

The aircraft made an approach to land on a wet grass runway with a wind forecast to be 5kts from the left. Just after touching down, a gust of wind, considered by the pilot to be significantly in excess of the forecast, caused it to weathercock to the left. The aircraft drifted towards the left side of the runway despite the application of full right rudder and the left wingtip struck the end of a hedge. The pilot reported that he was unable to regain directional control following the initial weathercock because the grass was wet.

Being One Team

The first day we step foot in Kota Bharu, we realised that from this day onwards till the day we graduate we will not be living with beloved family and friends anymore. No more pampering from loving parents and no usual friends and familiar faces to hang out with. It was clear, a new beginning, a new environment, new family, friends and future colleagues are to be cherished, the Garuda Indonesia Batch 16.

The school’s disciplinary rule and environment allowed us to make good comrades. For instance, the parades we have, brought along togetherness among our batchmates. We would run and practice together on Saturday mornings to better prepare ourself for the semi military training we expect to get on our return to Indonesia. No matter how hot that day or how tired we were, we continued to march on. We knew from every drop of sweat, it takes one more brick to build what is called: “Teamwork”.

Groundschool was one of the best times to get to know each other. We can proudly say we had tried our best. No one said that CAA syllabus would be challenging. We had no idea how it was going to be. We all had our own way of getting through. Some had “on-class-understanding” and would pick up quickly on the lessons, another had “three-times-textbook” reread technique, others had “practice-make-confuse” technique sitting at the corner, we had “daydreamer man” scribbling mindmap of the lessons; others getting lost with their facts and theory. We even had our own discussion sessions at the Villa in study groups. It was a colourful rainbow of study techniques that helped everybody through.

Every middle of the month we would have meetings. The forum allowed us to share and discuss anything and gave us a chance to get to know each other. We would draw-a-lot to pick the new monthly Captain and Co-pilot and await turns to pick the largest KFC chicken piece or best pizza slice. The birthday boy or the solo boy would get special treatment of tickling and head-locking or egg-shower. It wasn’t always fun & friendly; we’ve had our quarrels and bitter words in the forum. It is not easy to always agree with 20 heads from different backgrounds, characters, needs and personalities, but it was the process of close friendship, communication, maturity and getting along.

With APFT’s best ground school performance in the country, so many things had been learnt and cherished from the instructors and each other. Unique phrases from Ground Instructor like “Am I right correct?”, and morning hail unique entrance to the class phrase, “Okaaaay! lets get confused”; It has all aided us to cherish and remember the good and bad times. We learned how to teach each other after a confusing class and support each other after a bad flight. It was important to have a sense of belonging to each other. We would all cherish the time spent to be one team. Dreams realised together!
APPT Alumni

APPT has established the school’s Alumni and graduates will have the opportunity to keep in touch with each other through the Alumni. To register, graduates are to supply their details to the Alumni Administrative at alumni@apft.edu.my

Helicopter Training

Mr. Richard Sanford (8th from left) from Mornington Sanford Aviation Training School, a Robinson 44 factory approved maintenance engineer, conducted the training for our engineers and technicians at APFT hangar in Kota Bharu.

Pooleys Agent

Great News! APPT is now a registered agent for Pooleys. Please refer to their website at www.pooleys.com to view their products. You can also have a look at their catalogues placed at both APPT offices in KL and KB. A discount will be given when you order through APPT.