INTERNATIONAL COMANCHE SOCIETY, INC.

# PILOT'S OPERATING HANDBOOK AND FAAAPPROVED AIRPLANE FLIGHT MANUAL

## PIPER PA-24-260B COMANCHE

**3100 POUNDS GROSS WEIGHT**

**1966 THROUGH 1968 (FUEL INJECTION MODEL ONLY)**

**APPLICABLE TO AIRPLANES WITH SERIAL NUMBERS:**
**24-4247 AND 24-4300 THROUGH 24-4803 EXCEPT 24-4783**

**SECOND ISSUE**



*www.comancheflyer.com*

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Austin, Texas

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THIS DOCUMENT IS COMPOSED OF A COMPILATION OF INFORMATION INCLUDING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER AND CONSTITUTES THE PILOT'S OPERATING HANDBOOK AND FAA APPROVED AIRPLANE FLIGHT MANUAL. ONLY SECTION *2* (LIMITATIONS) WITHIN THIS HANDBOOK IS FAA APPROVED.

This Handbook is modeled on GAMA Specification No. *1, Specification for Pilot's Operating Handbook,* issued February *15, 1975,* and revised September *1, 1984.*

The airplane is FAA approved in the Normal category based on CAR Part *3*.

THIS DOCUMENT OR PIPER REPORT *1359* MUST BE CARRIED IN THE AIRPLANE AT ALL TIMES AND MUST BE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PILOT DURING FLIGHT.

Approved by the Federal Aviation Administration

By: A. J. Merrill

A. J. Merrill, Manager
Special Certification Office
Federal Aviation Administration
Fort Worth, Texas 76193-0190

Date: November *1, 1996*

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# AIRPLANE FLIGHT MANUAL LOG OF REVISIONS

This Log of Revisions page is used to maintain a listing of all revised pages in Section 2, which is the FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual.

| Revision No. | Pages Revised | Description of Revision | FAA Approved By | Date |
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## PILOT'S OPERATING HANDBOOK LOG OF REVISIONS

This Log of Revisions page is used to maintain a listing of revised pages in all Sections other than Section 2.

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# PILOT'S OPERATING HANDBOOK AND FAA APPROVED AIRPLANE FLIGHT MANUAL

PIPER PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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## INTRODUCTION

This Pilot's Operating Handbook may be used as the FAA approved Airplane Flight Manual only if kept current. When this Handbook is used for airplane operational purposes, it is the responsibility of the owner/pilot to maintain it in a current status and to ensure that all pertinent data (including weight and balance and required supplements) are recorded in this Handbook.

## APPLICABILITY

Application of the information contained in this Handbook is limited to the specific group of Piper PA-24-260 airplanes as designated on the title page of this Handbook.

## NOTICE TO ALL PILOTS

This Handbook is intended to be used as a guide for the pilot in the operation of the airplane. It is not meant to be a substitute for adequate and competent flight instruction.

Information contained herein is designed to provide the pilot with a general knowledge of the airplane, and specific suggested Normal and Emergency Operating Procedures. It is intended to promote safety and is presented to enable the pilot to form, in advance, a plan of action for coping with the most probable situations that could occur in the operation of the airplane.

Assurance that the aircraft is maintained in an airworthy condition is the responsibility of the owner. The pilot-in-command is responsible for determining that the aircraft is safe for flight.

## SCOPE

This Handbook is divided into 10 numbered sections. Each section can be equipped with a tab divider for easier access to information that may be required in flight. With few exceptions, information presented herein does not consider any modifications that may have been made to the original aircraft.

Section 1 is information of **General** interest. The information presented is an overview of basic physical data, and performance specifications. Included also is an extensive glossary to clarify specific terms, some of which have conflicting usage or definitions that are different from contemporary usage. A table of conversion factors is included to address international usage and distribution.

Section 2 is operating **Limitations**. This section of the Handbook includes material required to be furnished to the pilot by Federal Aviation Regulations. Section 2 is the FAA approved part of this Handbook, and constitutes the Airplane Flight Manual. The pilot is by law responsible for remaining within the operating limitations as directed by instrument markings and placards located in the airplane and outlined in this section.

Section 3 is **Emergency Procedures**. This section can be equipped with a red tab divider for instant identification. The procedures are suggested as a course of action for coping with the particular condition described, but are not intended to be a substitute for sound judgment and common sense. It is recommended that the pilot review standard emergency procedures periodically with a Certified Flight Instructor to remain proficient in them.

Section 4 is **Normal Procedures**. This section can be equipped with a blue tab divider for instant identification. The procedures are intended as a source of reference and review, and to provide information on procedures that are not the same for all PA-24 aircraft. All of the procedures necessary for operation, as determined by the design features of the airplane, are presented.

Section 5 is airplane **Performance**. The information presented in this section is based on measured flight test data provided by Piper Aircraft. The data is presented in tabular and/or graphical form to illustrate the effect of different variables. A flight planning example is given which utilizes this data.

Section 6 is **Weight and Balance**. A procedure for calculating the weight and moment as well as a list of all equipment is provided. The aircraft owner can obtain the aid of an A&P mechanic to fill in this section with proper data. The pilot must ensure that the airplane is loaded within the approved weight and balance envelope before takeoff.

Section 7 is **Systems Description**. This section provides a text type description of the operation of the airplane's controls and its systems. Some equipment described within this part is optional.

Section 8 is **Maintenance** information. Recommended procedures for routine care and servicing of the aircraft are outlined in this section.

Section 9 is **Supplemental** information. This section covers miscellaneous information and optional equipment installed on the aircraft.

Section 10 is **Safety Information**. This section covers general information related to the safe and efficient operation of any aircraft.

## REVISIONS

Immediately following the title page of this Handbook are the "Log of Revisions" pages. When a revision to any information in this Handbook is made by the publisher, a new Log of Revisions will be issued. All revisions must be retained in the Handbook to provide a current record until a reissue is made. Revisions to Section 2 will be FAA approved prior to issue.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to express my gratitude to the many contributors to this Handbook for their advice, criticism and encouragement. I particularly want to recognize former ICS President Bill Creech, and ICS Technical Director Maurice Taylor, for without their leadership this Handbook would never have become a reality. I also want to acknowledge the International Comanche Society for their support. Keep the Spirit!

Douglas Killough, ICS 7248

## REFERENCES

Jane's Aerospace Dictionary - Gunston
Piper Report 1058 - British Airplane Flight Manual
Piper Report 1000 - Substantiation of Model PA-24
Piper Report 1359 - PA-24-260 Airplane Flight Manual
Flight Training Handbook - US Department of Transportation
Lycoming Operator's Manual - IO-540 Series Aircraft Engines
Airplane Performance Stability and Control - Perkins and Hage
Advanced Pilot's Flight Manual - Kershner
Aerodynamics For Naval Aviators - Hurt
Piper Comanche Owner's Handbook
Hartzell Propeller Owner's Manual
Piper Comanche Service Manual
Aircraft Specification No. 1A15
Lycoming Flyer Key Reprints

## PILOT'S OPERATING HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE FOR THE COMANCHE

This Handbook is one of **sixteen** modern format, GAMA style, manuals available for the Piper Comanche and Twin Comanche. The table below is provided to allow the owner to identify by year, model and serial number which Handbook is appropriate for each version of the airplane.

This Handbook is applicable **ONLY** to aircraft shown in bold type.

**Singles:**

| Manual Number | Model | Gross Weight | Year(s) Mfg. | Flight Manual Report Number | SN Begin | SN End |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01.) | 180 | 2550 | 1957-64 | 1047 | 24-1 | 3687 |
| 02.) | 250 | 2800 | 1958-60 | 997 | 103 | 2298 |
| 03.) | 250 | 2900 | 1961 | 1127 | 2299 | 2843 |
| 04.) | 250 | 2900 | 1962-64 | 1179 | 2844 | 3687 |
| 05.) | 250 | 2900 | 1962-64 | 1220 (FI) | 2844 | 3687 |
| 06.) | 260 | 2900 | 1965 | 1334 | 4000 | 4299 |
| 07.) | 260 | 2900 | 1965 | 1333 (Carb) | 4000 | 4299 |
| **08.)** | **260B** | **3100** | **1966-68** | **1359** | **4300** | **4803** |
| 09.) | 260B | 3100 | 1966-68 | 1358 (Carb) | 4300 | 4803 |
| 10.) | 260C | 3200 | 1969-72 | 1545 | 4804 | 5028 |
| 11.) | 260T | 3200 | 1970-72 | 1640 (Turbo) | 4901 | 5028 |
| 12.) | 400 | 3600 | 1964-65 | 1295 | 26-3 | 148 |

**Twins:**

| Manual Number | Model | Gross Weight | Year(s) Mfg. | Flight Manual Report Number | SN Begin | SN End |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13.) | PA30 | 3600 | 1963-68 | 1269 | 30-2 | 1744 |
| | | | 1969 | 1515 | 1745 | 2000 |
| 14.) | PA30T | 3725 | 1964-68 | 1269 (Turbo) | 143 | 1744 |
| | | | 1969 | 1515 (Turbo) | 1745 | 2000 |
| 15.) | PA39 | 3600 | 1970-72 | 1605 | 39-1 | 155 |
| 16.) | PA39T | 3725 | 1970-72 | 1605 (Turbo) | 1 | 155 |

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Austin, Texas

The superior pilot uses his superior judgment to avoid those situations which require the use of his superior skill.

Frank Borman

| | |
|---|---|
| Commander: | Gemini 7; Apollo 8 |
| President: | Eastern Airlines |

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# SECTION 1 - GENERAL

## PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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# THREE VIEW - COMANCHE PA-24-260B

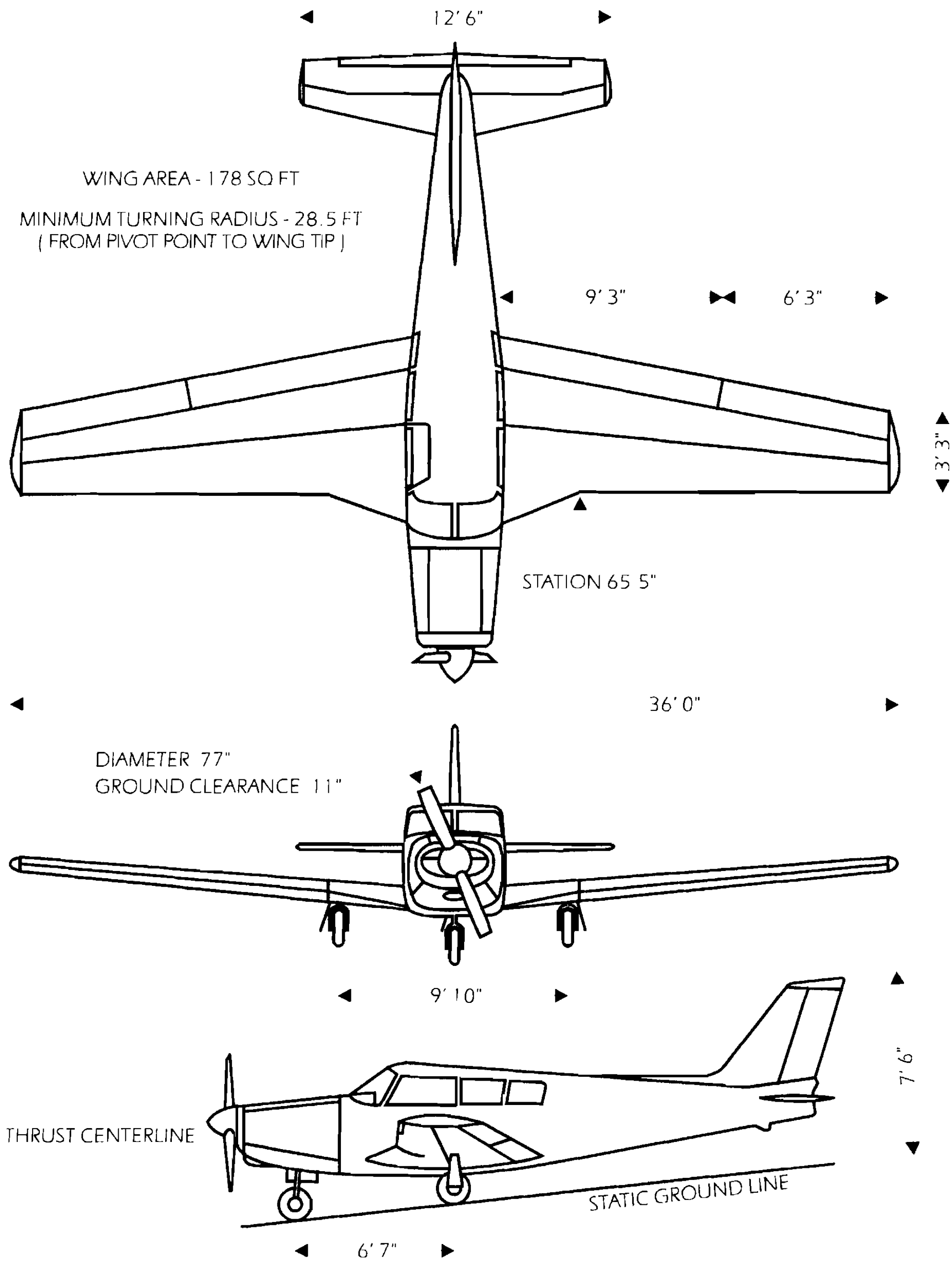


**FIGURE 1-01**

# GENERAL

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

## AIRFRAME

| | |
|---|---|
| Manufacturer | Piper |
| Type Designation | Comanche PA-24-260B |
| Construction | Semi-Monocoque |
| Serial Number | ___________ |
| Registration Number | ___________ |
| Year Model | _______ |

## ENGINE

| | |
|---|---|
| Manufacturer | Lycoming |
| Serial Number | ___________ |
| Model | IO-540-D |
| Type | Six-Cylinder / Horizontally Opposed |
| Ratings (bhp @ rpm) | 260/2700 |
| Bore | 5.125 in |
| Stroke | 4.375 in |
| Displacement | 541.5 cu in |
| Compression Ratio | 8.5 to 1 |
| TBO | 2,000 hr |
| Fuel Injector Manufacturer | Bendix |
| Model | RSA-5AD1 |

## PROPELLER

| | |
|---|---|
| Manufacturer | Hartzell |
| Serial Number | ___________ |
| Hub Model | HC-C2YK-1A or HC-C2YK-1B |
| Blade Model | 8467-7R |
| Number of Blades | 2 |
| Governor | Hartzell F-4-4 |
| Type | Constant-Speed / Hydraulically Actuated |
| Diameter | 77 in |
| Pitch (30 in Station) | 15.0 to 34.0 Degrees |

## AIRFRAME DIMENSIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Length | 25.3 ft |
| Height | 7.5 ft |
| Wing Span | 36.0 ft |
| Wheel Base | 6.6 ft |
| Wheel Tread | 9.8 ft |

## CABIN AND ENTRY DIMENSIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| Cabin Length | 9.0 ft |
| Cabin Height | 47 in |
| Cabin Width | 45 in |
| Cabin Entry Height | 32 in |
| Cabin Entry Width | 34 in |
| Baggage Compartment Entry Height and Width | 19 x 21 in |
| Baggage Compartment Volume | 20 cu ft |

## WING CLASSIFICATION AND SPECIFIC LOADINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| Wing Type | Laminar Flow |
| NACA Designation | $64_2$ A215 |
| Wing Dihedral | 5 Degrees (Zero Twist) |
| Wing Aspect Ratio | 7.3 |
| Wing Area | 178 sq ft |
| Wing Loading | 17.4 lb/sq ft |
| Power Loading | 11.9 lb/bhp |

## WEIGHTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum Takeoff Weight | 3,100 lb |
| Maximum Landing Weight | 2,945 lb |
| Standard Empty Weight | 1,728 lb |
| Maximum Useful Load | 1,372 lb |
| Maximum Useful Load - With Basic Fuel and Oil (60 US gal) | 1,012 lb |
| Maximum Useful Load - With Internal Reserve Fuel (30 US gal) | 832 lb |

## CAPACITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Seats | 4 (Optional 6) |
| Baggage Capacity | 250 lb |
| Basic Fuel Capacity | 60 US gal - 56 Usable |
| Reserve Fuel Capacity | 30 US gal - 30 Usable |
| Fuel Grade | 91/96 - 100 LL (blue) Aviation Gasoline |
| Oil Capacity | 12 US qts |
| Normal Quantity | 9-10 US qts |
| Minimum Safe Quantity | 2-3/4 US qts |
| Oil Grade | MIL-L-22851C |
| Tire Pressure (lbs psi) | Nose 27 - Mains 42 |

## FUEL AND OIL CONSUMPTION

| | |
|---|---|
| Fuel Flow @ 75% Power | 14.1 gph/84.6 pph |
| Fuel Flow @ 65% Power | 12.7 gph/76.2 pph |
| Fuel Flow @ 55% Power | 11.4 gph/68.4 pph |
| Fuel Flow @ 45% Power | 10.2 gph/61.2 pph |
| Oil Consumption (Typical) | 0.25 to 0.35 US qts/hr |

# PERFORMANCE

## 1.) Operating Speeds:

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum Speed | 194 mph 169 kt |
| Cruise @ 75% Power @ 7,000 ft | 182 mph 158 kt |
| Cruise @ 65% Power @ 10,800 ft | 176 mph 153 kt |
| Cruise @ 55% Power @ 15,400 ft | 163 mph 142 kt |
| Cruise @ 45% Power @ 16,000 ft | 138 mph 120 kt |

## 2.) Endurance/Range 56 Gallons:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| At 75% Power | 3.7 hr | 585 nm | 673 sm | 1,083 km |
| At 65% Power | 4.1 hr | 627 nm | 722 sm | 1,162 km |
| At 55% Power | 4.6 hr | 652 nm | 750 sm | 1,207 km |
| At 45% Power | 5.1 hr | 612 nm | 704 sm | 1,133 km |

## 3.) Endurance/Range 86 Gallons:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| At 75% Power | 5.7 hr | 901 nm | 1,037 sm | 1,669 km |
| At 65% Power | 6.3 hr | 964 nm | 1,109 sm | 1,784 km |
| At 55% Power | 7.1 hr | 1,005 nm | 1,157 sm | 1,862 km |
| At 45% Power | 7.9 hr | 947 nm | 1,090 sm | 1,752 km |

**** NOTE ****

Range and endurance figures include an allowance for fuel used during start, taxi, takeoff, climb, and descent plus 45 minutes reserve fuel at a reduced power setting to obtain maximum range ($V_{IMR}$) or maximum endurance ($V_{IMD}$) as applicable. Mixture setting is best economy cruise.

## 4.) Rate of Climb:

| | |
|---|---|
| At 3,100 lbs Gross Weight | 1,370 ft/min |
| At 2,100 lbs Gross Weight | 2,250 ft/min |

## 5.) Climb Gradient:

| | |
|---|---|
| At 3,100 lbs Gross Weight | 856 ft/nm |
| At 2,100 lbs Gross Weight | 1,406 ft/nm |

## 6.) Stall Speeds:

| | |
|---|---|
| Full Flaps and Gear Extended | 67 mph 58 kt |
| Clean | 75 mph 65 kt |

## PERFORMANCE (Cont.)

### 7.) Short Field Performance:

| | |
|---|---|
| Takeoff Distance, Ground Run (15 Degrees of Flap) | 1,260 ft |
| Total Over a 50 ft Obstacle | 1,725 ft |
| Landing Distance, Ground Roll (Full Flaps) | 925 ft |
| Total Over a 50 ft Obstacle | 1,435 ft |

### 8.) Service Ceiling:

| | |
|---|---|
| At 3,100 lbs Gross Weight | 20,000 ft |
| At 2,100 lbs Gross Weight | 22,600 ft |

### 9.) Absolute Ceiling:

| | |
|---|---|
| At 3,100 lbs Gross Weight | 21,400 ft |
| At 2,100 lbs Gross Weight | 24,000 ft |

**** NOTE ****

The maximum approved altitude for the Comanche 260B is FL 210.

Unless otherwise specified, all performance figures are based on standard day, standard atmosphere, gross weight, sea level, no wind conditions.

# SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

## 1.) Alert Notations:

**** NOTE **** An operating procedure or practice which it is essential to emphasize.

**** CAUTION **** An operating procedure or practice which if not strictly observed will result in damage to equipment.

**** WARNING **** An operating procedure or practice which if not carefully followed will result in personal injury or loss of life.

## 2.) Glossary:

The following is an alphabetical listing of terminology used in this Handbook and other Piper literature for the Comanche. It includes precise definitions of terms used in: meteorology, engine and power plant operation, weight and balance computations, aircraft performance and flight planning, and terms of general aviation usage.

**Absolute Altitude** The actual height of an aircraft above the surface of the ground, as read by a radar altimeter.

**Absolute Ceiling** The highest altitude an aircraft can obtain. $V_X$ and $V_Y$ meet at the absolute ceiling, and any airspeed above or below this speed will result in a loss of altitude.

**Accelerate-Go Distance** The distance required to accelerate a multi-engine aircraft to a specified speed and, assuming engine failure at the instant that speed is attained, feather the propeller on the inoperative engine and continue the takeoff to a height of 50 feet AGL.

**Accelerate-Stop Distance** The distance required to accelerate an aircraft to lift-off velocity and, assuming engine failure at the instant that speed is attained, to bring the aircraft to a complete stop in the shortest possible distance on the runway.

**AD** Airworthiness Directive - A notice issued by the FAA for the purpose of amending the certification of an aircraft.

**A&P Mechanic** Airframe and Powerplant Mechanic - An aircraft mechanic who is certified by the FAA to perform certain maintenance and inspections.

**Arm** The horizontal distance from the reference datum to the center of gravity of an item.

**Basic Empty Weight** The standard empty weight of the aircraft plus the weight of unusable fuel and all optional equipment that is installed on the aircraft. Original Piper documentation included engine oil in this figure in the twin, but not the single-engine, Comanche.

**Best Glide** (Endurance) The engine-out airspeed which results in the greatest time aloft in a glide.

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**Best Glide** (Optimum) The engine-out airspeed which results in the best glide ratio.

**BHP** Brake Horsepower - The power developed at the propeller shaft of the engine measured in customary US units.

**BMEP** Brake Mean Effective Pressure - The average pressure inside the cylinder of a reciprocating engine during the power stroke, measured in the customary units of pounds per square inch. Used as an index for a majority of items of engine output, efficiency and operating limitations.

**Bootstrap System** A dynamic feedback system whereby an increase in the input power causes an increase in the system output, which is returned to the input, which again affects the output, etc. A bootstrap system is inherently unstable and requires slow and smooth control operation.

**CAS** Calibrated Airspeed - The indicated airspeed of an aircraft corrected for position and instrument error.

**C.G.** Center of Gravity - The point at which an aircraft would balance if suspended. Also, the point at which the longitudinal, lateral and vertical axes all converge, and through which the resultant force of gravity acts. Its distance from the reference datum is found by dividing the total moment by the total weight of the aircraft.

**C.G. Arm** Center of Gravity Arm - The arm obtained by adding the aircraft's individual moments and dividing by the total weight.

**C.G. Limits** Center of Gravity Limits - The extreme center of gravity locations within which the aircraft must be operated at a given weight.

**CHT** Cylinder Head Temperature - Temperature of an engine measured by a thermocouple device installed at the cylinder head to determine engine cooling.

**CID** Cubic Inch Displacement - The volume of the cylinders of an internal combustion engine, measured in customary US units. Equal to the area of the bore multiplied by the stroke times the number of cylinders.

**Climb Gradient** The ratio of change in altitude during a portion of a climb to the horizontal distance traversed in a given time interval. Climb Gradient is measured in feet per nautical mile and equal to the rate of climb in feet per minute, times 60, divided by ground speed in knots.

**Compressor** A centrifugal air pump connected directly to the turbine, the purpose of which is to increase the density of air to the induction system.

**Critical Altitude** The maximum altitude at which a normally aspirated engine can produce a given horsepower, or a turbocharged engine can produce sea level power.

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**Crosswind Component** The wind component measured in knots at 90 degrees to the longitudinal axis of the runway.

**Deck Pressure** The induction system pressure measured downstream of the turbo-compressor and upstream of the engine throttle valve.

**Demonstrated Crosswind Velocity** The velocity of the crosswind component for which adequate control of the aircraft during takeoff and landing has actually been demonstrated. FAA Regulation requires this value to be equal to 30 percent of $V_{S0}$. The value shown is not considered to be limiting.

**Density Altitude** Pressure altitude corrected for non-standard temperature variations.

**DMCR** Designated Manufacturer's Certification Representative - An individual working for a manufacturer who has been authorized by the FAA to inspect and certify the item produced by the manufacturer as meeting all federal requirements.

**DOA** Delegation Option Authorization - A document issued by the FAA authorizing an aircraft manufacturer to conduct its own aircraft type certification.

**EGT** Exhaust Gas Temperature - Temperature measured in the exhaust manifold and used to determine air-fuel ratio.

**ELT** Emergency Locator Transmitter - A self-contained radio transmitter that is automatically activated by the force of an impact between 5 and 7 gs. When activated it emits an omni-directional signal on the international distress frequencies of 121.5 and 243.0 MHz. Its purpose is to aid in the location of a downed aircraft.

**Empty Weight As Weighed** The actual weight of an aircraft taken from scale readings, less the weight of any tare. This figure includes unusable fuel, oil and any other fluids for normal operation. Original Piper documentation didn't necessarily include all of these items, and in such cases, these items are added mathematically in weight and balance computations.

**FAA** Federal Aviation Administration - An agency of the Department of Transportation responsible for maintaining safe and efficient use of the nation's airspace by both military and civil aviators, for fostering civil aeronautics and air commerce, and for supporting national defense. The FAA was formed from the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) in 1958.

**FAI** Federation Aeronautique Internationale - An organization of eighty nations with headquarters in Paris, France. Founded in 1905, it is the sole international authority responsible for sanctioning all world class aviation and space records.

**FCC** Federal Communications Commission - A governmental board of seven members appointed by the President under authority of the Communications Act of 1934. The FCC has the responsibility of regulating the nation's communications and licensing of radio transmitters operated within the United States.

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**FL** Flight Level - A level of constant atmospheric pressure related to a reference datum of 29.92 inches of mercury. Each level is stated in three digits that represent hundreds of feet. Flight levels are used in the high altitude route system.

**Full Cantilever Wing** A wing that requires no external bracing. All of the load of the structure is carried by internal spars, ribs and stringers.

**G** A unit of force of linear, angular and centrifugal acceleration (or deceleration) measured relative to the force of gravity. One g at sea level is equal to acceleration at the rate of 32.174 feet per second squared, or 9.807 meters per second squared.

**GADO** General Aviation District Office - An FAA field office serving a designated geographical area and staffed with flight standards personnel who have the responsibility of serving the aviation industry and the general public on all matters relating to the certification and operation of general aviation aircraft.

**GAMA** General Aviation Manufacturers Association - National trade organization representing manufacturers of aircraft, engines, avionics and related equipment. Responsible for establishing specifications for aircraft safety and pilot education.

**Glide Ratio** The ratio of the forward distance an aircraft travels to the vertical distance it descends when it is operating without power.

**GPH** Gallons Per Hour - The amount of fuel (in US gallons) consumed by the aircraft's engine each hour.

**Gross Weight** The maximum allowable weight for an aircraft. Also used to refer to the total of the basic empty weight plus the weight of fuel, oil and payload when the total of these is less than the maximum allowable gross weight.

**Ground Boosting** Use of a turbocharger to boost the horsepower of a reciprocating engine beyond the sea level rating.

**GS** Ground Speed - The speed of an aircraft relative to the ground and equal to true airspeed in no wind.

**GUMP** Acronym for: **G**as, **U**ndercarriage, **M**ixture, **P**ropeller(s). Used as a memory aid on landing a retractable gear airplane.

**IA Mechanic** Inspection Authorized Mechanic - A rating issued by the FAA to A&P mechanics that allows them to perform Annual and Progressive Inspections. This rating also gives them the authority to return an aircraft to service after an inspection or a major repair.

**IAS** Indicated Airspeed - The uncorrected airspeed of an aircraft as shown directly on the airspeed indicator.

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**ICAO** International Civil Aviation Organization - An agency of the United Nations with headquarters in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Formed in 1947 with the objective of developing principals and techniques of international air navigation and the establishment of standards for international civil air transport.

**ICS International Comanche Society - An organization formed in 1972 as a nonprofit corporation by pilots and others interested in Piper Comanche airplanes to exchange experiences and foster safe and economical flying.**

**IFR** Instrument Flight Rules - Rules governing the procedures for conducting an instrument flight plan under instrument meteorological conditions.

**IMC** Instrument Meteorological Conditions - Meteorological conditions expressed in terms of visibility, distance from clouds, and ceilings less than the minima for VFR flight.

**Indicated Altitude** The uncorrected altitude read directly from the altimeter after it is set to the current local barometric pressure.

**Intercooler** A Radiator used to extract heat from the air discharged from the compressor of a turbocharger before it enters the fuel metering system of a reciprocating engine.

**ISA** International Standard Atmosphere - Reference: Standard Atmosphere. Equal to 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit) at sea level pressure of 29.92 inches Hg (1013.2 millibars) and decreases at a lapse rate of approximately 2 degrees Celsius (5 degrees Fahrenheit) for each 1000 foot increase in altitude.

**Laminar Flow Airfoil** A type of airfoil design that is shaped so that its thickest section is further aft than a standard airfoil. Air passes over the forward portion of the wing in a smooth boundary layer. The purpose of this design is to reduce drag by delaying the onset of turbulence for as long as possible. Laminar flow airfoils are used on various high-performance airplanes.

**Licensed Empty Weight** Obsolete term used prior to 1976 to indicate that the airplane was painted and ready for delivery. This figure typically included hydraulic fluid and unusable fuel, but no engine oil.

**Manifold Pressure** The induction system pressure measured downstream from the engine throttle valve. (See: MAP)

**MAP** Manifold Air Pressure - Reference: Manifold Pressure (MP) the air pressure within the induction system of the engine. Used as an indirect means to determine power developed by the engine, and traditionally measured in inches of mercury.

**Maximum Landing Weight** The maximum weight approved for the aircraft for the landing touchdown.

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**Maximum Ramp Weight** Maximum weight approved for ground maneuvering. It includes the weight of fuel used for start, taxi and run-up.

**Maximum Takeoff Weight** The maximum weight approved for the aircraft to begin its takeoff run.

**MCP** Maximum Continuous Power - Maximum power that can be developed by the engine without any limitation of time. (See: METO Power and Takeoff Power)

**Mercurial Barometer** A device used to determine atmospheric pressure by balancing air pressure against the weight of a column of mercury in an evacuated glass tube. The device is read in inches or centimeters of mercury.

**METO Power** Maximum Except Take-Off Power - Highest available (reciprocating engine) power other than the takeoff rating.

**Moment** The product of the weight of an item multiplied by its arm.

**Monocoque** A metal structure in which the outer skin carries a major part of the stresses to which the body is subjected. In a Semi-Monocoque structure, the outer skin is supported by a sub-structure of formers and stringers.

**MSL** Mean Sea Level - The average height of the surface of the sea for all stages of tide.

**NAA** National Aeronautic Association - The national aero club of the United States. A nonprofit organization that is the official US representative and largest member of the FAI. Located in Arlington, Virginia, the NAA was founded in 1905 for the purpose of advancing the art, sport and science of aviation through competition.

**NACA** National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics - Formed by an Act of Congress in 1915 for the purpose of establishing standards for the United States in aviation. The NACA was re-named the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958.

**OAT** Outside Air Temperature - Is the free-air static temperature obtained from an in-flight temperature indicator.

**Overboost** An increase in manifold pressure beyond the certified operating limits of the engine. Overboosting beyond specified limits will result in a mandatory engine overhaul.

**Overshoot** A condition caused by rapid throttle movement resulting in momentary high manifold pressure due to inertia of the turbocharger. Any overshoot beyond 29.5 inches Hg may be disregarded if it does not exceed two inches Hg for more than three seconds duration.

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**Payload** The total weight of occupants, cargo and baggage, but not oil or fuel. Also, that part of the useful load from which revenue is derived.

**PMA** Parts Manufacturer Approval - An authorization issued by the FAA to allow modification or manufacture of a replacement part for sale for installation on a Type Certified product.

**PPH** Pounds Per Hour - The amount of fuel (in pounds avdp) consumed by the aircraft's engine each hour.

**Pressure Altitude** The altitude read from an altimeter when the instrument's barometric scale is set to 29.92 inches of mercury, and corrected for instrument and position error.

**Reference Datum** An imaginary vertical plane from which all horizontal distances are measured for balance purposes. Also called Balance Station Zero.

**RPM** Revolutions Per Minute - Engine speed measured in complete cycles of the engine crankshaft.

**SAE Rating** Standard rating for lubricating oils established by the Society of Automotive Engineers and based on Saybolt viscosity.

**Service Ceiling** The highest altitude an aircraft can obtain and still be able to climb at a rate of 100 feet per minute. In the case of a twin-engine aircraft operating on a single engine, the figure is 50 feet per minute. This rate of climb is considered to be the lowest value practical for operation.

**Standard Empty Weight** The weight of a standard production model aircraft as provided by the manufacturer. This figure includes engine oil, unusable fuel and all other fluids for normal operation although original Piper documentation did not always include these items.

**Station** A location along the aircraft fuselage given in terms of distance from the reference datum.

**Station Pressure** Actual atmospheric pressure as measured at field elevation.

**STC** Supplemental Type Certificate - An authorization issued by the FAA for a major alteration to an aircraft, engine or propeller that has been built under an Approved Type Certificate.

**Supercharge** The mechanical increase of air pressure (density) above ambient conditions.

**Takeoff Power** The maximum brake horsepower that is developed under standard sea level conditions and under maximum conditions of crankshaft rotational speed and engine manifold pressure approved for normal takeoff. In many cases Takeoff Power is limited to a given period of time (typically five minutes for a piston engine) shown in the engine specification.

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**Tare** The weight of chocks, blocks, stands, etc. used when weighing an aircraft. Tare is deducted from the scale reading to obtain the actual (net) aircraft weight.

**TAS** True Airspeed - The speed of an aircraft relative to undisturbed air which is the CAS corrected for altitude, temperature and compressibility.

**TBO** Time Between Overhauls - An interval recommended by the manufacturer for re-building the engine. If the aircraft is operated commercially, this time interval is mandatory.

**TBS** Turbo Supercharger - More commonly referred to as "turbocharger". An exhaust gas driven air compressor that is used to increase the power of a reciprocating engine or to assist in maintaining power at high altitudes.

**TIT** Turbine Inlet Temperature - Temperature of the engine's exhaust gas as it enters the turbine. Used to measure critical operation of the engine. TIT is considered to be the best parameter for engine control and monitoring, although EGT is more common.

**True Altitude** The height of the aircraft above sea level when the altimeter's barometric scale is set to the local altimeter setting and corrected for a nonstandard temperature lapse rate. True altitude, pressure altitude and density altitude are all equal at standard atmosphere.

**TSO** Technical Standard Order - A set of specifications issued by the FAA outlining environmental and performance capabilities for various types of equipment used in an aircraft. A partial list of TSOed equipment includes: radios, instrumentation, tires, wheels, brakes, seat belts and hoses.

**Turbine** The exhaust driven end of the turbocharger unit.

**Turbo-Normalizing** The use of a turbocharger to regain up to, but not more than, sea level power, and to regain the power loss caused by decreased air pressure at high altitudes.

**Unusable Fuel** The quantity of fuel that can not be safely used in critical flight attitudes. Also, any residual fuel that will not flow through the aircraft's fuel system. Unusable Fuel is not available for flight planning purposes. Fuel designated as unusable in the single-engine and twin Comanche is available, but only in level flight.

**Useful Load** The difference between takeoff weight, or ramp weight as applicable, and basic empty weight. Useful Load, as it is used in this Handbook, consists of the pilot, passengers, baggage and usable fuel. In original Piper documentation, this figure may or may not include engine oil.

**VFR** Visual Flight Rules - Rules that govern the procedures for conducting flight under visual meteorological conditions. VFR weather minima are outlined in Federal Aviation Regulations under Part 91 and Part 135.

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**VMC** Visual Meteorological Conditions - Meteorological conditions expressed in terms of visibility, distance from clouds, and ceilings equal to or greater than specified minima.

**Wastegate** A controllable butterfly valve in the exhaust system used to direct exhaust gasses to adjust the speed of the turbocharger and thereby determine manifold pressure of the engine.

**3.) V Speeds:**

**$V_A$** Design Maneuvering Speed, and Turbulent Air Penetration Speed - The maximum airspeed at which application of full available aerodynamic control will not over-stress the aircraft. Equal to the square root of the limit load factor times $V_{S1}$.

**$V_{APP}$** Final Approach To Landing Speed - The airspeed recommended for touchdown. Typically equal to 1.3 times $V_{S0}$.

**$V_B$** Design Speed For Maximum Gust Intensity - Maximum airspeed at which a specified gust (e.g. plus or minus 30 feet per second) can be withstood without airframe damage.

**$V_C$** Design Cruising Speed - Speed used to establish structural strength.

**$V_D$** Demonstrated Diving Speed - The highest airspeed which was actually demonstrated during certification tests of the aircraft. Equal to 1.4 times $V_C$.

**$V_{FE}$** Maximum Flap Extension Speed - The highest airspeed permissible with the wing flaps in a prescribed (extended) position. (Top of white arc.)

**$V_H$** Maximum Operating Speed - The highest airspeed obtainable with maximum continuous power in level flight.

**$V_{IMD}$** Minimum Drag Speed and Maximum Endurance Speed - The airspeed that results in the greatest time aloft.

**$V_{IMR}$** Maximum Range Speed - The airspeed that results in the least amount of fuel consumed for distance traveled.

**$V_{LE}$** Landing-Gear Extended Speed - The highest airspeed at which the aircraft can be operated with the landing gear extended.

**$V_{LO}$** Landing-Gear Operation Speed - The highest airspeed at which the landing gear can be extended or retracted.

**$V_{LOF}$** Lift-Off Speed - The speed at which a plane becomes airborne.

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**$V_{MC}$** Single-Engine Minimum Control Speed - Obsolete term more precisely defined by the following three entries:

**$V_{MCA}$** Single-Engine Minimum Control Speed (Airborne) - Minimum flight speed determined by FAA regulations at which a multi-engine airplane is directionally controllable with the critical engine inoperative. Conditions include: propeller windmilling on the inoperative engine, takeoff power on the operative engine, a five-degree bank toward the operative engine, most rearward C.G., landing gear retracted and flaps in takeoff position. (Red radial line.)

**$V_{MCG}$** Single-Engine Minimum Control Speed (Ground) - Minimum speed at which a multi-engine airplane can maintain directional control on the ground during the takeoff run after failure of the critical engine. Conditions include: application of less than 70 kilograms (155 pounds) pedal force without going off the runway (preferably while holding centerline) with a 7+ knot crosswind component and a wet surface.

**$V_{MCL}$** Single-Engine Minimum Control Speed (Landing) - Minimum speed at which a multi-engine airplane can maintain directional control in the landing configuration after failure of the critical engine.

**$V_{NE}$** Never Exceed Speed - The airspeed limit that may not be exceeded at any time. Equal to $V_D$ minus 10 percent. (Top of yellow arc, and redline.)

**$V_{NO}$** Normal Operating Speed, and Maximum Structural Cruising Speed - The level flight speed of an aircraft at its optimum altitude with the engine operating at no more than 75 percent of its rated horsepower. This airspeed should not be exceeded except in smooth air. (Top of green arc, and bottom of yellow arc.)

**$V_P$** Obsolete term for Maneuvering Speed. This term is now used as designation for propwash velocity.

**$V_R$** Rotation Speed - The speed at which the maneuver to increase the wing angle-of-attack is performed in order to accomplish lift-off attitude.

**$V_{REF}$** Reference Speed - Any referenced airspeed.

**$V_{S0}$** Stall Speed With Full Flaps and Gear Extended - Minimum steady flight speed at which the aircraft is controllable in a landing configuration. (Bottom of white arc.)

**$V_{S1}$** Stall Speed With Flaps and Gear Retracted - Minimum steady flight speed at which the aircraft is controllable. (Bottom of green arc.)

## SYMBOLS, ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY (Cont.)

**$V_{SSE}$** Minimum Safe Single-Engine Speed - Minimum speed, selected by the airplane manufacturer, for intentionally shutting down an engine of a multi-engine airplane in flight for the purpose of pilot training. Intentional failing of an engine below this speed, or below a safe altitude AGL, is not recommended.

**$V_X$** Best Angle-of-Climb Speed - The airspeed which results in the greatest gain in altitude in a given horizontal distance traversed.

**$V_{XSE}$** Best Single-Engine Angle-of-Climb Speed - The airspeed which results in the greatest gain in altitude in a given horizontal distance traversed when operating a multi-engine airplane on one engine.

**$V_Y$** Best Rate-of-Climb Speed - The airspeed which results in the greatest gain in altitude in a given period of time.

**$V_{YSE}$** Best Single-Engine Rate-of-Climb Speed - The airspeed which results in the greatest gain in altitude in a given period of time when operating a multi-engine airplane on one engine. (Blue radial line.)

# CONVERSION FACTORS FOR WEIGHTS, MEASURES AND PHYSICAL CONSTANTS

## LINEAR MEASURE

| US Customary Unit | US Equivalents | Metric Equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 inch (in) | 0.0833 ft | 2.54 cm |
| 1 foot (ft) | 12 in | 30.48 cm |
| 1 yard (yd) | 3 ft | 0.9144 m |
| 1 rod (rd) | 5.5 yd | 5.029 m |
| | 16.5 ft | |
| 1 statute mile (sm) | 5,280 ft | 1.6093 km |
| | 1,760 yd | 0.8690 nm |
| | 320 rd | |

---

## AREA

| US Customary Unit | US Equivalents | Metric Equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 square inch (sq in) | 0.0069 sq ft | 6.4516 sq cm |
| 1 square foot (sq ft) | 144 sq in | 929.03 sq cm |
| 1 square yard (sq yd) | 9 sq ft | 0.8361 sq m |
| 1 acre (ac) | 4,840 sq yd | 4,047 sq m |
| 1 square mile (sq mi) | 640 ac | 2.590 sq km |

---

## VOLUME

| US Customary Unit | US Equivalents | Metric Equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 cubic inch (cu in) | 0.00058 cu ft | 16.387 cu cm |
| | 0.0173 US qt | 0.0164 L |
| 1 cubic foot (cu ft) | 1,728 cu in | 0.0283 cu m |
| | 7.481 US gal | 28.3161 L |
| 1 cubic yard (cu yd) | 27 cu ft | 0.7646 cu m |
| | 201.974 US gal | 764.5337 L |

---

## CAPACITY

| US Customary Unit (Liquid Measure) | US Equivalents | Metric Equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 fl ounce (US fl oz) | 0.0078 US gal | 29.573 mL |
| | 1.805 cu in | 29.57 cu cm |
| 1 pint (US pt) | 16 US fl oz | 0.473 L |
| | 28.875 cu in | 473.175 cu cm |
| 1 quart (US qt) | 2 US pt | 0.9463 L |
| | 57.75 cu in | 946.35 cu cm |
| 1 gallon (US gal) | 4 US qt | 3.7853 L |
| | 231 cu in | 3785.4 cu cm |
| | | 0.8327 Imp gal |

## STANDARD-TO-METRIC CONVERSION FACTORS (Cont.)

### CAPACITY

| US Customary Unit (Dry Measure) | US Equivalents | Metric Equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 pint (dry pt) | 33.6 cu in | 0.551 L |
| 1 quart (dry qt) | 67.2 cu in | 1.101 L |
| 1 gallon (dry gal) | 0.1556 cu ft | 4.405 L |
| 1 peck (US pk) | 8 dry qt | 8.810 L |
| 1 bushel (US bu) | 4 dry pk | 35.238 L |

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### VOLUME OR CAPACITY

| British Imperial Unit (Liquid & Dry) | US Customary Equivalents | Metric Equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 fl ounce (Imp fl oz) | 0.961 US fl oz | 28.412 mL |
| 1 pint (Imp pt) | 1.032 US dry pt<br>1.201 US pt<br>34.678 cu in | 568.26 mL |
| 1 quart (Imp qt) | 1.032 US dry qt<br>1.201 US qt<br>69.354 cu in | 1.136 L |
| 1 gallon (Imp gal) | 1.201 US gal<br>277.420 cu in | 4.546 L |
| 1 peck (Imp pk) | 554.84 cu in | 0.009 cu m |
| 1 bushel (Imp bu) | 1.032 US bu | 0.036 cu m |

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### WEIGHT

| US Customary Unit (Avoirdupois) | US Equivalents | Metric Equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 grain (gr) | 0.0023 oz (avdp) | 64.7989 mg |
| 1 dram (dr) | 0.0625 oz (avdp) | 1.772 g<br>27.34 gr |
| 1 ounce (oz) | 16 dr | 28.3495 g<br>437.5 gr |
| 1 pound (lb) | 16 oz (avdp)<br>256 dr | 453.5924 g<br>0.4536 kg<br>7,000 gr |
| 1 slug (mass) | 32.174 lb | 14.594 kg |
| 1 ton (short) | 2,000 lb<br>0.8929 long ton | 0.9072 metric ton |
| 1 ton (long) | 2,240 lb<br>1.12 short ton | 1.016 metric ton |

## STANDARD-TO-METRIC CONVERSION FACTORS (Cont.)

### PHYSICAL CONSTANTS

| US Customary Unit | US Equivalents | Metric Equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 atmosphere (atm) | 29.92 in Hg | 760 mm Hg |
| | 14.6960 lb/sq in | 1.0133 bars |
| | | 101.325 kPa |
| | | 1.033 kg/sq cm |
| 1 inch mercury (in Hg) | 0.0334 atm | 25.4 mm/Hg |
| (@ zero degree C) | 0.4912 lb/sq in | 345.3 kg/sq m |
| | | 33.8639 mb |
| | | 3.386 kPa |
| 1 horsepower (hp) | 550 ft-lb/sec | 76.04 m-kg/sec |
| | | 1.014 metric hp |
| 1 foot per minute (ft/min.) | 0.0167 ft/sec | 0.0051 m/sec |
| | 0.0114 mph | 0.3048 m/min |
| | | 0.0183 km/hr |
| 1 mile per hour (mph) | 1.467 ft/sec | 0.447 m/sec |
| | 88 ft/min | 1.609 km/hr |
| | | 0.8689 kt |
| 1 degree (arc) | 0.0028 rev | 0.0175 rad |
| 1 revolution (rev) | 360 degrees | 6.2832 rad (2 pi) |
| 1 rev per minute (rpm) | 6 degrees/sec | 0.1047 rad/sec |
| 1 inch pound (in-lb) | 0.0833 ft-lb | 0.0115 m-kg |
| | | 0.113 N-m |
| 1 foot pound (ft-lb) | 12 in-lb | 0.1383 m-kg |
| | | 1.356 N-m |
| 1 pound per sq in (lb/psi) | 0.0681 atm | 0.0689 bar |
| | 2.036 in Hg | 5.1715 cm Hg |
| | 144 lb/sq ft | 703.1 kg/sq m |
| | | 6.895 kPa |
| 1 pound per sq ft (lb/sq ft) | 0.1414 in Hg | 4.8824 kg/sq m |
| | | 0.391 mm Hg |
| | | 0.0479 kPa |

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### TEMPERATURE

To convert degrees Fahrenheit to degrees Celsius, subtract 32, multiply by 5, and divide by 9. To convert degrees Celsius to degrees Fahrenheit, multiply by 9, divide by 5, and add 32.

To obtain degrees Kelvin, add 273.5 to degrees Celsius.

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### NAUTICAL (International)

| Nautical Unit | US Equivalents | Metric Equivalents |
|---|---|---|
| 1 nautical mile (nm) | 6076.1 ft | 1.852 km |
| | | 1.151 sm |
| 1 knot (kt) | 1.688 ft/sec | 0.5144 m/sec |
| | 101.2686 ft/min | 30.87 m/min |
| | 1.1508 sm/hr | 1.852 km/hr |

# METRIC-TO-STANDARD CONVERSION FACTORS

## LINEAR MEASURE

| Metric Unit (SI) | Metric Equivalents | US Customary Unit |
|---|---|---|
| 1 millimeter (mm) | 0.001 m | 0.0394 in |
| 1 centimeter (cm) | 0.01 m | 0.3937 in |
| | 10 mm | 0.0328 ft |
| 1 meter (m) | 1000 mm | 39.37 in |
| | 100 cm | 3.2808 ft |
| | 0.001 km | 1.0936 yd |
| 1 kilometer (km) | 1,000 m | 3,280.84 ft |
| | | 0.6214 sm |
| | | 0.5400 nm |

---

## AREA

| Metric Unit (SI) | Metric Equivalents | US Customary Unit |
|---|---|---|
| 1 sq centimeter (sq cm) | 0.0001 sq m | 0.1150 sq in |
| 1 sq meter (sq m) | 10,000 sq cm | 1,550 sq in |
| | | 10.7639 sq ft |
| | | 1.1960 sq yd |
| 1 hectare (ha) | 10,000 sq m | 2.471 ac |
| 1 sq kilometer (sq km) | 100 ha | 0.3861 sq mi |

---

## VOLUME

| Metric Unit (SI) | Metric Equivalents | US Customary Unit |
|---|---|---|
| 1 cu centimeter (cu cm) | 0.001 L | 0.0610 cu in |
| | | 0.0338 US fl oz |
| 1 cu decimeter (cu dm) | 1 Liter | 61.02 cu in |
| | | 1.056 US qt |
| 1 cu meter (cu m) | 1,000 L | 61,024 cu in |
| | | 35.3147 cu ft |
| | | 1.308 cu yd |
| | | 264.1720 US gal |

---

## CAPACITY

| Metric Unit (SI) | Metric Equivalents | US Customary Unit |
|---|---|---|
| 1 milliliter (mL) | 0.001 L | 0.3381 US fl oz |
| 1 centiliter (cL) | 0.01 L | 3.3814 US fl oz |
| 1 Liter (L) | 1,000 cu cm | 33.814 US fl oz |
| | | 1.0567 US qt |
| One Liter equals the volume | | 0.2642 US gal |
| of 1 kilogram of water at | | 0.22 Imp gal |
| 4 degrees C and 760 mm Hg. | | 61.02 cu in |

## METRIC-TO-STANDARD CONVERSION FACTORS (Cont.)

### WEIGHT

| Metric Unit (SI) | Metric Equivalents | US Customary Unit |
|---|---|---|
| 1 milligram (mg) | 0.001 g | 0.0154 gr |
| 1 centigram (cg) | 0.01 g | 0.1543 gr |
| 1 gram (g) | 0.001 kg | 15.4324 gr |
| | | 0.03527 oz (avdp) |
| | | 0.0022 lb |
| 1 kilogram (kg) | 1,000 g | 35.2740 oz (avdp) |
| | | 2.2046 lb |
| 1 ton (metric) | 1,000 kg | 2,204.6 lb |
| | | 1.1023 short ton |
| | | 0.9842 long ton |

---

### PHYSICAL CONSTANTS

| Metric Unit (SI) | Metric Equivalents | US Customary Unit |
|---|---|---|
| 1 millibar (mb) | 1,000 dynes/sq cm | 0.0295 in Hg |
| | 0.750 mm Hg | 2.089 lb/sq ft |
| 1 bar (bar) | 760 mm Hg | 0.9869 atm |
| | 100 kPa | 14.5038 lb/sq in |
| 1 mm mercury (mm Hg) | 0.1 cm Hg | 0.0013 atm |
| (@ zero degree C) | 1.3332 mb | 0.0394 in Hg |
| | 0.1333 kPa | 0.0193 lb/sq in |
| 1 cm mercury (cm Hg) | 10 mm Hg | 0.0132 atm |
| (@ zero degree C) | 135.95 kg/sq m | 0.3937 in Hg |
| | 1.333 kPa | 0.1934 lb/sq in |
| 1 horsepower (metric hp) | 75 m-kg/sec | 0.9863 standard hp |
| 1 meter per second (m/sec) | 100 cm/sec | 3.2808 ft/sec |
| | 3.6 km/hr | 2.237 mph |
| | | 1.944 kt |
| 1 meter per minute (m/min) | 0.06 km/hr | 3.2808 ft/min |
| 1 kilometer per hour (km/hr) | 0.2778 m/sec | 0.9113 ft/sec |
| | 16.67 m/min | 54.68 ft/min |
| | | 0.6214 mph |
| | | 0.5400 kt |
| 1 radian (rad) | 3,438 min | 57.2958 deg (arc) |
| | | 0.1592 rev |
| 1 rad per second (rad/sec) | 57.2958 deg/sec | 0.1592 rev/sec |
| | | 9.549 rpm |
| 1 kiloPascal (kPa) | 1 Newton/sq m | 0.145 lb/sq in |
| 1 meter kilogram (m-kg) | 1,000 m-g | 86.798 in-lb |
| | 9.807 N-m | 7.233 ft-lb |
| 1 Newton meter (N-m) | 0.1020 m-kg | 8.851 in-lb |
| | | 0.7376 ft-lb |
| 1 kg per sq meter (kg/sq m) | 1,000 g/sq m | 0.0029 in Hg |
| | | 0.2048 lb/sq ft |

# SECTION 2 - LIMITATIONS

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

1966 THROUGH 1968 (FUEL INJECTION MODEL ONLY)

APPLICABLE TO AIRPLANES WITH SERIAL NUMBERS:
24-4247 AND 24-4300 THROUGH 24-4803 EXCEPT 24-4783

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# LIMITATIONS

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

## INTRODUCTION

The limitations included in this section are approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Comanche 260B is certified under FAA Type Certificate Number 1A15, approved June 30, 1965.

## AIRSPEED LIMITATIONS

$V_A$ - Design Maneuvering Speed / Turbulent Air Penetration Speed

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| At 3,100 lbs Gross Weight | CAS | 144 mph | 125 kt |
| | IAS | 142 mph | 123 kt |
| At 1,900 lbs Gross Weight | CAS | 120 mph | 104 kt |
| | IAS | 118 mph | 103 kt |

** **NOTE** ** Do not make full or abrupt control movements above $V_A$.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $V_{FE}$ - Flap Extension Speed | CAS | 125 mph | 108 kt |
| | IAS | 125 mph | 108 kt |

** **NOTE** ** Do not extend flaps or operate with flaps extended above $V_{FE}$.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $V_{LE}$ - Landing-Gear Extended Speed | CAS | 150 mph | 130 kt |
| | IAS | 148 mph | 129 kt |

** **NOTE** ** Do not exceed $V_{LE}$ with the landing gear extended.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $V_{LO}$ - Landing-Gear Operation Speed | CAS | 150 mph | 130 kt |
| | IAS | 148 mph | 129 kt |

** **NOTE** ** Do not extend or retract the landing gear above $V_{LO}$.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $V_{NE}$ - Never Exceed Speed | CAS | 227 mph | 197 kt |
| | IAS | 229 mph | 199 kt |

** **NOTE** **

Do not exceed $V_{NE}$ in any operation.

** **WARNING** **

AD 72-22-05 may reduce $V_{NE}$ to 203 mph CAS (176 kt) or 188 mph CAS (163 kt) depending on how the airplane is modified. Refer to the AD for the airspeed applicable to your airplane.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $V_{NO}$ - Normal Operating Speed / Maximum Structural Cruising Speed | CAS | 180 mph | 156 kt |
| | IAS | 181 mph | 157 kt |

** **NOTE** ** Do not exceed $V_{NO}$ except in smooth air and then only with caution.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| $V_{S0}$ - Stall Speed (Power Off - Full Flaps and Gear Extended) | CAS | 67 mph | 58 kt |
| | IAS | 68 mph | 59 kt |
| $V_{S1}$ - Stall Speed (Power Off - Clean) | CAS | 75 mph | 65 kt |
| | IAS | 76 mph | 66 kt |

## POWER PLANT INSTRUMENT MARKINGS

**1.) Tachometer:**

Green Arc (Normal Operating Range) ........ 500 to 2700 rpm
Red Line (Maximum Continuous) ........ 2700 rpm

**2.) Oil Temperature:**

Green Arc (Normal Operating Range) ........ 120-245 Degrees Fahrenheit
Yellow Arc (Caution Range) ........ 60-120 Degrees Fahrenheit
Red Line (Maximum Temperature) ........ 245 Degrees Fahrenheit

**3.) Oil Pressure:**

Green Arc (Normal Operating Range) ........ 60-90 psi
Yellow Arc (Caution Range) ........ 25-60 and 90-100 psi
Red Line (Minimum psi) ........ 25 psi
Red Line (Maximum psi) ........ 100 psi

**4.) Fuel Flow**

Green Arc (Normal Operating Range) ........ Zero to 27.35 gph
Red Line (Maximum Pressure at Sea Level) ........ 9.5 psi

**5.) Cylinder Head Temperature:**

Green Arc (Normal Operating Range) ........ 200-500 Degrees Fahrenheit
Red Line (Minimum Temperature) ........ 200 Degrees Fahrenheit
Red Line (Maximum Temperature) ........ 500 Degrees Fahrenheit

**6.) Instrument Vacuum:**

Green Arc (Normal Operating Range) ........ 4.8 to 5.1 in Hg
Red Line (Minimum Suction) ........ 4.8 in Hg
Red Line (Maximum Suction) ........ 5.1 in Hg

## AIRSPEED INDICATOR MARKINGS

**** NOTE **** The airspeed indicator color markings are in CAS values.

Red Line (Never Exceed Speed) ........ 227 mph 197 kt

**** WARNING ****

AD 72-22-05 may reduce Red Line to 203 mph CAS (176 kt) or 188 mph CAS (163 kt) depending on how the airplane is modified. Refer to the AD for the airspeed applicable to your airplane.

Yellow Arc (Caution Range) ........ 180-227 mph 156-197 kt
Green Arc (Normal Operating Range) ........ 75-180 mph 65-156 kt
White Arc (Flaps Down) ........ 67-125 mph 58-108 kt

## POWER PLANT LIMITATIONS

**1.) Engine Operating Limits:**

One Lycoming Model: IO-540-D4A5

Takeoff Power and MCP ........ 2700 rpm/260 bhp

**2.) Propeller Limitations:**

One Hartzell Hub Model: HC-C2YK-1A or HC-C2YK-1B
Blade Model: 8467-7R

Diameter ........ Maximum 77 in * Minimum 75 in
Pitch (30 in Station) ........ Low 15.0 Degrees * High 32.0 to 34.0 Degrees

## WEIGHT LIMITS

Maximum Takeoff Weight ........ 3,100 lb
Maximum Landing Weight ........ 2,945 lb
Maximum Baggage Weight ........ 250 lb

## CENTER OF GRAVITY LIMITS

| Weight Pounds | Arm Forward Limit Inches Aft of Datum | Arm Rearward Limit Inches Aft of Datum |
|---|---|---|
| 3,100 | 88.4 | 93.0 |
| 2,600 | 82.5 | 93.0 |
| 2,000 or Less | 80.5 | 93.0 |

**** NOTE ****

Straight line variation exists between the points given.

Datum is located 79 inches ahead of wing leading edge at station 65.5 (point of intersection of straight and tapered sections).

## STRUCTURAL LOAD FACTORS

Positive ........ Normal Category + 3.80 g
Negative ........ Normal Category - 1.52 g

** **NOTE** ** No inverted maneuvers are approved

## OPERATIONAL LIMITS

The airplane is approved for the following operations when equipped in accordance with FAR Part 91 or FAR Part 135.

1.) VFR day and night
2.) IFR day and night

** **WARNING** ** Flight into known icing conditions is prohibited.

## FUEL LIMITATIONS

Main (Inboard) Tanks:
Basic Fuel Capacity (Two Cells, 30 US gal ea.) ........................................ 60 US gal - 56 Usable

**** NOTE ****

The unusable fuel in this aircraft has been determined to be 2 gallons in each inboard tank in critical flight attitudes.

Auxiliary (Outboard) Tanks:
Reserve Fuel Capacity (Two Cells, 15 US gal ea.) .................................... 30 US gal - 30 Usable

** **NOTE** ** Minimum fuel grade is (blue) 91/96 octane (100 LL) aviation fuel.

## FLAP LIMITATIONS

Takeoff ........................................................................................................ Zero to 15 Degrees
Landing ........................................................................................................ Zero to 32 Degrees

## OTHER LIMITATIONS

**1.) Maneuvers:**

Normal Category: All intentional aerobatic maneuvers, including spins, are prohibited.

**2.) Procedures:**

**A.)** Instructions for emergency extension of landing gear:

**1.)** Reduce power - airspeed not to exceed 100 mph.
**2.)** Place landing gear selector switch in "GEAR DOWN LOCKED" position.
**3.)** Disengage motor - raise motor release arm and push forward through full travel.
**4.)** Extend gear emergency handle full length.
**5.)** Rotate handle forward <u>full</u> travel to extend gear.

Green light on panel indicates gear down and locked.

<u>CAUTION</u>

Do not re-engage motor in flight.

**B.)** The use of 15 degree flap deflection during takeoff has been approved for this aircraft.

**C.)** The Stall Warning System is inoperative with the Master Switch off.

**D.)** The alternator circuit breakers should not be opened under any circumstances without consulting the Service Manual for detailed procedures.

**E.)** Except as noted above, all operating procedures for this airplane are normal.

## OTHER LIMITATIONS (Cont.)

**3.) Performance:**

Loss of altitude from a power-off stall, gear and flaps retracted, is 300 feet. All other normal stall configurations result in less loss of altitude.

## PLACARDS

**1.) On the Instrument Panel in Full View of the Pilot:**

THIS AIRPLANE MUST BE OPERATED AS A NORMAL CATEGORY
AIRPLANE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AIRPLANE FLIGHT MANUAL.
ACROBATIC MANEUVERS (INCLUDING SPINS) PROHIBITED.

**2.) On the Floor at Base of Landing Gear Manual Operating Lever:**

EMERGENCY GEAR HANDLE

**3.) On Landing Gear Motor Release Arm Access Door:**

EMERGENCY GEAR EXTENSION.
REMOVE COVER.
EXTENSION INSTRUCTIONS
ON REVERSE SIDE.

**4.) On Baggage Compartment Door:**

MAX. BAGGAGE AND/OR PASSENGER WEIGHT
250 LBS. IN BAGGAGE AREA, INCLUDING SEATS.
SEE WEIGHT AND BALANCE.

**5.) On Emergency Door:**

EMERGENCY EXIT.
HOLD KNOB UP
TURN LATCH CLOCKWISE

**6.) On Instrument Panel:**

WARNING - UNCOORDINATED MANEUVERS, INCLUDING SIDE
SLIPS OF 30 SECONDS OR MORE, FOR ANY REASON, AND FAST
TAXI TURNS JUST PRIOR TO TAKEOFF CAN CAUSE LOSS
OF POWER IF FUEL TANK IN USE IS LESS THAN 1/2 FULL.

**7.) On Airspeed Indicator:** (If Applicable per AD 72-22-05)

DO NOT EXCEED 203 MPH CAS.

# SECTION 3 - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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# EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

## ENGINE POWER LOSS DURING TAKEOFF

If sufficient runway remains for a normal landing: Land straight ahead.

**** NOTE ****

A check should be made early in the takeoff roll for proper engine operation. Any indication of a sluggish or rough running engine is reason to discontinue the takeoff.

**** WARNING ****

Runway length necessary under normal conditions to safely operate within the accelerate-stop distance required for the aircraft is recommended to be no less than 3,000 ft.

If insufficient runway remains:

Airspeed ........................................ Maintain Safe Airspeed
Landing Gear ........................................ As Situation Requires
Flaps ........................................ As Situation Requires

Make only shallow turns to avoid obstacles.

If sufficient altitude has been gained to attempt an engine restart: Initiate **Engine Power Loss During Flight** procedure. (Below)

## ENGINE POWER LOSS DURING FLIGHT

Airspeed ........................ Establish Best Glide (105 mph or 91 kt @ Full Gross Weight)

**** NOTE **** Best engine-out glide speed decreases as the airplane's gross weight decreases.

Fuel Selector ........................................ Switch to Tank Containing Fuel
Electric Fuel Pump ........................................ On
Ignition Switch ........................................ Check On
Mixture ........................................ Full Rich
Alternate Air ........................................ On
Engine Gauges ........................ Check for Indication of Cause of Power Loss

If power is restored:

Electric Fuel Pump ........................................ Off
Alternate Air ........................................ Off

If power is not restored: Initiate **Power-Off Landing** procedure. (Page 3-5)

## ENGINE ROUGHNESS IN FLIGHT

Alternate Air .................................................. Full On

If roughness continues after one minute: Discontinue application of Alternate Air.

In the interim:

Mixture .................................................. Adjust for Maximum Smoothness
Electric Fuel Pump .................................................. On
Fuel Selector .................................................. Switch Tanks
Engine Gauges .................................................. Check for Indication of Cause of Power Loss
Magnetos .................................................. Check Left, Then Right, Then Both

If operation is satisfactory on one magneto: Continue at reduced power and standard mixture to the nearest airport. Prepare for a **Power Off Landing**. (Page 3-5)

## ENGINE FIRE DURING START

Starter .................................................. Crank Engine

In the interim, while continuing cranking:

Mixture .................................................. Idle Cut-Off
Throttle .................................................. Open
Electric Fuel Pump .................................................. Off
Fuel Selector .................................................. Off
If Fire Continues .................................................. Extinguish With Best Available Means

** **NOTE** ** Use radio if necessary to call for fire-fighting assistance.

## FIRE IN FLIGHT

Determine Source of Fire .................................................. Electrical or Engine

**1.) Electrical Fire: (Or Smoke in Cabin)**

Master Switch .................................................. Off
Vents .................................................. Open
Door (As Required) .................................................. Open as an Exhaust
Cabin Heat .................................................. Off

Land as soon as possible without flaps. ($V_{APP}$ = 100 mph or 87 kt) Initiate **Manual Gear Extension** procedure @ Part 3. (Page 3-8)

**2.) Engine Fire:**

Throttle .................................................. Full Aft - Closed
Mixture .................................................. Idle Cut-Off
Fuel Selector .................................................. Off
Electric Fuel Pump .................................................. Check Off
Heater, and Defroster .................................................. Off

Initiate **Power-Off Landing** procedure. (Page 3-5)

# ELECTRICAL FAILURES

Ammeter ........................................................................................ Indicates Battery Discharge

Reduce electrical loads to a minimum.

Alternator Main Circuit Breaker ........................................................ Remove Guard - Check On
Alternator Field Circuit Breaker .................................................... Check and Reset as Required

**** CAUTION ****

The alternator main circuit breaker should never be operated when the engine is running except in an emergency. The alternator main circuit breaker can be operated safely only when the engine is stopped, the master switch is off, or the 5 ampere field circuit breaker is open.

**** NOTE ****

Before attempting to reset any circuit breaker, allow for a two to five minute cooling off period, and reset only once.

If circuit breakers are reset (closed):

Master Switch ........................................................................................................................ Off

Wait a minimum of 6 seconds for overvoltage relay to reset.

Master Switch ........................................................................................................................ On

If alternator returns on line (ammeter indicates battery charging):

Reinstate electrical load.

If alternator output cannot be restored:

Maintain minimum electrical load and land as soon as practical.

**** NOTE ****

The battery is the only remaining source of power.

If the battery is depleted: Land without flaps. ($V_{APP}$ = 100 mph or 87 kt)

Initiate **Manual Gear Extension** procedure @ Part 3. (Page 3-8)

## POWER OFF LANDING

Locate a suitable field (preferably with an alternate). Determine wind direction.

Establish Best Glide and Spiral Pattern .......................... 105 mph or 91 kt @ Full Gross Weight.
Propeller Control .................................................. Full Aft to Decrease rpm and Improve Glide

Tune radio to 121.5. Tune transponder to 7700.

While at Altitude, if Time Allows ............................................................... Broadcast Mayday

**** Include: Aircraft Identification - Location - Number On Board ****

### 1.) Gear-Down Emergency Landing Procedure:

When committed to landing:

ELT .................................................................................................. Activate Manually
Throttle ................................................................................................ Full Aft - Closed
Fuel Selector ................................................................................................ Off
Mixture ................................................................................................ Idle Cut-Off
Ignition ................................................................................................ Off
Seat Belt and Harness ................................................................................ Tight
Door ............................................. (Pilot's Discretion) .................................. Block Open
Flaps ................................................................................................ As Required

**** WARNING ****

Glide ratio is reduced radically when gear is lowered. Landing gear down operation time is approximately 7 seconds.

Landing Gear .............................................................. Lower Just Before Touchdown
Master Switch ................................................................................................ Off

Touchdown should normally be made at the slowest practical airspeed.

### 2.) Gear-Up Emergency Landing Procedure:

A gear up landing should only be made during an emergency when:

**A.**) The surface is too soft or rough for a gear down landing.
**B.**) A field is too short. (Pilot's discretion)
**C.**) Ditching (A forced water landing) is necessary.

Flaps ................................................................................................ Up
Throttle ................................................................................................ Full Aft - Closed
Fuel Selector ................................................................................................ Off
Mixture ................................................................................................ Idle Cut-Off
Ignition ................................................................................................ Off
Seat Belt and Harness ................................................................................ Tight
Door ............................................. (Pilot's Discretion) .................................. Block Open
Master Switch ................................................................................................ Off

## HIGH OIL TEMPERATURE

Power .......... Reduce
Mixture .......... Enrich
Airspeed .......... Maintain Above 130 mph (113 kt)

Land as soon as possible and investigate cause. Prepare for a **Power Off Landing**. (Page 3-5)

## HIGH CYLINDER HEAD TEMPERATURE

Excessive cylinder head temperature may parallel high oil temperature and the procedure for handling it is the same. Refer to **High Oil Temperature** procedure. (Above)

## LOSS OF OIL PRESSURE

Land as soon as possible and investigate cause.

Prepare for a **Power Off Landing**. (Page 3-5)

## LOSS OF FUEL PRESSURE

**** NOTE ****

The most common cause of fuel pressure loss is fuel exhaustion due to improper fuel management. In the event of fuel pressure loss:

Fuel Selector .......... Switch to a Tank Containing Fuel
Electric Fuel Pump .......... On
Mixture .......... Enrich

If pressure is not regained:

Electric Fuel Pump .......... Off

Initiate **Power Off Landing** procedure. (Page 3-5)

## INDUCTION SYSTEM ICING

It is very rare but possible for ice to form in the engine's induction system. The first indication of induction system icing is usually a drop in fuel flow, followed by engine roughness.

Alternate Air .......... Full On
Throttle .......... Full Open
Mixture .......... Adjust for Maximum Smoothness

When ice is cleared:

Alternate Air .......... Full Off
Throttle .......... Normal Cruise Setting
Mixture .......... Adjust to EGT Gauge
Fuel Flow Gauge .......... Monitor for Recurrence

## GYRO SUCTION FAILURE

Suction below 4.8 in Hg

RPM ........................................ Increase to 2700
Altitude ........................................ Descend to Maintain 4.8 in Hg

Use electric turn indicator and magnetic compass to monitor artificial horizon and directional gyro.

If adequate gyro suction can not be maintained: Initiate VFR or partial panel IFR procedures as appropriate.

Land as soon as practical and investigate cause.

## PROPELLER OVERSPEED

** **NOTE** ** The propeller defaults to low pitch (high rpm) if oil pressure fails.

If propeller overspeed occurs:

Oil Pressure ........................................ Check

If there is a low oil pressure condition: Land as soon as practical and investigate cause.

Prepare for a **Power Off Landing**. (Page 3-5)

If overspeed is due to propeller governor malfunction:

Throttle ........................................ Retard
Propeller Control ........................................ Aft - Decrease rpm
Airspeed ........................................ Reduce
Throttle ........................................ As Required to Remain Below 2700 rpm

Land as soon as possible and investigate cause.

## OPEN DOOR IN FLIGHT

If door latches are not secure, the door will trail slightly open and airspeed will be slightly reduced.

To close door in flight:

Airspeed ........................................ Below 100 mph (87 kt)
Cabin Vents ........................................ Close
Storm Window ........................................ Open
Slip Airplane ........................................ Facing Door Into Wind
Latch ........................................ Secure

An open door in flight presents no real danger. However, the high level of noise caused by an open door can give concern to passengers and be distracting to the pilot. If unable to close the door in flight, land as soon as practical.

## LANDING GEAR FAILURE AND MANUAL GEAR EXTENSION

### 1.) Prior To Executing Emergency Procedure:

Master Switch ........................................ Check On
Landing Gear Circuit Breakers ........................................ Check and Reset as Required

If breakers are reset (closed): Continue with emergency procedure.

### 2.) If Landing Gear Operates (As Indicated by Position of Manual Operating Handle) But Green (Gear Down - Locked) Lamp Fails to Illuminate:

**** NOTE ****

If this procedure is due to an electrical failure, landing gear position lights will be inoperative.

Landing gear position lights are automatically dimmed when navigation lights are on.

Navigation Lights ........................................ Check Off
Landing Gear Indicator Light ........................................ Replace as Required

### 3.) If Landing Gear Fails to Operate: Initiate the Following Procedure:

Airspeed ........................................ Below 100 mph (87 kt)
Landing Gear Switch ........................................ "GEAR DOWN LOCKED" Position
Motor Release Arm ........................................ Disengage and Push Forward Through Full Travel

Allow landing gear to fall.

Emergency Handle ........................................ Extend Full Length

Rotate handle forward through **FULL** travel to extend landing gear.

Green light on panel indicates landing gear is down and locked.

**** CAUTION ****

Do not re-engage landing-gear operating motor in flight. To reduce landing gear side loads to a minimum, avoid a crosswind landing and high speed turns while taxiing.

## SPIN RECOVERY

**** WARNING ****

The Comanche is certified as a Normal category airplane. Intentional spins are prohibited

Throttle ........................................ Idle
Ailerons ........................................ Neutral
Rudder ........................................ Full Opposite to Direction of Rotation
Control Wheel ........................................ Briskly Forward Full Travel
Rudder ........................................ Neutral When Rotation Stops
Control Wheel ........................................ Back Pressure to Recover From Dive

# EMERGENCY DESCENT

## 1.) Oxygen System Failure:

**** WARNING ****

Time of useful consciousness in the event of oxygen system failure while operating an aircraft at 21,000 feet is nine minutes.

Seat Belt and Harness ........................................ Secure
Throttle ........................................ Retard
Propeller Control ........................................ Full Forward - Increase rpm
Landing Gear ........................................ Down Under 150 mph (130 kt)
Airspeed ........................................ Maintain Below 150 mph (130 kt)

**** CAUTION ****

A 2,000 to 3,000 foot per minute descent is adequate to answer the emergency with minimal risk of damage to the engine, and discomfort to the passengers.

Consider elevation of terrain on descent. Initiate recovery procedure at 10,000 feet MSL or 2,000 feet AGL as appropriate.

Landing Gear ........................................ Retract
Mixture ........................................ Enrich
Throttle ........................................ Increase Slowly
Propeller Control ........................................ Cruise Setting

Adjust altitude and power setting as appropriate and continue flight to destination airport.

## 2.) Other Emergency:

In the event of an emergency where thermal shock to the engine and passenger discomfort are overridden by other factors (such as a fire that cannot be extinguished) which requires getting the airplane on the ground as quickly as possible, the additional action of rolling the aircraft to a 40 to 45 degree bank and descending in a spiral destroys a large portion of lift and increases rate of descent substantially.

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## SECTION 4 - NORMAL PROCEDURES

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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**NORMAL PROCEDURES**

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

**AIRSPEEDS FOR SAFE OPERATION**

The following airspeeds are those which are significant for safe operation of the airplane. The figures are for a standard airplane flown at gross weight under standard sea-level conditions.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $V_A$ - Design Maneuvering Speed / Turbulent Air Penetration Speed | 144 mph | 125 kt |
| $V_{APP}$ - Final Approach to Landing Speed | 87 mph | 76 kt |
| $V_{FE}$ - Flap Extension Speed | 125 mph | 108 kt |
| $V_{FE}$ - Recommended | 100 mph | 87 kt |
| $V_{LO}$ - Landing-Gear Operation Speed | 150 mph | 130 kt |
| $V_{LO}$ - Recommended | 125 mph | 108 kt |
| $V_{NE}$ - Never Exceed Speed | 227 mph | 197 kt |

**** WARNING ****

AD 72-22-05 may reduce $V_{NE}$ to 203 mph CAS (176 kt) or 188 mph CAS (163 kt) depending on how the airplane is modified. Refer to the AD for the airspeed applicable to your airplane.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $V_R$ - Rotation Speed (W/Zero Degrees of Flap) | 85 mph | 74 kt |
| $V_{S0}$ - Stall Speed (Power Off - Full Flaps and Gear Extended) | 67 mph | 58 kt |
| $V_{S1}$ - Stall Speed (Power Off - Clean) | 75 mph | 65 kt |
| $V_X$ - Best Angle-of-Climb Speed (At Sea Level) | 87 mph | 76 kt |
| $V_Y$ - Best Rate-of-Climb Speed (At Sea Level) | 111 mph | 96 kt |
| Best En Route Rate-of-Climb Speed | 130 mph | 113 kt |
| Demonstrated Crosswind Component | 20 mph | 17 kt |

**NOISE ABATEMENT**

Environmental concerns require that measures be taken to minimize the effect of airplane noise around airports or when operating near the ground. The following is a general guideline.

Many airports have published noise-abatement procedures. Pilots should become familiar with these procedures and conform to them. Pilots should also avoid noise-sensitive areas such as recreational and residential areas.

VFR departure from, and approach to an airport should be made so as to avoid prolonged flight at an altitude lower than 2,000 ft AGL. This procedure would only apply where weather permits. Other factors such as conflict with instructions from Air Traffic Control or the pilot's responsibility to see and avoid other aircraft will override this procedure.

No determination has been made by the Federal Aviation Administration as to whether the noise level of the Comanche is or should be acceptable by any standard for operation at, into, or out of any airport.

PREFLIGHT CHECK

## 1.) Cabin:

Control Wheel ........ Release Restraint
Avionics Master (Or Radios) ........ Check Off
Ignition ........ Check Off
Landing Gear Selector ........ Down
Master Switch ........ On
Fuel Quantity Gauge ........ Check Each Tank
Flaps ........ Lower
Master Switch ........ Off
Oxygen Quantity (If Equipped and Required) ........ Adequate
Required Papers and Navigation Charts ........ On Board

WALK AROUND INSPECTION

Exterior ........ Check for Damage and Evidence of Fluid Leaks

## 2.) Right Wing:

Control Surfaces ........ Check for Interference
Wing Tip and Navigation Light ........ Check
Fuel Tanks ........ Check Supply Visually - Adjust and Secure Caps
Fuel Tank Vents and Overflow Drains ........ Open
Tie Down and Wheel Chock ........ Remove
Main Gear Strut ........ Proper Inflation 2-3/4 in
Tire ........ Check for Wear and Proper Inflation

## 3.) Nose Section:

Windshield ........ Clean
Engine Compartment ........ Check for Fuel and Oil Leaks
Alternator Belt ........ Check Tension
Brake Fluid ........ Check Level
Oil ........ Check Level
Dip Stick and Oil Inspection Cover ........ Secure
Air Inlets ........ Clear
Propeller ........ Check for Nicks
Area Around Propeller ........ Clear of Debris
Nose Gear Strut ........ Proper Inflation 2-3/4 in
Tire ........ Check for Wear and Proper Inflation
Cowling ........ Secure

## WALK AROUND INSPECTION (Cont.)

### 4.) Left Wing:

Fuel Tanks ........ Check Supply Visually - Adjust and Secure Caps
Fuel Tank Vents and Overflow Drains ........ Open
Tie Down and Wheel Chock ........ Remove
Main Gear Strut ........ Proper Inflation 2-3/4 in
Tire ........ Check for Wear and Proper Inflation
Stall Warning Transmitter Switch ........ Free
Pitot Head ........ Cover Removed - Hole Clear
Wing Tip and Navigation Light ........ Check
Control Surfaces ........ Check for Interference

### 5.) Fuselage and Empennage:

Static Vents ........ Holes Clear
Control Surfaces ........ Check for Interference
Navigation Lights ........ Check
Antennas ........ Check
Dorsal Fin Ventilating Air Inlet ........ Clear
Tie Down ........ Remove
Baggage Door ........ Secure

** **WARNING** ** In winter insure that all surfaces are free of ice, frost and snow.

**PREFLIGHT CHECK FOR NIGHT OPERATION**

If operation of aircraft extends into night:

Master Switch ........ On
Navigation and Landing Lights ........ Check
Panel and Cabin Lights ........ Check
Master Switch ........ Off
Flashlight ........ On Board

**BEFORE STARTING ENGINE**

Seats ........ Erect
Belts and Harness ........ Fastened and Adjusted
Brakes ........ Set
Fuel Strainer ........ Drain Sample (5 Seconds) and Check Each Tank
Fuel Selector ........ Desired (Inboard Main) Tank
Circuit Breakers ........ Check In
Avionics Master (Or Radios) ........ Check Off
Air Vents, Heater and Defroster ........ As Desired
Alternate Static Source (If Installed) ........ Closed
Controls ........ Free and Correct
Door ........ Latched

**STARTING ENGINE WHEN COLD**

Throttle .......... 1/2 in Open
Propeller Control .......... Full Forward - Increase rpm
Master Switch .......... On
Electric Fuel Pump .......... On
Mixture .......... Full Rich
Fuel Flow Meter .......... Indicates 5 gpm Flow (Engine is Primed)
Mixture .......... Idle Cut-Off

** CLEAR PROP **

Starter .......... Engage (Maximum 15 Seconds)
Mixture .......... Advance Slowly to Full Rich
Throttle .......... Adjust
Oil Pressure .......... Check

**** CAUTION ****

If oil pressure is not indicated within 30 seconds, stop engine and determine cause of trouble.

**STARTING ENGINE WHEN HOT**

Throttle .......... Full Forward - Open
Propeller Control .......... Full Forward - Increase rpm
Master Switch .......... On
Electric Fuel Pump .......... On
Mixture .......... Full Rich to Purge Lines - Then Idle Cut-Off
Electric Fuel Pump .......... Off

** CLEAR PROP **

Starter .......... Engage (Maximum 15 Seconds)
Throttle .......... Retard
Mixture .......... Advance to Full Rich
Oil Pressure .......... Check

**STARTING ENGINE WHEN FLOODED**

Throttle .......... Full Forward - Open
Propeller Control .......... Full Forward - Increase rpm
Master Switch .......... Check On
Mixture .......... Idle Cut-Off
Electric Fuel Pump .......... Off

** CLEAR PROP **

Starter .......... Engage (Maximum 15 Seconds)
Throttle .......... Retard
Mixture .......... Advance to Full Rich
Oil Pressure .......... Check

**** CAUTION ****

Starter manufacturers recommend that cranking periods be limited to thirty seconds with a two minute rest between cranking periods. Longer cranking periods will shorten the life of the starter.

#### STARTING WITH EXTERNAL POWER SOURCE

(For an aircraft that is equipped with an auxiliary power receptacle.)

Master Switch ........ Check Off
All Electrical Equipment ........ Check Off
Alternate Battery Terminals ........ Connect
External Power Cable ........ Insert in Fuselage

Initiate appropriate starting procedure.

Throttle ........ Lowest Possible rpm
Oil Pressure ........ Check
External Power Cable ........ Disconnect From Fuselage
Master Switch ........ On
Ammeter ........ Check for Normal Charging

** **NOTE** ** Do not attempt flight if battery is not charging properly.

#### BEFORE TAXIING

Rotating Beacon ........ On
Electric Fuel Pump ........ Off
Flaps ........ Retract
Flap Selector ........ Center "Off" Position
Landing Gear Indicator Light ........ Check Green
Avionics Master (Or Radios) ........ On
Radio Transfer Switches ........ As Required

Flight Instruments:

Artificial Horizon ........ Check Erect and Set
Rate-of-Climb Indicator ........ Check Zero
Altimeter ........ Adjust to Local Barometric Setting and Verify Field Elevation Reading is Within Acceptable Limits
Clock ........ Wind and Set

** **NOTE** ** If flight plan anticipates instrument meteorological conditions:

Pitot Heat ........ On (Check Ammeter Discharge) Then Off

#### TAXIING

Taxi Area ........ Clear
Throttle ........ Apply Slowly
Brakes ........ Check
Steering ........ Check

**ENGINE RUN UP**

Brakes ........................................ Set
Warm Up ........................................ 2 to 4 Minutes at 800 to 1200 rpm
Mixture ........................................ Check Rich

**** NOTE ****

Above 5,000 ft density altitude, mixture should be leaned for takeoff until, and only until, any engine roughness is eliminated.

Propeller Control ........................................ Check Full Forward - Increase rpm
Throttle ........................................ 2000 rpm

** **CAUTION** ** Do not exceed 2200 rpm in a routine static test.

Manifold Pressure ........................................ 15 in Hg
Magnetos ........................................ Check Left and Right

Maximum Drop - 175 rpm
Maximum Difference - 50 rpm

Vacuum ........................................ 5.0 in Hg + .1 or - .2 in
Ammeter ........................................ Check Charging
Oil Temperature ........................................ Check
Oil Pressure ........................................ Check Green
Propeller ........................................ Cycle as Needed to Circulate Oil and Operate Governor

Normal Drop - 300 to 400 rpm

** **CAUTION** ** Do not exceed a 500 rpm drop for more than a few seconds at a time.

Throttle ........................................ Retard

**BEFORE TAKEOFF**

Fuel Selector ........................................ Leave on Previously Selected (Inboard Main) Tank
Electric Fuel Pump ........................................ On
Flaps ........................................ Set for Takeoff (Zero to 15 Degrees as Desired)
Trim Tab ........................................ Set for Takeoff (Neutral Position for Most Operations)
Directional Gyro ........................................ Set Heading
Engine Gauges ........................................ Normal
Strobe Lights (If Installed) ........................................ On

**** NOTE ****

Engine is warm enough for takeoff when throttle can be opened without the engine faltering.

**TAKEOFF**

Throttle .......... Open Using a Smooth, Steady Movement
Accelerate to $V_R$ .......... 85 mph (74 kt)
Control Wheel .......... Back Pressure to Rotate to Climb Attitude

** Establish Positive Rate of Climb **

Area Around Landing Gear Manual Operating Lever .......... Clear
Brakes .......... Tap
Landing Gear .......... Retract
Landing Gear Indicator .......... Amber
Climb Out at $V_Y$ .......... 111 mph (96 kt)

**1.) Maximum Performance Climb:**

Power .......... Full Throttle and Maximum rpm

**2.) Reduced Power Climb:**

Full Power .......... Until 1000 ft AGL
Reduce Power to Climb Setting .......... 25-25
Continue Climb at Best En Route Speed .......... 130 mph (113 kt)
Cylinder Head Temperature .......... Maintain in Green

**SHORT FIELD TAKEOFF AND OBSTACLE CLEARANCE**

Flaps .......... 15 Degrees
Trim Tab .......... Set for Takeoff
Brakes .......... Partial Power Before Brake Release

Release brakes and continue opening throttle using a smooth, steady movement.

Accelerate to 70 to 80 mph (61 to 70 kt) depending on airplane weight.

Control Wheel .......... Back Pressure to Rotate to Climb Attitude

After breaking ground:

Accelerate to $V_X$ .......... 87 mph (76 kt)

Climb past obstacle.

Accelerate to $V_Y$ .......... 111 mph (96 kt)
Landing Gear .......... Retract
Flaps .......... Retract
Power .......... As Required Above 1000 ft AGL
Continue Climb at Best En Route Speed .......... 130 mph (113 kt)

### SOFT FIELD TAKEOFF

Flaps ........ 15 Degrees
Trim Tab ........ Set for Takeoff
Control Wheel ........ Full Back Pressure to Relieve Airplane Weight
Throttle ........ Apply Slowly

**** NOTE ****

Once breakaway is achieved and taxi has begun, maintain airplane momentum to avoid becoming bogged down in soggy terrain.

Accelerate until airplane breaks ground. After breaking ground:

Stay in Ground Effect and Accelerate to $V_X$ ........ 87 mph (76 kt)
Landing Gear ........ Retract

** Establish Positive Rate of Climb **

Accelerate to $V_Y$ ........ 111 mph (96 kt)
Flaps ........ Retract
Power ........ As Required Above 1000 ft AGL
Continue Climb at Best En Route Speed ........ 130 mph (113 kt)

**** NOTE ****

The figures for $V_X$ and $V_Y$ are based on a 3100 pound gross weight. Both $V_X$ and $V_Y$ decrease approximately one mph for every 100 pounds that the airplane is below maximum allowable gross weight.

$V_X$ increases approximately 0.25 mph for each 1,000 foot increase in density altitude above mean sea level.

$V_Y$ decreases approximately 0.75 mph for each 1,000 foot increase in density altitude above mean sea level.

### CLIMB

Best Angle-of-Climb Speed ($V_X$) ........ 87 mph (76 kt)
Best Rate-of-Climb Speed ($V_Y$) ........ 111 mph (96 kt)
Best En Route Rate-of-Climb Speed ........ 130 mph (113 kt)
Cylinder Head Temperature ........ Maintain in Green
Mixture ........ Adjust With Ascent
Electric Fuel Pump ........ Off at Desired Altitude - Check Fuel Pressure

**** NOTE ****

Best en route rate-of-climb speed decreases approximately 0.75 mph for each 1,000 foot increase in density altitude above mean sea level.

When en route below 5,000 feet MSL, always return mixture to full rich before increasing power settings. Above 5,000 feet MSL, adjust mixture as required as over enriching mixture at high altitude will result in engine roughness.

### CRUISING

**** NOTE **** Operation above Flight Level 210 is not approved.

Power ........ Set Per Power Table in Section 5 (Performance)
Normal Maximum Cruise Power ........ 75 Percent
Mixture ........ Adjust to EGT Gauge

100 Degrees Fahrenheit Rich of Peak EGT at 75% Power
50 Degrees Fahrenheit Rich of Peak EGT at 65% Power

Fuel Tanks ........ Rotate Outboard Each Half Hour, Inboard Each Hour

**** WARNING ****

Auxiliary fuel may be used only in level cruise flight

Oxygen is recommended when operating aircraft above 10,000 feet MSL, and required above 12,500 feet MSL. No smoking with oxygen in use.

Engine Gauges ........ Monitor

### DESCENT

Propeller ........ Cruise rpm
Manifold Pressure ........ 15 to 17 in Hg
Airspeed ........ Maintain Cylinder Head Temperature in Green
Mixture ........ Enrich With Descent

### APPROACH AND LANDING

Seats ........ Erect
Belts and Harness ........ Fasten and Adjust
Electric Fuel Pump ........ On
Fuel Selector ........ Desired (Inboard Main) Tank
Area Around Landing Gear Manual Operating Lever ........ Clear
Landing Gear Selector ........ Down Under 125 mph or 108 kt (Recommended)
Landing Gear Indicator ........ Green
Flaps ........ As Required Under 100 mph or 87 kt (Recommended)
Trim Tab ........ Set for Landing
Mixture ........ Enrich as Required
Propeller Control ........ Full Forward - Increase rpm
GUMP Check ........ On Final
$V_{APP}$ ........ 87 mph (76 kt)

**** NOTE ****

If crosswind component is above 12 kts, use partial or no flaps and above normal approach speed.

#### SHORT FIELD LANDING

Airspeed on Final ........ Coordinate to 85 mph (74 kt)
Throttle ........ Carry Power Until Flare
Flaps ........ Retract Immediately After Touchdown
Control Wheel ........ Full Back Pressure to Put Airplane Weight on Main Landing Gear
Brakes ........ Apply Heavily

#### SOFT FIELD LANDING

Airspeed on Final ........ Coordinate to 85 mph (74 kt)
Throttle ........ Carry Power Until Flare
Flaps ........ Leave Extended to Maximize Wing Lift
Control Wheel ........ Back Pressure to Relieve Airplane Weight
Brakes ........ Utilize Field Conditions to Slow Airplane, Minimum Braking Application

**** NOTE ****

The Comanche has been demonstrated safe when operating in and out of rough grass surfaces.

#### GO AROUND

Throttle ........ Full Forward - Open
Control Wheel ........ Rotate to Climb Attitude

** Establish Positive Rate of Climb - Move to Right of Runway **

Area Around Landing Gear Manual Operating Lever ........ Clear
Landing Gear ........ Retract
Landing Gear Indicator ........ Amber
Climb Out at $V_Y$ ........ 111 mph (96 kt)
Flaps ........ Retract
Power ........ As Required Above 1000 ft AGL
Continue Climb at Best En Route Speed ........ 130 mph (113 kt)

#### AFTER LANDING

(Clear of Runway)

Flaps ........ Retract
Flap Selector ........ Center "Off" Position
Electric Fuel Pump ........ Off
Strobe Lights (If Installed) ........ Off

**ENGINE SHUTDOWN**

Idle ........ Until a Decided Decrease in CHT is Noted
Tune Comm Radio to 121.5 ........ Check ELT for False Operation
Rotating Beacon ........ Off
Avionics Master (Or Radios) ........ Off
Throttle ........ 1800 rpm
Clear Plugs ........ 15 to 20 Seconds
Throttle ........ Reduce to 1200 rpm
Mixture ........ Idle Cut-Off
Magnetos ........ Off
Master Switch ........ Off

## PARKING AND MOORING

Control Wheel ........ Secure Restraint
Wheel Chocks ........ In Place
Tie Downs ........ Secure
Pitot Head ........ Cover
Cabin Fresh Air Inlets ........ Closed
Storm Window ........ Secure
Doors ........ Locked

# SECTION 5 - PERFORMANCE

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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# PERFORMANCE

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

## INTRODUCTION

The performance graphs in this section were prepared by Piper Aircraft in accordance with FAA regulations. Test data is corrected to ICAO Standard Day conditions. The information shown is unfactored and does not make any allowance for variations in pilot proficiency and/or mechanical condition of the aircraft.

Effects of conditions not considered in the charts such as a grass runway surface on takeoff and landing performance, or the effect of winds aloft on cruise and range performance must be evaluated by the pilot. Range and endurance can be greatly affected by improper leaning. In-flight fuel flow and quantity checks are therefore recommended.

## FLIGHT PLANNING EXAMPLE

The following sample flight problem utilizes information derived from the various charts in this section to determine the predicted performance data for a typical flight. Many of the charts contain an example to show how they are used.

**** WARNING ****

Performance information is not valid if readings from the charts are obtained by extrapolation beyond the limits shown on the charts.

### 1.) Aircraft Loading:

Airplane gross weight and center of gravity may be determined by utilizing information provided in Section 6 (Weight and Balance) of this Manual. The following has been provided for the purpose of computing this flight planning example.

Takeoff Weight .......... 3000 lbs
Center of Gravity .......... Within Approved Limits
Usable Fuel .......... 86 US gal/516 lbs

### 2.) Takeoff:

Takeoff Conditions:

Temperature .......... 60 Degrees F. (15 Degrees C.)
Pressure Altitude .......... 2000 ft MSL
Runway Length Available .......... 4100 ft
Runway Headwind Component .......... 10 kt

When consulting the Takeoff Performance chart it is necessary to keep in mind that the distances shown are based on use of the short field technique. Ground run distance can be expected to be approximately twice the distance shown when making a standard takeoff.

Ground Run (Figure 5-06) .......... 1100 ft
Total Distance to Clear a 50 ft Obstacle (Figure 5-07) .......... 1500 ft
Minimum Safe Runway Length Required for Aborted Takeoff .......... 3000 ft

## FLIGHT PLANNING EXAMPLE (Cont.)

### 3.) Climb:

Planned Cruise Altitude ........ 7000 ft MSL
Average Rate of Climb (Figure 5-08) ........ 1150 ft/min
Time to Climb ........ 4.5 min
Fuel Consumption Rate (Figures 5-03 & 5-04) ........ 21.5 gph/129.0 pph
Fuel Consumption ........ 1.6 US gal/9.6 lbs

### 4.) Cruise:

Cruise Conditions:

Pressure Altitude ........ 7000 ft MSL
Temperature ........ 35 Degrees F. (02 Degrees C.)
Expected Headwind Component En Route ........ None

**** NOTE ****

Fuel consumption rates are based on best economy mixture setting.

Power Setting ........ 75 Percent
TAS (And Ground Speed) (Figure 5-10) ........ 182 mph 158 kt
Time to Cruise ........ 135 min
Fuel Consumption Rate (Figures 5-03 & 5-04) ........ 14.1 gph/84.6 pph
Fuel Consumption ........ 31.7 US gal/190.2 lbs

### 5.) Descent:

Average Rate of Descent (Each Inch Decrease in MAP = 100 fpm Descent Rate) . 700 ft/min
Time to Descend ........ 4.3 min
Fuel Consumption Rate (Figure 5-03 & 5-04) ........ 10.0 gph/60.0 pph
Fuel Consumption ........ 0.7 US gal/4.2 lbs

### 6.) Landing:

Landing Conditions:

Temperature ........ 60 Degrees F. (15 Degrees C.)
Pressure Altitude ........ 4000 ft MSL
Runway Length ........ 5200 ft
Runway Headwind Component ........ 10 kt

When consulting the Landing Performance chart it is necessary to keep in mind that the distances shown are based on use of the short field technique with maximum braking effort. Ground roll distance can be expected to be approximately twice the distance shown on the chart when making a standard landing.

Landing Weight ........ 2796 lbs
Ground Roll (Figure 5-13) ........ 850 ft
Total Distance to Clear a 50 ft Obstacle (Figure 5-14) ........ 1300 ft

## FLIGHT PLANNING EXAMPLE (Cont.)

### 7.) Flight Summary:

Total Flight Time ........ 144 min
Total Range ........ 430 sm
Total Fuel Required ........ 34 US gal/204 lbs

## FLIGHT PLANNING INFORMATION SUPPLEMENT

Takeoff and landing performance is of primary interest in operating an aircraft because it defines the runway length requirements. In addition to the importance of proper piloting technique, any factor which affects the velocity or acceleration during the takeoff run will affect the takeoff distance. Likewise, any factor which affects the landing velocity or deceleration during the landing roll will affect landing distance. Because not all factors affecting takeoff and landing performance are included in the accompanying charts, the following information is provided.

### 1.) Factors Addressed in the Performance Charts:

**A.**) Ambient Temperature
**B.**) Pressure Altitude
**C.**) Gross Weight
**D.**) Headwind Component

Runway surface: paved, level, dry.

### 2.) Factors Not Addressed in the Performance Charts:

Percent increase in distance required for ground roll and total distance over a 50 ft obstacle.

** **NOTE** ** Factors are cumulative and must be added.

| | | Takeoff | | Landing |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **A.**) Runway Surface: | | | | |
| Dry Grass (Short - Less Than 5 in) | | 20% | | 20% |
| Dry Grass (Tall - Greater Than 5 in) | | 25% | | 30% |
| Wet Grass (Short) | | 25% | | 30% |
| Wet Grass (Tall) | | 30% | | 40% |
| Soft Ground or Deep Snow | | 25% + | | 25% + |
| **B.**) Runway Slope: (Each 2 Degrees) | (Uphill) | 10% | (Downhill) | 10% |
| **C.**) Tailwind Component: (Equal to 10% of Liftoff Speed) | | 20% | | 20% |

** **NOTE** **

High humidity will reduce engine power as much as 10% and increase takeoff run proportionally.

Numerous variables prevent the precise measurement of the effects of runway surface on rolling resistance. Figures related to runway surface are estimates, and can deviate vastly. A wet and/or icy runway, together with the effects of hydroplaning will greatly reduce braking effectiveness and increase stopping distance up to as much as **six times** normal. Tall grass, soft ground and snow all increase rolling resistance and shorten landing roll, but no set figures are given for their effect.

# ALTITUDE CONVERSION CHART

**** NOTE ****

THIS CHART SHOULD BE USED TO DETERMINE DENSITY ALTITUDE FROM EXISTING TEMPERATURE AND PRESSURE ALTITUDE CONDITIONS.

FOR USE WITH THE ACCOMPANYING PERFORMANCE CHARTS.

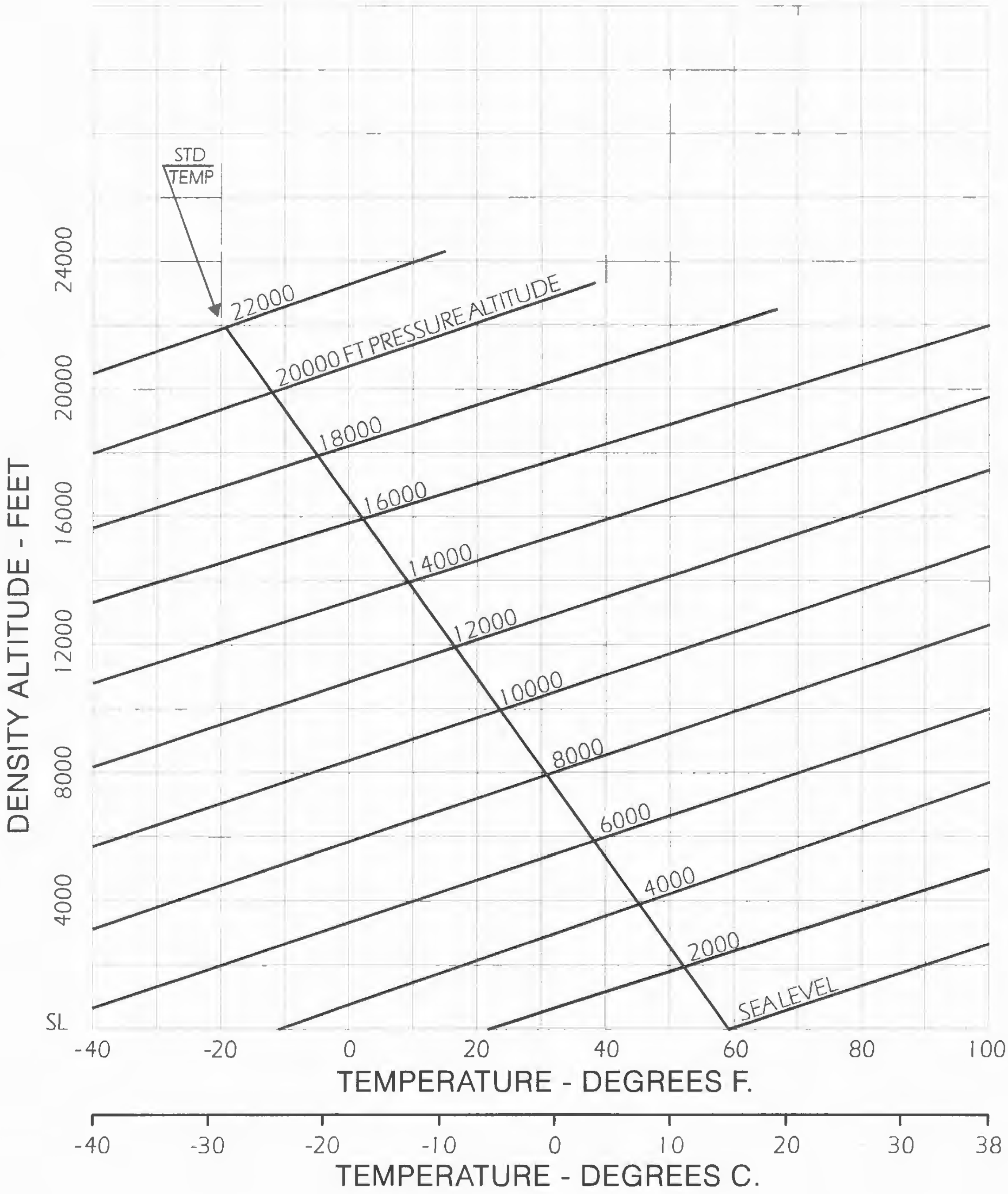


**FIGURE 5-01**

# TEMPERATURE CONVERSION CHART

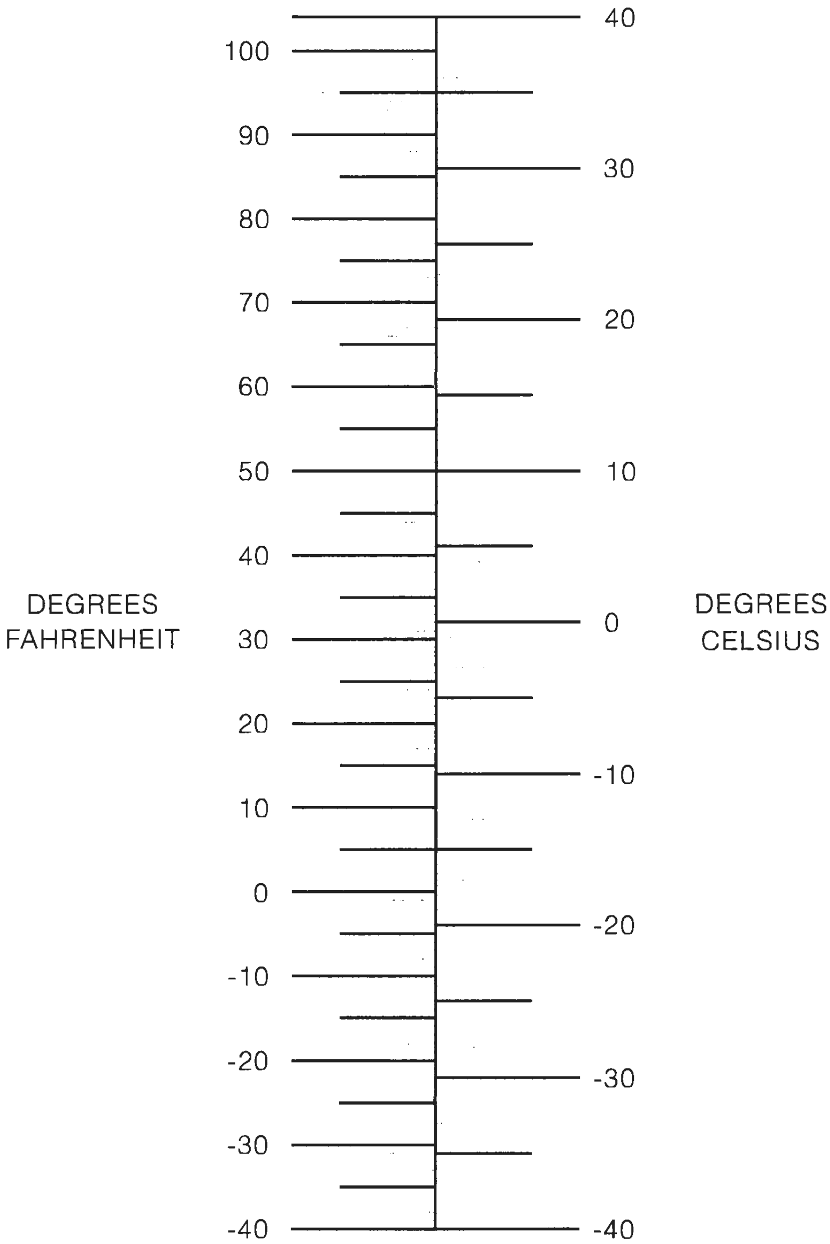


**FIGURE 5-1A**

# CROSSWIND COMPONENT GRAPH

** **NOTE** ** DEMONSTRATED CROSSWIND COMPONENT IS 17 KT (20 MPH)

EXAMPLE DEPICTED:

| | |
|---|---|
| Windspeed: | 20 Kt |
| Angle Between Wind Direction and Flight Path: | 60 Degrees |
| Headwind Component: | 10 Kt |
| Crosswind Component: | 17 Kt |

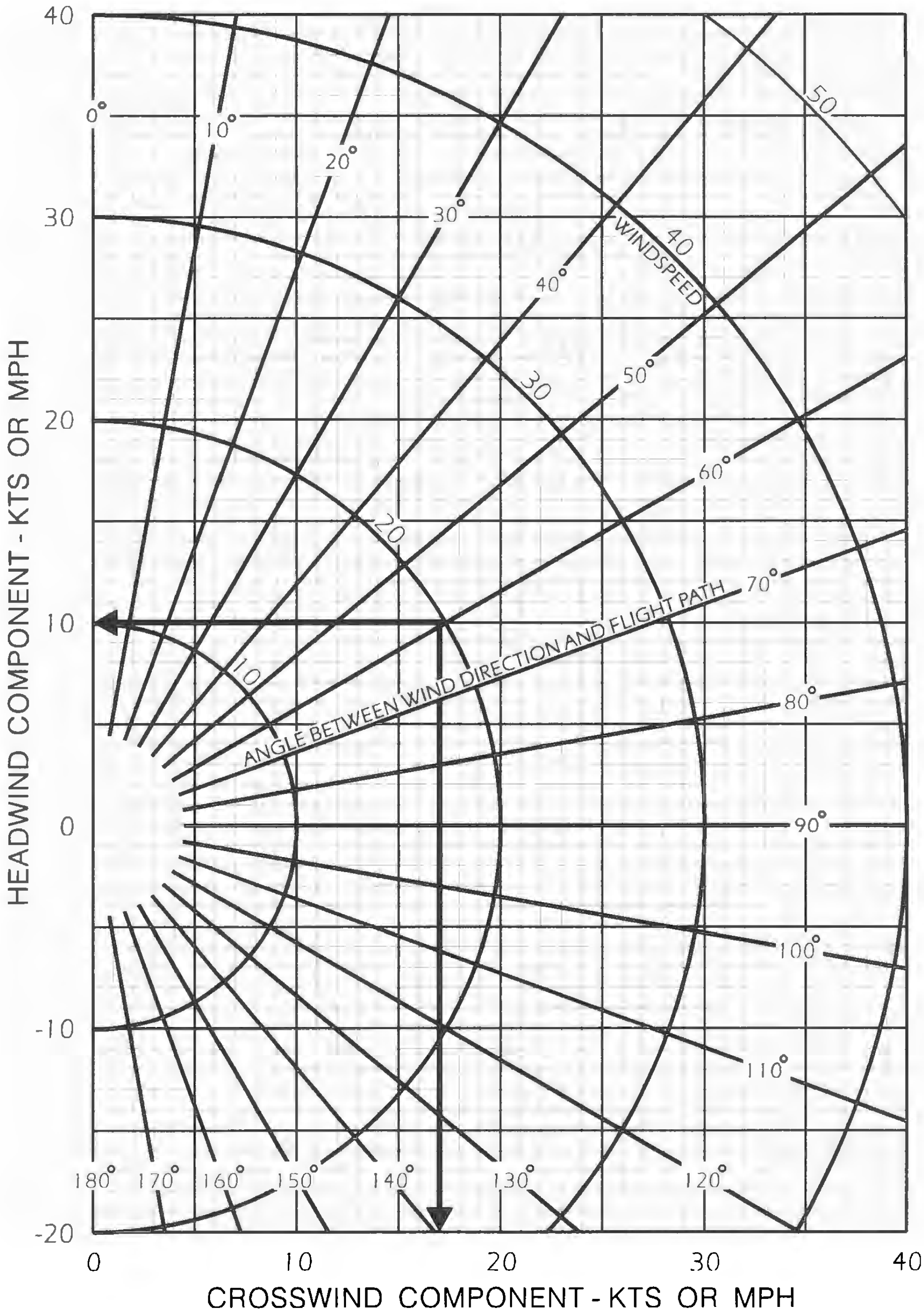


**FIGURE 5-1B**

# AIRSPEED CALIBRATION

PRIMARY PITOT-STATIC SYSTEM

STANDARD PITOT- STATIC HEAD

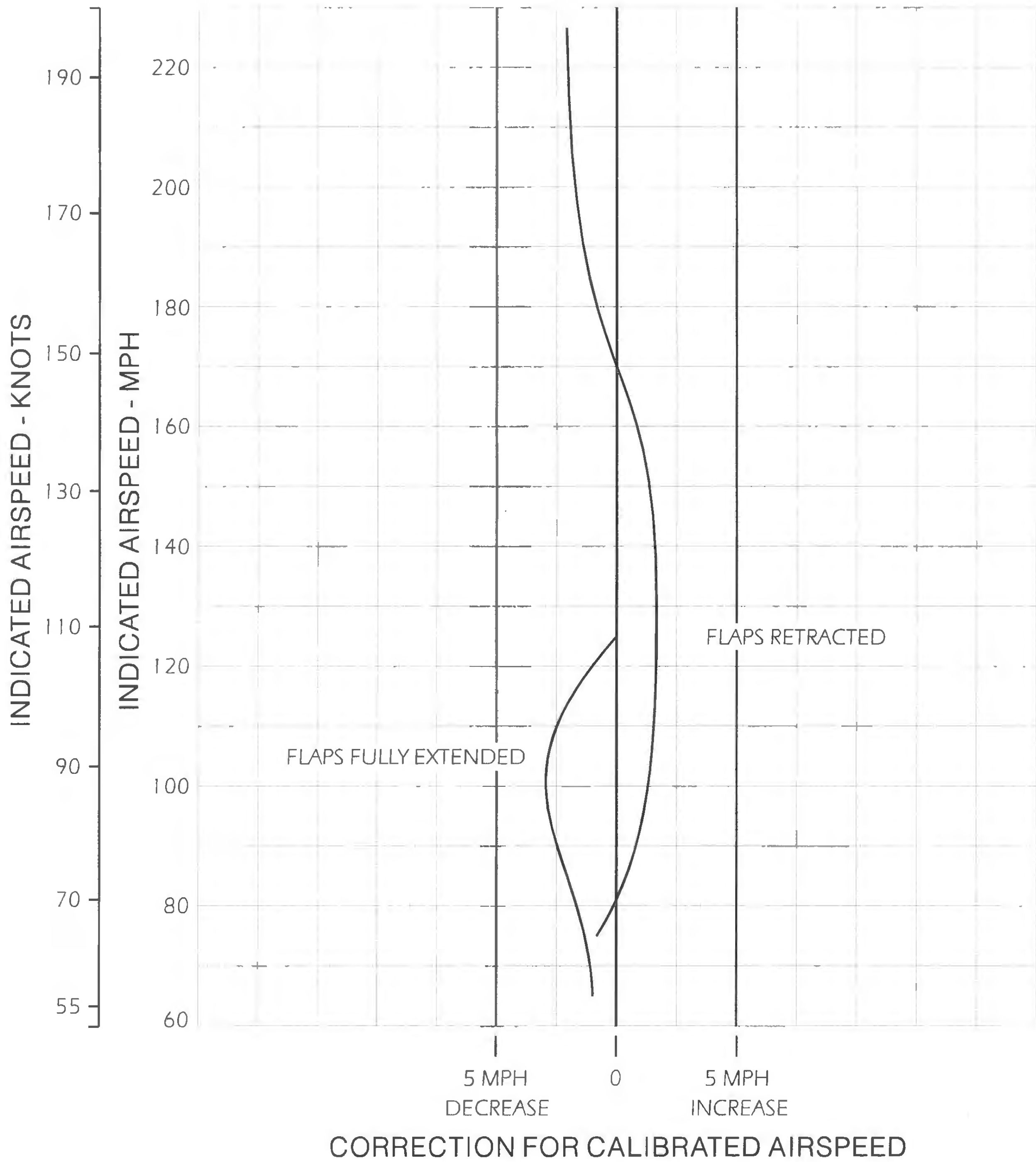


**FIGURE 5-02**

# PART THROTTLE FUEL CONSUMPTION

LYCOMING IO-540-D SERIES ENGINE
FUEL INJECTOR: BENDIX RSA-5AD1
STANDARD SEA LEVEL CONDITIONS

COMPRESSION RATIO: 8.5 TO 1
MINIMUM FUEL GRADE: 91/96
MIXTURE: AS NOTED

**** NOTE ****

TO OBTAIN FUEL CONSUMPTION AT ALTITUDE, REFER TO ACCOMPANYING ALTITUDE PERFORMANCE CURVE.

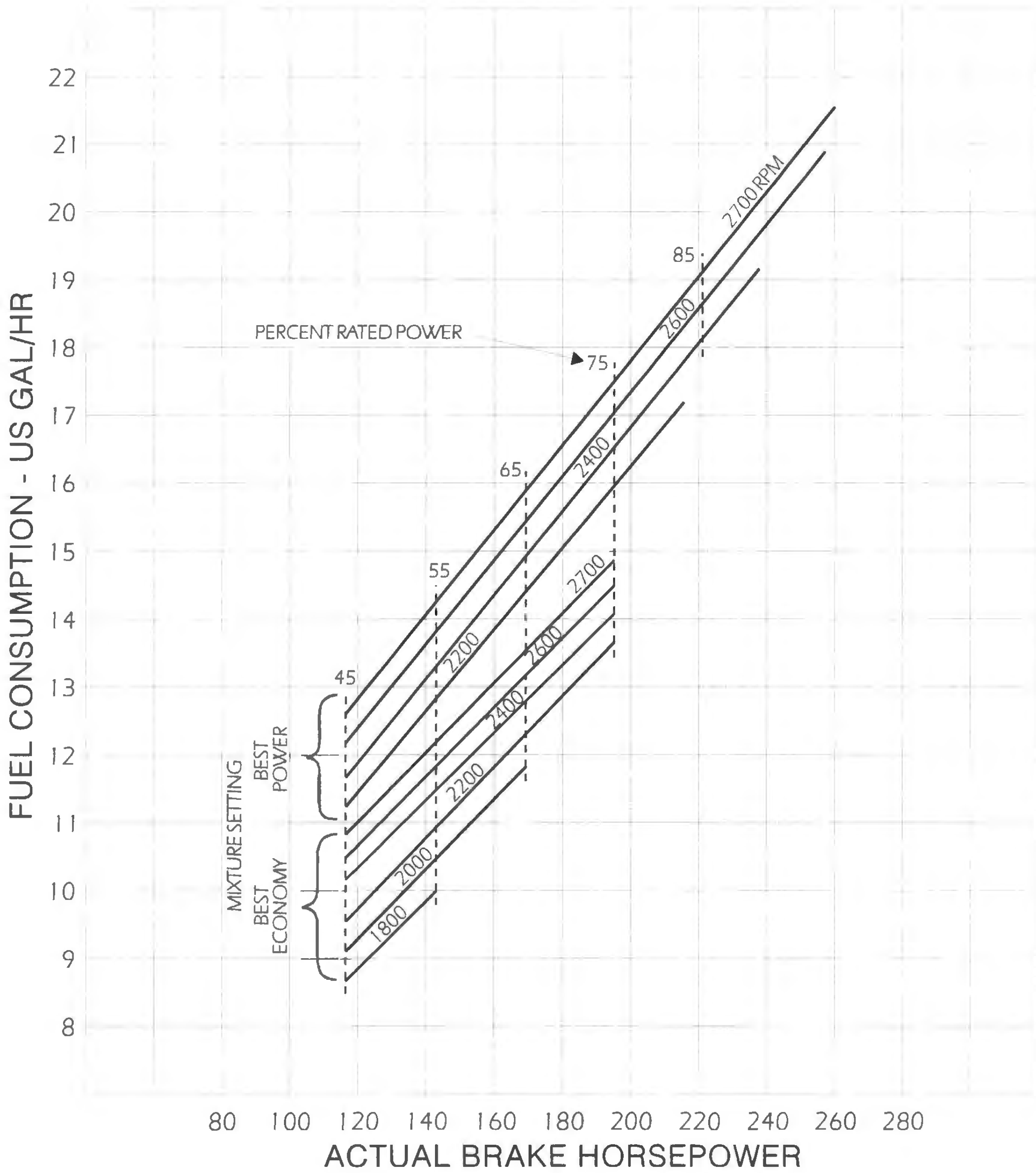


**FIGURE 5-03**

# ALTITUDE PERFORMANCE CURVE

LYCOMING IO-540-D SERIES ENGINE
FUEL INJECTOR: BENDIX RSA-5AD1
STANDARD ATMOSPHERE

COMPRESSION RATIO: 8.5 TO 1
MINIMUM FUEL GRADE: 91/96
MIXTURE: BEST POWER

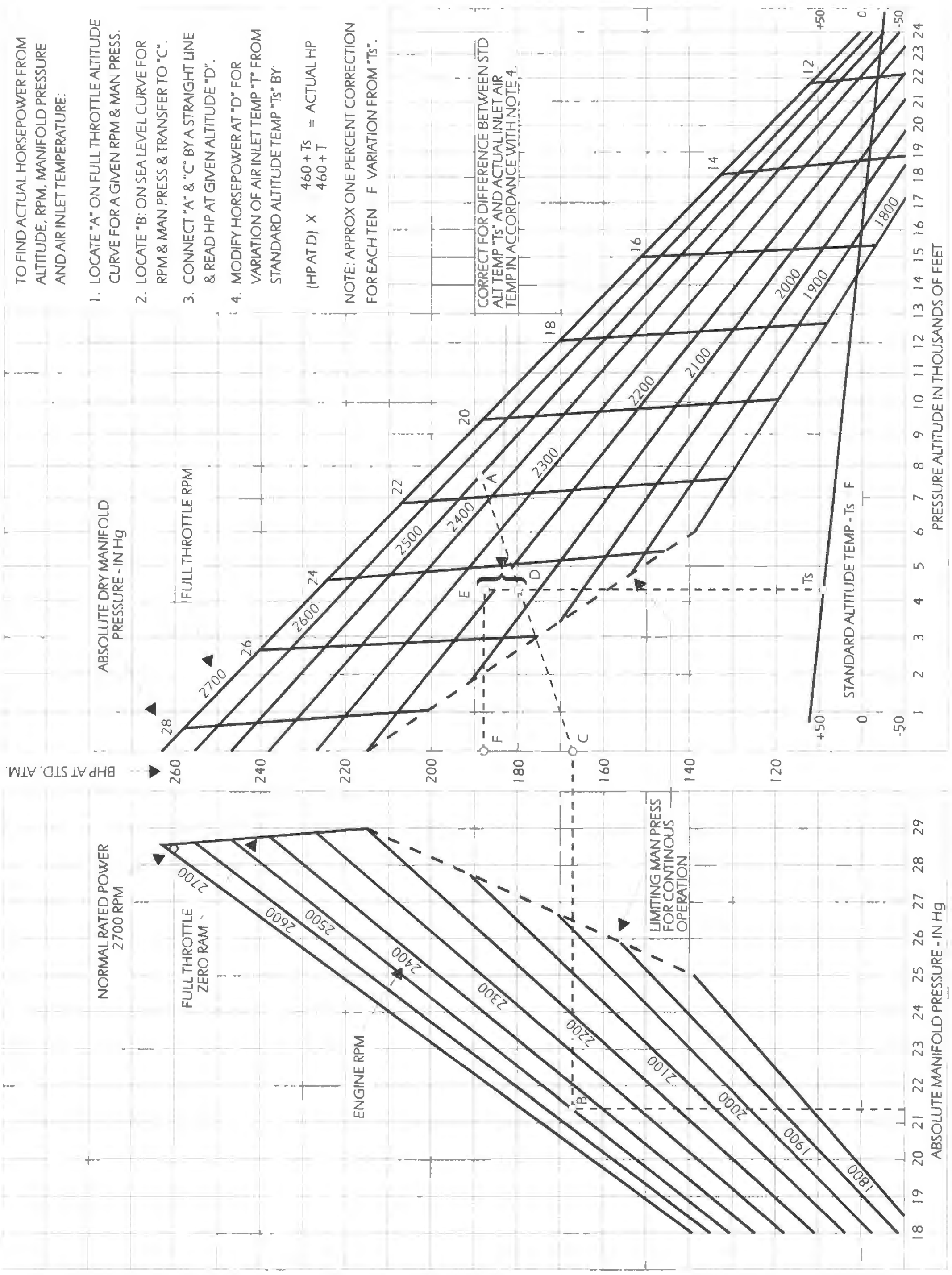


**FIGURE 5-04**

# STALL SPEED

**VS**

# GROSS WEIGHT

STANDARD ATMOSPHERE

POWER OFF

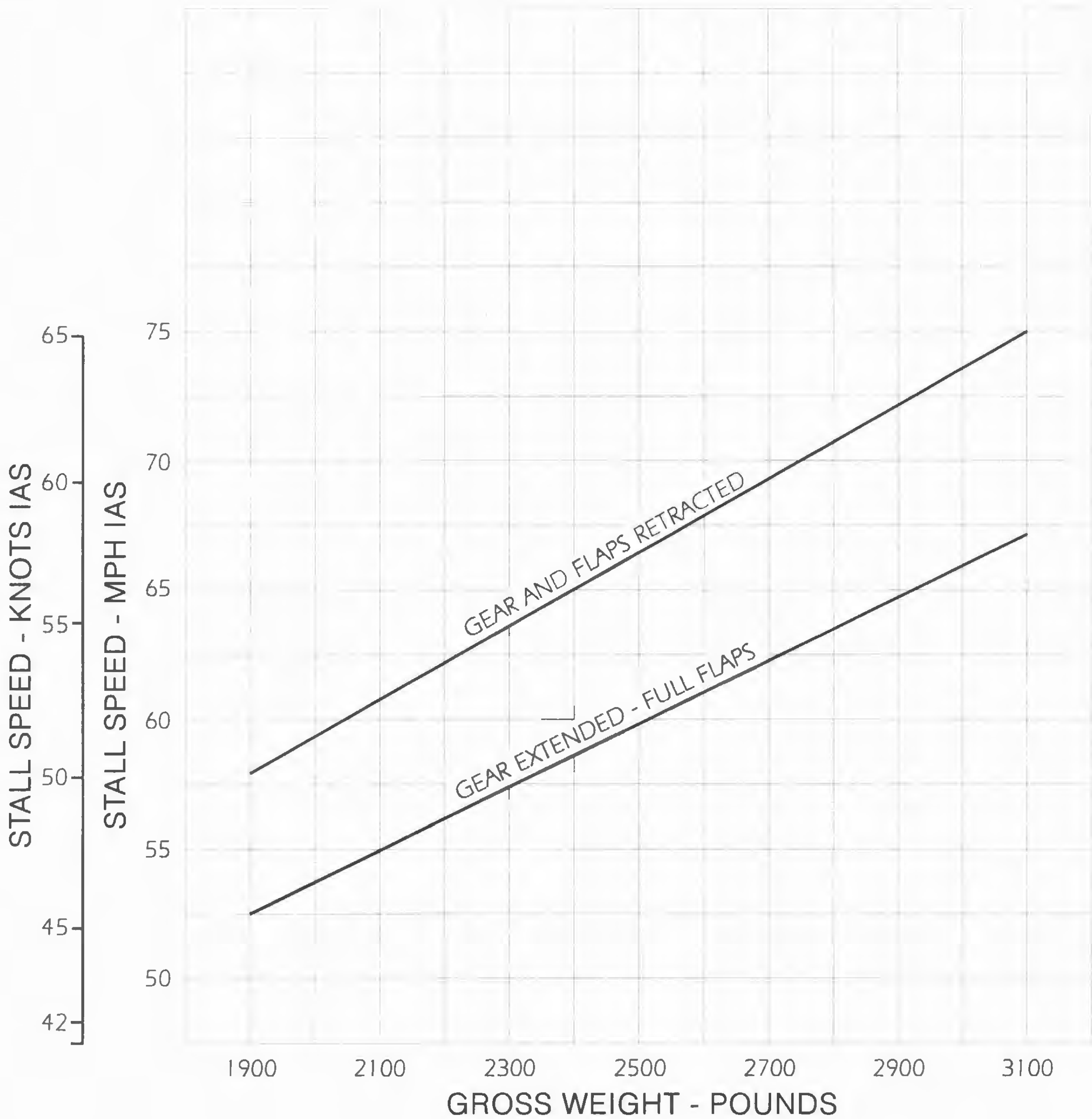


**FIGURE 5-05**

# TAKEOFF GROUND RUN DISTANCE

WING FLAPS: 15 DEGREES
RUNWAY SURFACE: PAVED, LEVEL, DRY

FULL THROTTLE AND MAX RPM
TAKEOFF SPEED = $V_{S0}$

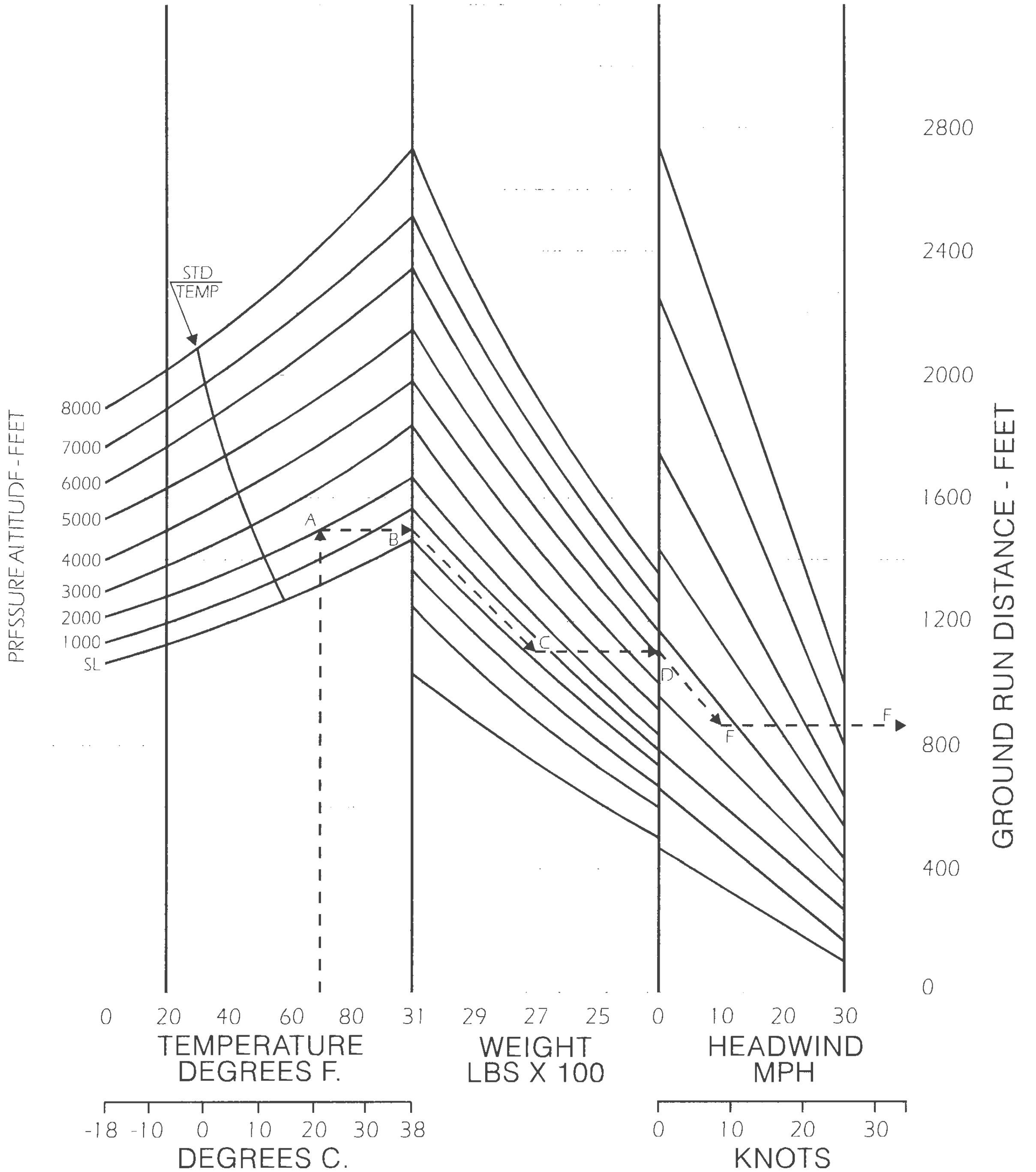


**FIGURE 5-06**

# TAKEOFF DISTANCE OVER A 50 FT OBSTACLE

WING FLAPS: 15 DEGREES
RUNWAY SURFACE: PAVED, LEVEL, DRY

FULL THROTTLE AND MAX RPM
ATTAIN 1.3 x $V_{S0}$ AT 50 FEET

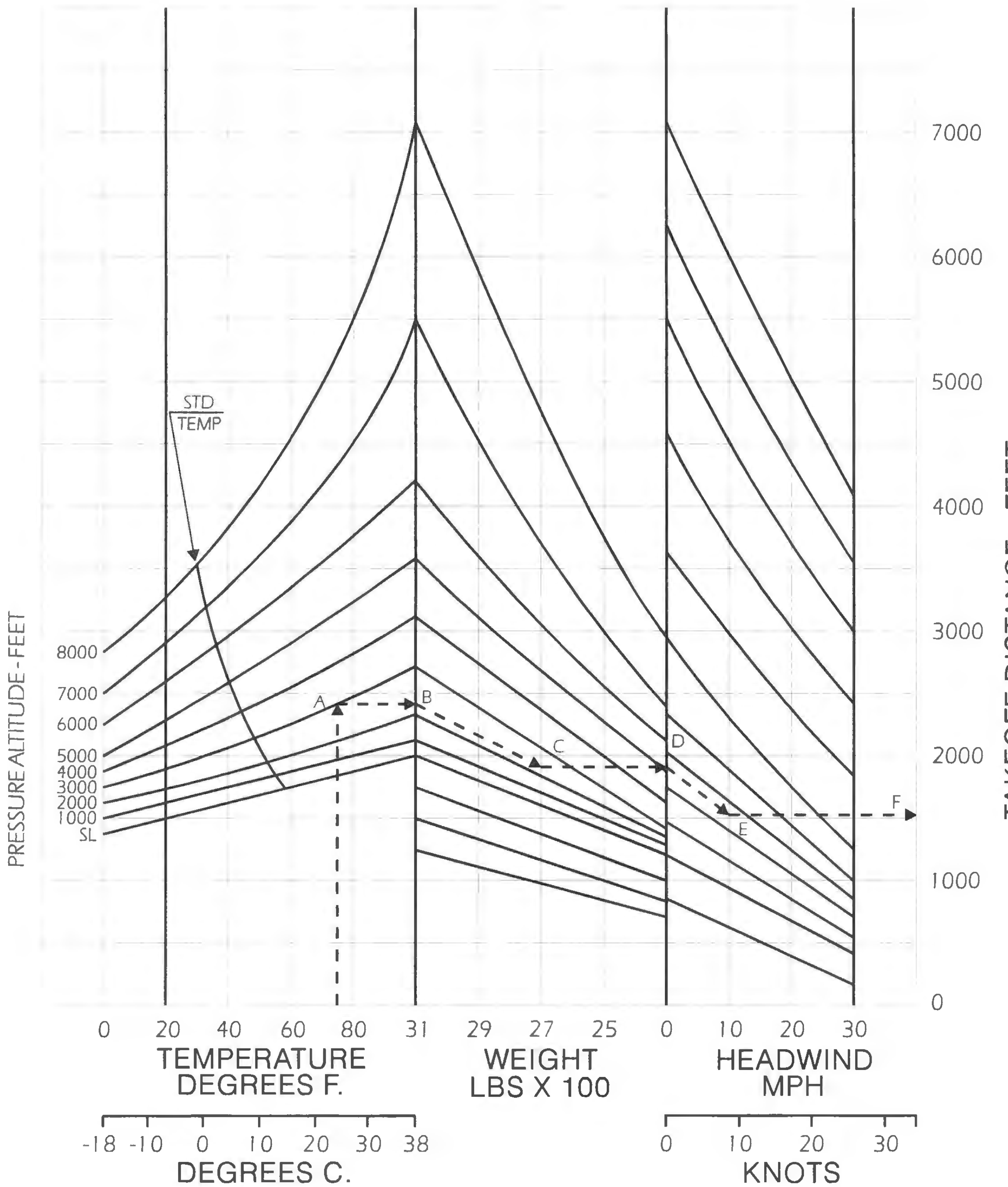


**FIGURE 5-07**

# RATE OF CLIMB

VS

# DENSITY ALTITUDE

GEAR AND FLAPS: AS SHOWN
FULL THROTTLE AND MAX RPM

MIXTURE: LEAN FOR SMOOTH OPERATION
OPTIMUM AIRSPEED

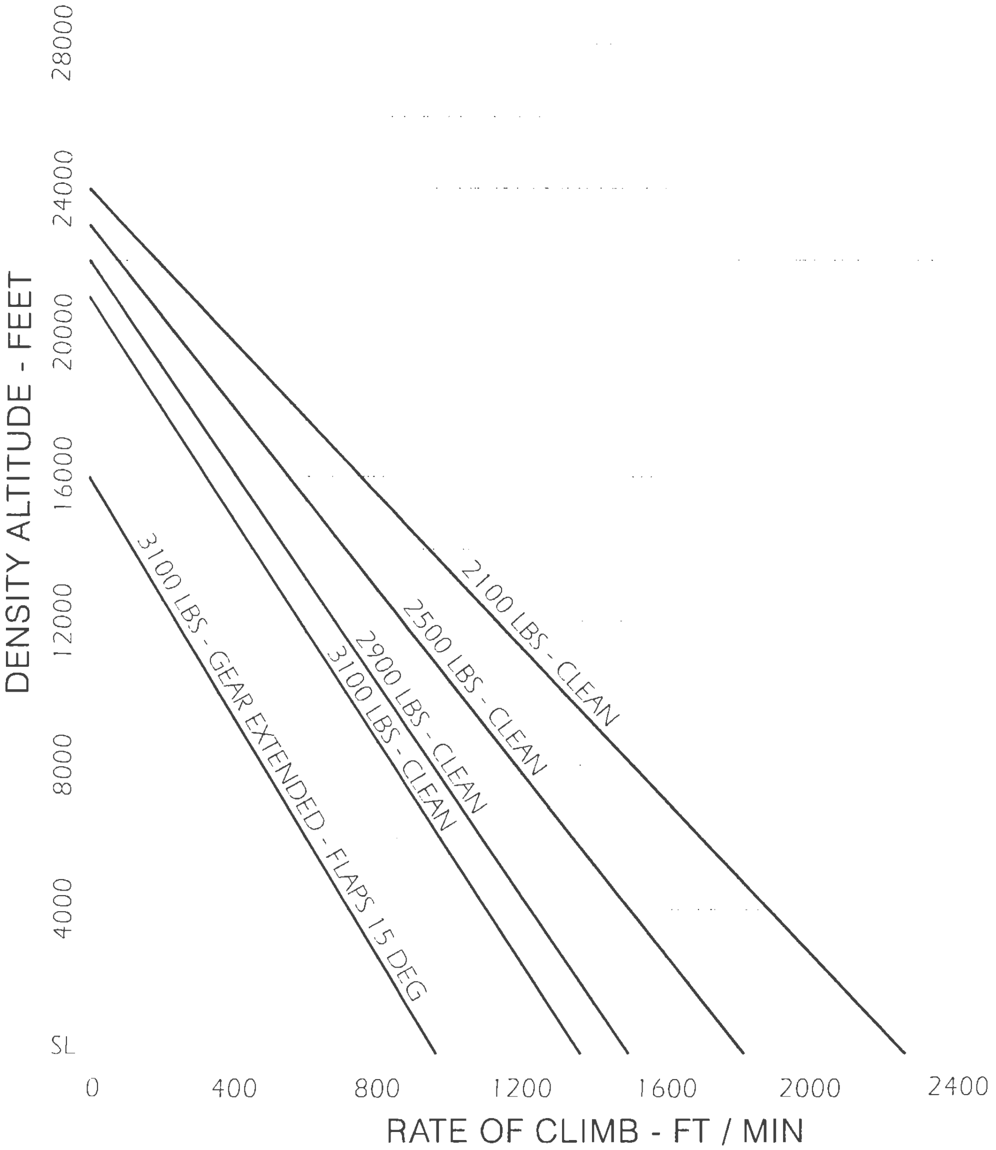


**FIGURE 5-08**

# $V_X$ AND $V_Y$
## VS
# DENSITY ALTITUDE

GEAR AND FLAPS: AS SHOWN
FULL THROTTLE AND MAX RPM

MIXTURE: LEAN FOR SMOOTH OPERATION
GROSS WEIGHT: 3100 POUNDS

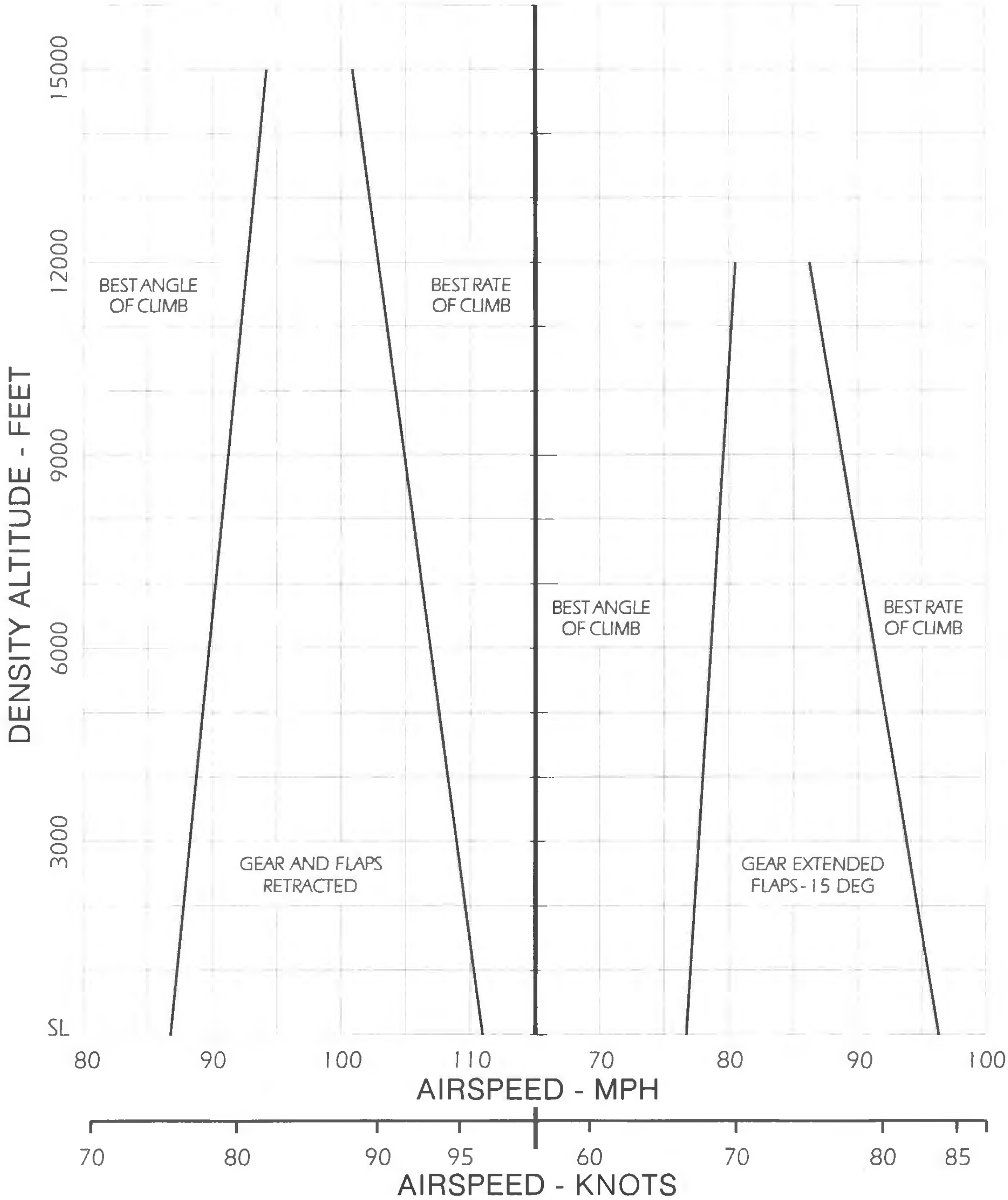


FIGURE 5-09

# TRUE AIRSPEED

VS

# DENSITY ALTITUDE

GROSS WEIGHT: 3100 POUNDS

MIXTURE: BEST POWER CRUISE

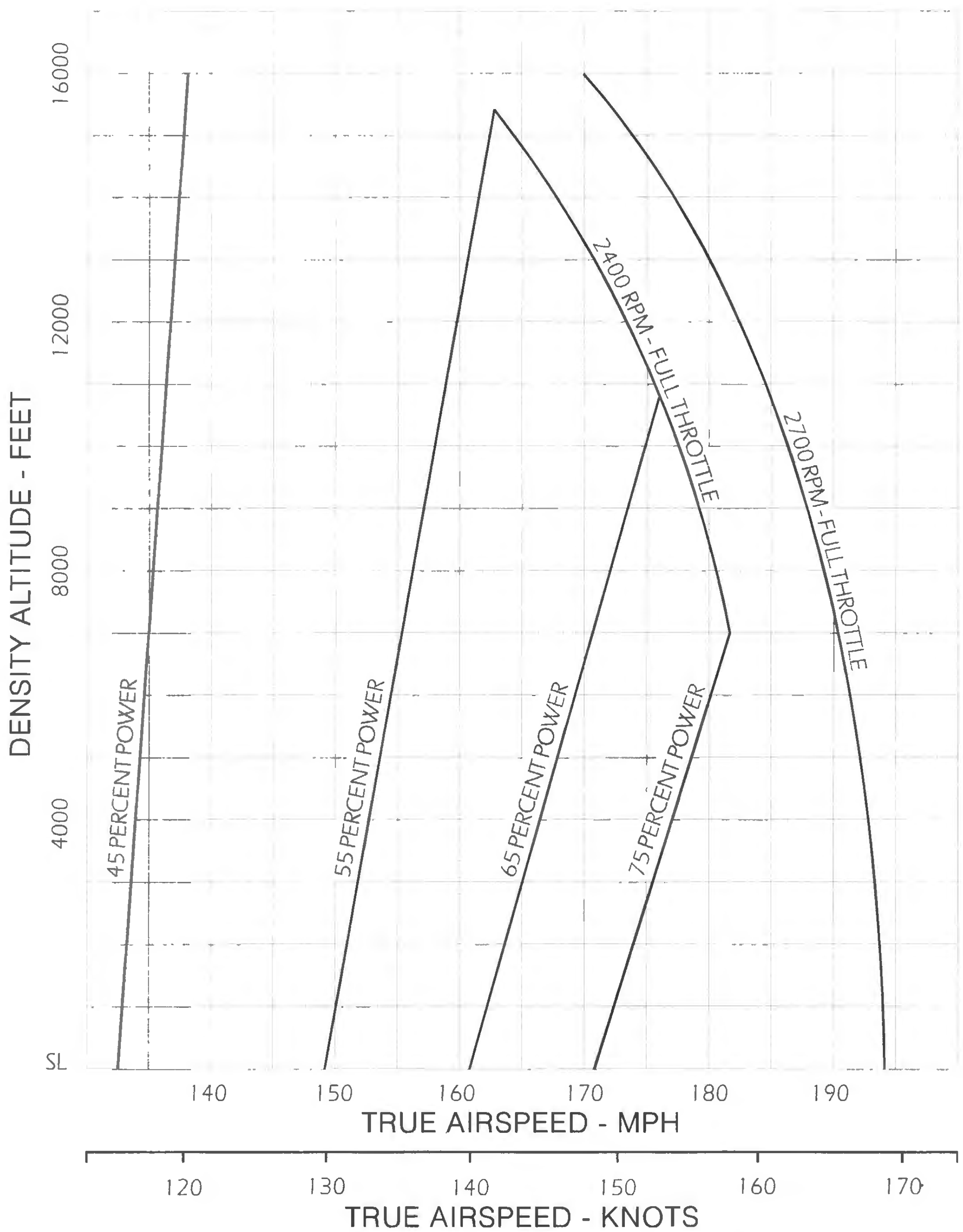


**FIGURE 5-10**

# RANGE PROFILE

INITIAL FUEL LOAD: AS SHOWN
WEIGHT: 3100 POUNDS AT START

GEAR AND FLAPS RETRACTED
MIXTURE: BEST ECONOMY CRUISE

**** WARNING ****

FIGURES SHOWN IN THIS CHART GIVE NO CONSIDERATION TO WIND OR NAVIGATIONAL ERRORS. RANGE INCLUDES AN ALLOWANCE FOR FUEL USED IN START, TAXI, TAKEOFF, CLIMB AND DESCENT PLUS 45 MINUTES RESERVE FUEL AT MAXIMUM RANGE POWER ($V_{IMR}$).

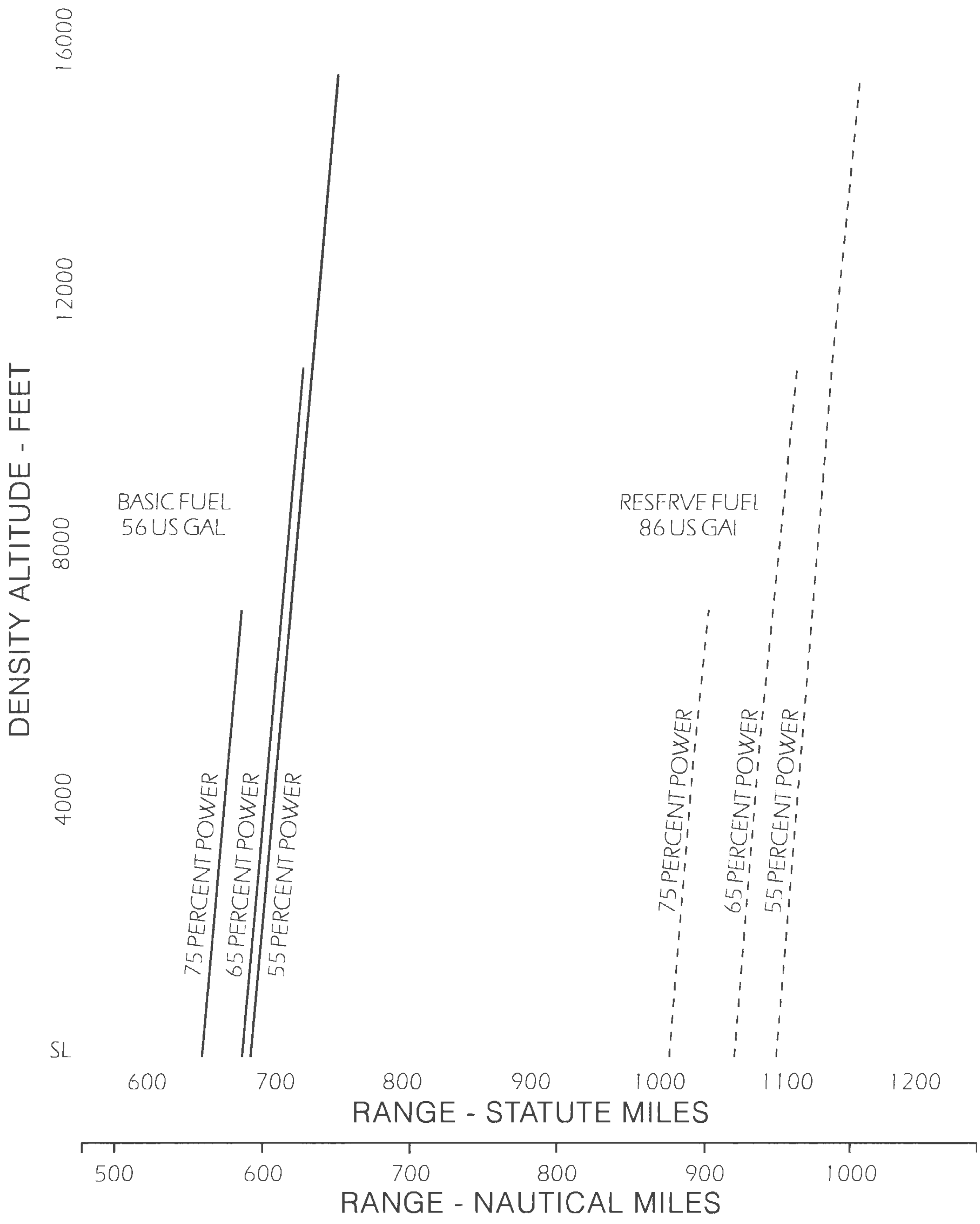


**FIGURE 5-11**

# ENDURANCE PROFILE

INITIAL FUEL LOAD: 86 US GALLONS
WEIGHT: 3100 POUNDS AT START

GEAR AND FLAPS RETRACTED
MIXTURE: BEST ECONOMY CRUISE

**** WARNING ****

FIGURES SHOWN IN THIS CHART GIVE NO CONSIDERATION TO WIND OR NAVIGATIONAL ERRORS. ENDURANCE INCLUDES AN ALLOWANCE FOR FUEL USED IN START, TAXI, TAKEOFF, CLIMB, AND DESCENT PLUS 45 MINUTES RESERVE FUEL AT MAXIMUM ENDURANCE POWER ($V_{IMD}$).

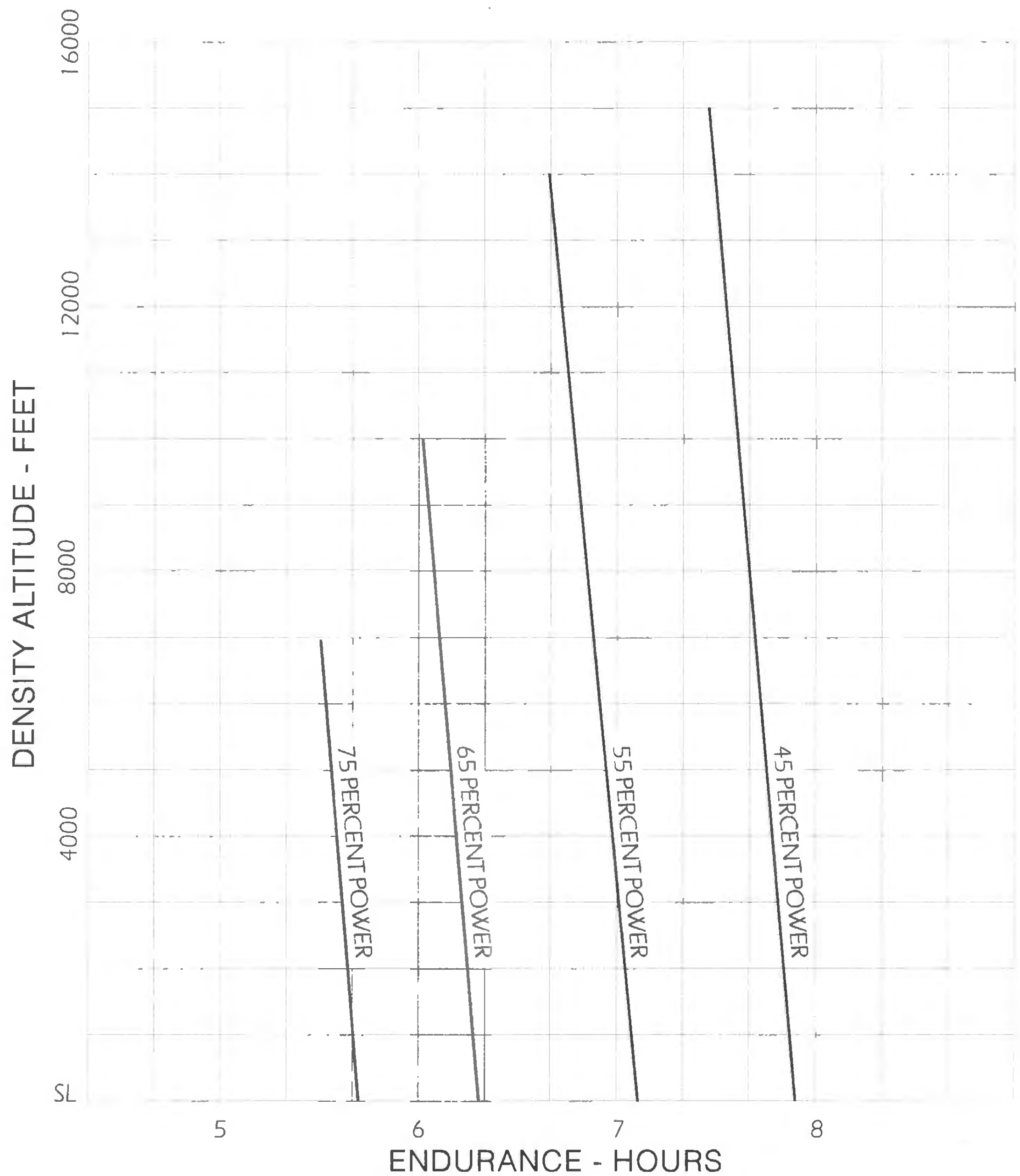


**FIGURE 5-12**

# LANDING GROUND ROLL DISTANCE

WING FLAPS: 32 DEGREES
RUNWAY SURFACE: PAVED, LEVEL, DRY

MAXIMUM BRAKING EFFORT
APPROACH SPEED = 1.3 x $V_{S0}$

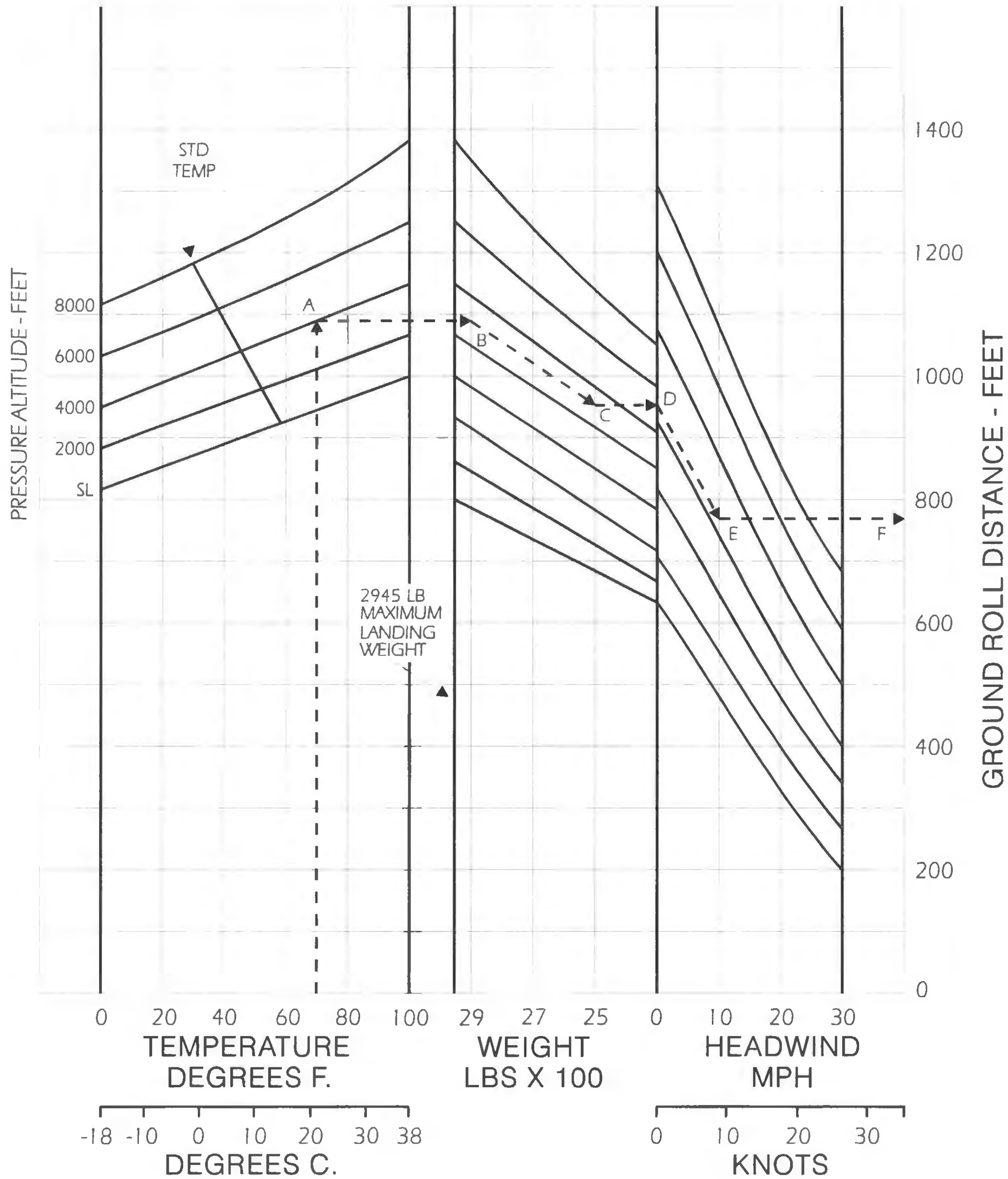


**FIGURE 5-13**

# LANDING DISTANCE OVER A 50 FT OBSTACLE

WING FLAPS: 32 DEGREES
RUNWAY SURFACE: PAVED, LEVEL, DRY

MAXIMUM BRAKING EFFORT
APPROACH SPEED = 1.3 x $V_{S0}$

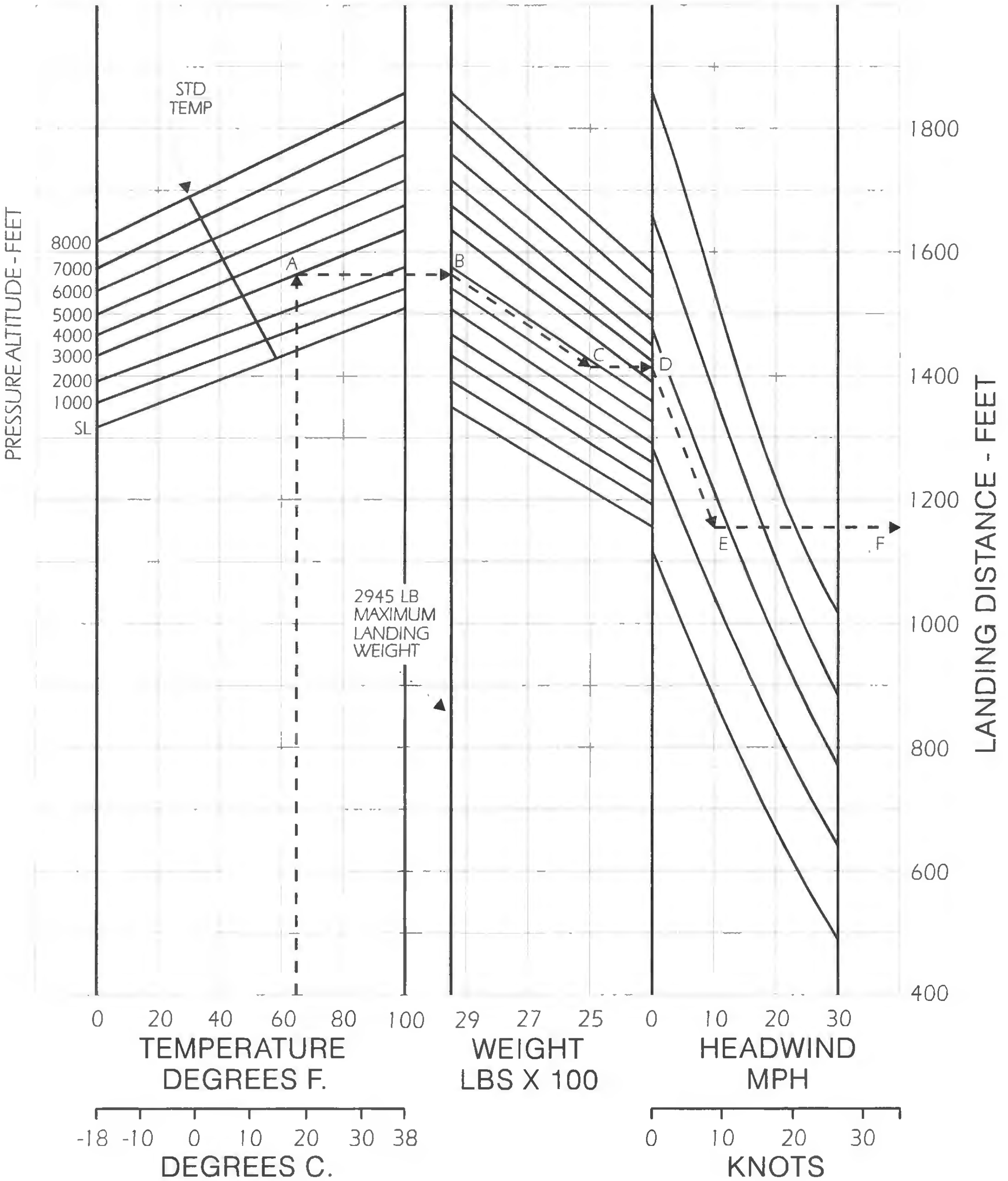


FIGURE 5-14

## POWER SETTING TABLE

LYCOMING MODEL IO-540-D, 260 HP NORMALLY ASPIRATED ENGINE

| PRESSURE ALTITUDE | STD AIR TEMP F. | STD AIR TEMP C. | 143 HP - 55% RATED<br>1. APPROX 11.4 GPH<br>2. APPROX 13.5 GPH<br>RPM AND MAN PRESS<br>2100 | 2200 | 2300 | 2400 | 169 HP - 65% RATED<br>APPROX 12.7 GPH<br>APPROX 15.0 GPH<br>RPM AND MAN PRESS<br>2100 | 2200 | 2300 | 2400 | 195 HP - 75% RATED<br>APPROX 14.1 GPH<br>APPROX 16.5 GPH<br>RPM AND MAN PRESS<br>2200 | 2300 | 2400 | 2500 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SEA LEV | 59 | 15 | 22.3 | 21.5 | 20.7 | 19.8 | 25.3 | 24.1 | 23.2 | 22.2 | 26.9 | 25.8 | 24.8 | 24.0 |
| 1,000 | 55 | 13 | 22.1 | 21.3 | 20.5 | 19.6 | 25.1 | 23.9 | 22.9 | 22.0 | 26.6 | 25.5 | 24.5 | 23.7 |
| 2,000 | 52 | 11 | 21.9 | 21.0 | 20.3 | 19.4 | 24.8 | 23.6 | 22.7 | 21.8 | 26.3 | 25.3 | 24.3 | 23.5 |
| 3,000 | 48 | 09 | 21.7 | 20.8 | 20.0 | 19.2 | 24.5 | 23.4 | 22.5 | 21.6 | 26.0 | 25.0 | 24.0 | 23.2 |
| 4,000 | 45 | 07 | 21.4 | 20.6 | 19.8 | 19.0 | 24.2 | 23.1 | 22.2 | 21.4 | 25.7 | 24.7 | 23.8 | 22.9 |
| 5,000 | 41 | 05 | 21.2 | 20.3 | 19.6 | 18.8 | 24.0 | 22.9 | 22.0 | 21.1 | 25.4 | 24.4 | 23.5 | 22.7 |
| 6,000 | 38 | 03 | 21.0 | 20.1 | 19.4 | 18.6 | 23.7 | 22.6 | 21.7 | 20.9 | | 24.1 | 23.3 | 22.4 |
| 7,000 | 34 | 01 | 20.7 | 19.9 | 19.1 | 18.4 | 23.5 | 22.4 | 21.5 | 20.7 | | | 23.0 | 22.2 |
| 8,000 | 31 | -01 | 20.5 | 19.6 | 18.9 | 18.2 | | 22.1 | 21.2 | 20.5 | | | | 21.9 |
| 9,000 | 27 | -03 | 20.3 | 19.4 | 18.7 | 18.0 | | 21.9 | 21.0 | 20.3 | | | | |
| 10,000 | 23 | -05 | 20.0 | 19.2 | 18.5 | 17.7 | | | 20.7 | 20.0 | | | | |
| 11,000 | 19 | -07 | 19.8 | 18.9 | 18.2 | 17.5 | | | | 19.8 | | | | |
| 12,000 | 16 | -09 | 19.6 | 18.7 | 18.0 | 17.3 | | | | | | | | |
| 13,000 | 12 | -11 | | 18.5 | 17.8 | 17.1 | | | | | | | | |
| 14,000 | 09 | -13 | | | 17.5 | 16.9 | | | | | | | | |
| 15,000 | 05 | -15 | | | 17.3 | 16.7 | | | | | | | | |

1.) BEST ECONOMY CRUISE - PEAK EGT
2.) BEST POWER CRUISE - 100 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT RICH OF PEAK EGT

**** NOTE ****

TO MAINTAIN CONSTANT POWER, CORRECT MANIFOLD PRESSURE APPROXIMATELY 0.17 INCH Hg. FOR EACH 10 DEGREE FAHRENHEIT VARIATION IN INDUCTION AIR TEMPERATURE FROM STANDARD ALTITUDE TEMPERATURE. ADD MANIFOLD PRESSURE FOR TEMPERATURES ABOVE STANDARD; SUBTRACT FOR TEMPERATURES BELOW STANDARD.

**FIGURE 5-15**

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# SECTION 6 - WEIGHT AND BALANCE

## PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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# WEIGHT AND BALANCE

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

## INTRODUCTION

This section describes the procedure for calculating the loaded weight and center of gravity of the Comanche for various flight operations. In addition, procedures are provided for re-calculating the basic empty weight and center of gravity when removal and/or addition of equipment results in changes to these values.

In order to achieve the performance and flying characteristics which are designed into the aircraft, it must be flown with the weight and center of gravity position within the approved operating envelope. Although the airplane offers flexibility of loading, it cannot be flown with the maximum number of adult passengers, full fuel tanks and maximum baggage. With this flexibility comes responsibility. The pilot must insure that the airplane is within the loading envelope before takeoff.

Misloading carries consequences for any aircraft. An overloaded airplane will not perform as well, or as safely, as a properly loaded one. The heavier the airplane is loaded within the approved limit, the less climb performance it will have, and the higher the stall speed will be.

Center of gravity is also a determining factor in any airplane's flight characteristics. If the C.G. is too far forward, it may be difficult to rotate for takeoff or flare for landing. Loading the airplane so that the center of gravity is toward, but within, the aft C.G. limit will result in less drag, a faster airplane and increased range. However, if the C.G. is too far aft, the airplane may rotate prematurely on takeoff or tend to pitch-up during climb. Longitudinal stability will be reduced, which can lead to inadvertent stalls and even spins. Spin recovery becomes more difficult, and even impossible, as the center of gravity moves aft of the approved C.G. limit.

A properly loaded aircraft, by comparison, will perform as intended by its design. Before the airplane is delivered, it is weighed, and a basic empty weight and C.G. location are computed. Using this information, the pilot can easily determine the gross weight and C.G. location for the loaded airplane. This is accomplished by computing the total weight and moment following the example supplied in this section, and then determining whether they are within the approved envelope.

The basic empty weight and center of gravity location are recorded in the actual weight and balance record supplied with the airplane when new. Whenever equipment is installed and/or removed, or major modifications are made to the aircraft, the mechanic responsible for the work is required to compute the new basic empty weight and C.G. location, and record these in the aircraft logbook. The owner of the aircraft should make sure that this is done.

# AIRPLANE WEIGHING PROCEDURE

At the time of licensing, Piper Aircraft Corporation provided each airplane with the basic empty weight and C.G. location. The removal and/or addition of equipment or aircraft modifications can affect the basic empty weight and center of gravity. The following procedure is used to re-determine the basic empty weight and C.G. location.

## 1.) Preparation:

**A.**) Be certain that all items checked in the equipment list are installed in the proper location in the airplane.

**B.**) Remove excessive dirt, grease, moisture and foreign items such as rags and tools from the airplane before weighing.

**C.**) De-fuel the airplane, then add the unusable fuel (4.0 gallons total, 2.0 gallons to each wing). Drain engine oil.

**D.**) Place pilot and copilot seats in a normal seating position (approximately the eighth notch aft of full forward position). Put flaps in the fully retracted position and all control surfaces in the neutral position. Secure the tow bar in its proper location and close all doors.

## 2.) Leveling:

**A.**) With the airplane on scales, inflate main gear oleo pistons to the fully extended position.

**B.**) Level the airplane both laterally and longitudinally by deflating the tires to center the bubble on the level. The longitudinal level point is across the two machine screws located on either side of the right rear window. The lateral level point is located is the hat section channel of the firewall.

## 3.) Weighing - Airplane Basic Empty Weight:

**A.**) Weigh the airplane inside a closed building to prevent errors in scale readings due to wind.

**B.**) With the airplane level and the brakes released, record the weight shown on each scale. Deduct the tare, if any, from each reading to determine the net weight. Basic empty weight is the sum of all three readings.

## 4.) Calculation - Basic Empty Weight Center of Gravity:

**A.**) The basic empty weight center of gravity can be determined by the following formula: (See Figure 6-01)

$$\text{C.G. Arm} = \frac{N(A)+(R+L)(B)}{T} \text{ Inches}$$

Where $T=N+R+L$

$A=30.7$ $B=108.7$

# WEIGHT AND BALANCE DATA AND RECORD

The basic empty weight of the airplane as delivered from the factory should be the first entry in the data record below. This form is provided to present the current status of the airplane and a complete history of previous modifications as shown in the aircraft logbook. Any subsequent modification which affects weight or moment should be entered in the Weight and Balance Record.

The information contained herein applies only to the specific Piper PA-24-260 airplane designated by serial number and registration number in Section 1 (General) of this Manual.

## WEIGHT AND BALANCE DATA FORM

| Date | Description of Modification | Wt Change | | Running Empty Wt | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Add + | Sub - | Wt Lbs | Moment | Arm in | Useful Load |
| ______ | Basic Empty Weight As Delivered | xxxx | xxxx | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |
| ______ | ______________ | ____ | ____ | ______ | ______ | ____ | ______ |

Maximum Takeoff Weight .................................... 3,100 lb
Maximum Landing Weight .................................... 2,945 lb
Maximum Baggage .................................... 250 lb
Standard Empty Weight .................................... 1,728 lb
Maximum Standard Useful Load .................................... 1,372 lb
Basic Empty Weight .................................... __________ lb
Maximum Useful Load (As Equipped) .................................... __________ lb
Maximum Useful Load - With Basic Fuel and Oil (60 US gal) .................... __________ lb
Maximum Useful Load - With Internal Reserve Fuel (30 US gal) .................... __________ lb

## CENTER OF GRAVITY DATA

Basic Empty Measurement:

Center of Gravity (Aft of Datum) ............................................................ _______ in
Moment ............................................................................................ _________ in lb
Moment Increase With Landing Gear Retracted ................................................ 1266.0 in lb

Normal Category.

| Weight Pounds | Arm Forward Limit Inches Aft of Datum | Arm Rearward Limit Inches Aft of Datum |
|---|---|---|
| 3,100 | 88.4 | 93.0 |
| 2,600 | 82.5 | 93.0 |
| 2,000 or Less | 80.5 | 93.0 |

**** NOTE ****

Straight line variation exists between the points given.

Datum is located 79 inches ahead of wing leading edge at station 65.5 (point of intersection of straight and tapered sections).

## STATIONS

(Arm Aft of Datum)

Engine Oil .................................................................. 28.0 in
Front Seat Passengers .................................................... 84.8 in
Basic Fuel - Inboard Tanks ............................................... 90.0 in
Reserve Fuel - Outboard Tanks .......................................... 95.0 in
Rear Seat Passengers ...................................................... 120.5 in
Baggage Compartment ...................................................... 142.0 in
5th and 6th Seat Passengers .............................................. 148.0 in

## WEIGHT AND BALANCE DETERMINATION FOR FLIGHT

1.) Add the weight of all items to be loaded to the airplane's basic empty weight.

2.) Multiply the weight of each item by the stations arm to determine the moment of all items.

3.) Add the moment of all items to be loaded to the basic empty weight moment.

4.) Divide the total moment by the total weight to determine the C.G. location with landing gear extended.

5.) Add the moment increase with landing gear retracted.

6.) Divide the new total moment by the total weight to determine the C.G. location with landing gear retracted.

7.) Determine that total weight and C.G. meet weight and balance requirements.

## LOADING PROBLEM EXAMPLE

| Item | Weight (lbs) | Arm (Aft of Datum) | Moment (in lb) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Basic Empty Weight | 1,919.0 | 84.8 | 162731.2 |
| Engine Oil (9 qts) | 17.0 | 28.0 | 476.0 |
| Fuel (Inboard Tanks - 56 US gal) | 336.0 | 90.0 | 30240.0 |
| Fuel (Outboard Tanks - 30 US gal) | 180.0 | 95.0 | 17100.0 |
| Pilot and Passenger (Front Seats) | 310.0 | 84.8 | 26288.0 |
| Passengers (Rear Seats) | 240.0 | 120.5 | 28920.0 |
| Passengers (5th and 6th Seats) | 60.0 | 148.0 | 8880.0 |
| Baggage | 38.0 | 142.0 | 5396.0 |
| Total | 3,100.0 | 90.3 | 280031.2 |
| Moment Increase With Landing Gear Retracted .................................................. | | | 1266.0 |
| Total | 3,100.0 | 90.7 | 281297.2 |

## SAMPLE LOADING PROBLEM

| Item | Weight (lbs) | Arm (Aft of Datum) | Moment (in lb) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Basic Empty Weight | _____ | ____ | _______ |
| Engine Oil (12 US qts Capacity) | _____ | 28.0 | _______ |
| Fuel (Inboard Tanks - 56 US gal Usable) | _____ | 90.0 | _______ |
| Fuel (Outboard Tanks - 30 US gal Usable) | _____ | 95.0 | _______ |
| Pilot and Passenger (Front Seats) | _____ | 84.8 | _______ |
| Passengers (Rear Seats) | _____ | 120.5 | _______ |
| Passengers (5th and 6th Seats - 235 lb Maximum) | _____ | 148.0 | _______ |
| Baggage (250 lb Capacity) | _____ | 142.0 | _______ |
| Total (3100 lb Maximum Allowable) | ________ | ____ | ________ |
| Moment Increase With Landing Gear Retracted .................................................. | | | 1266.0 |
| Total | ________ | ____ | ________ |
| Fuel Burn (Inboard Tanks) | _____ | 90.0 | _______ |
| Fuel Burn (Outboard Tanks) | _____ | 95.0 | _______ |
| Landing Total (2945 lb Maximum Allowable) | ________ | ____ | ________ |

**** NOTE ****

100/130 Octane Fuel Density is Calibrated at: ........................................ 6.00 lbs/gal (0.72 kg/L)
100 LL Fuel Density is Calibrated at: ..................................................... 5.82 lbs/gal (0.70 kg/L)
Ashless Dispersant Oil Density is Calibrated at: ............. 1.875 lbs/qt or 7.50 lbs/gal (0.90 kg/L)

Basic empty weight includes 5th and 6th seats if installed as original equipment. Deduct appropriate weight and moment from basic empty weight if seats are removed from aircraft.

# EQUIPMENT LIST

| | Mark if Installed | Weight (lbs) | Arm (Aft of Datum) | Moment (in lb) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1.) Propeller And Accessories:** | | | | |
| Propeller - Hartzell Constant Speed Model HC-C2YK-1A With 8467-7R Blades | ____ | 54.0 | 1.5 | 81.5 |
| Propeller - Hartzell Constant Speed Model HC-C2YK-1B With 8467-7R Blades | ____ | 56.0 | 1.5 | 84.5 |
| Governor - Hartzell F-4-4 | ____ | 6.0 | 10.0 | 60.0 |
| Spinner Dome and Bulkhead Adapter | ____ | 3.0 | 1.5 | 4.5 |
| **2.) Engine Accessories:** | | | | |
| Fuel Pump - Electric Bendix Model 480518-1 or 480528 | ____ | 5.0 | 60.0 | 300.0 |
| Fuel Pump - Engine Driven AC Model No. 6440296 | ____ | 2.0 | 39.5 | 79.0 |
| Two 15 Gal Auxiliary Fuel Tanks | ____ | 6.5 ea. | 97.0 | 1261.0 |
| Oil Radiator Harrison Model No. APO7AU06-03 | ____ | 3.0 | 10.5 | 31.5 |
| Starter | | | | |
| Delco Remy 12 Volt | ____ | 18.0 | 13.5 | 243.0 |
| Prestolite 12 Volt Model MZ-4206 | ____ | 17.0 | 13.5 | 229.5 |
| Vacuum Pump Airborne Mechanisms Model 200CC | ____ | 4.0 | 39.0 | 156.0 |
| Full Flow Oil Filter Adapter | ____ | 2.0 | 40.0 | 80.0 |
| **3.) Landing Gear:** | | | | |
| Two Main Wheel Brake Assemblies 6:00 X 6 Type III Wheel, Cleveland 40-58 Brake, Cleveland 30-41 | ____ | 8.0 ea. | 108.7 | 1739.2 |
| Two Main Wheel Tires (W/Tubes) | ____ | 9.0 ea. | 108.7 | 1956.6 |
| One Nose Wheel 6:00 X 6 Type III Wheel, Cleveland 38501 (Less Drum) | ____ | 5.0 | 30.7 | 153.5 |
| One Nose Wheel Tire (W/Tube) | ____ | 9.0 | 30.7 | 276.3 |
| **4.) Autopilots:** | | | | |
| Piper Auto Control (W/O Gyros) | ____ | 4.5 | 56.5 | 254.3 |
| Piper Auto Control II (W/O Gyros) | ____ | 4.6 | 56.5 | 260.0 |
| Piper Altimatic (W/O Gyros) | ____ | 10.4 | 56.5 | 587.6 |
| Piper Altimatic II (W/O Gyros) | ____ | 13.1 | 56.5 | 740.2 |

## EQUIPMENT LIST (Cont.)

| | Mark If Installed | Weight (lbs) | Arm (Aft of Datum) | Moment (in lb) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5.) Electrical Equipment:** | | | | |
| Alternator | | | | |
| Delco Remy 12 Volt - 70 Ampere | ____ | 12.2 | 11.5 | 140.3 |
| Battery | | | | |
| 12 Volt - 35 Ampere Hour | ____ | 27.0 | 46.0 | 1242.0 |
| Two Landing Lights | | | | |
| GE Model 4509 | ____ | 1.0 ea. | 86.0 | 172.0 |
| Rotating Beacon | | | | |
| Whelen No. WRM-12 | ____ | 2.1 | 161.0 | 338.1 |
| Grimes No. D7080A-1-12 | ____ | 2.0 | 161.0 | 322.0 |
| Anti-Collision Light | | | | |
| Whelen Red Strobe Model HS | ____ | 2.9 | 161.7 | 468.9 |
| Whelen White Strobe Model HD-T2 | ____ | 4.0 | 143.2 | 572.8 |
| **6.) Miscellaneous Equipment:** | | | | |
| Heated Pitot Head | ____ | 1.0 | 99.0 | 99.0 |
| Fire Extinguisher - Walter Kidde | ____ | 5.0 | 84.8 | 424.0 |
| Fire Extinguisher - MIL-E-5220A | ____ | 8.0 | 84.8 | 678.4 |
| EGT Indicator PAC 25287 or 25667 | ____ | 1.0 | 55.0 | 55.0 |
| EGT Indicator PAC 26333 | ____ | 2.0 | 54.0 | 108.0 |
| Manual Alternate Air - Heated | ____ | 3.0 | 27.2 | 81.6 |
| Head Rests (Seats 1 & 2) | ____ | 1.0 ea. | 95.0 | 190.0 |
| Head Rests (Seats 3 & 4) | ____ | 1.0 ea. | 130.0 | 260.0 |
| Shoulder Harness (Seats 1 & 2) | ____ | .6 ea. | 100.0 | 120.0 |
| Shoulder Harness (Seats 3 & 4) | ____ | .6 ea. | 133.0 | 159.6 |
| Anti-Static Equipment PAC 25043 | ____ | 2.0 | 154.0 | 308.0 |
| Piper Electric Trim PAC 26754 | ____ | 4.0 | 163.0 | 652.0 |
| Vertically Adjustable Front Seats | ____ | 21.3 ea. | 84.8 | 3612.5 |
| Seat Installation (Seats 5 & 6) | ____ | 7.5 ea. | 148.0 | 2220.0 |
| Dual Brake Installation (Copilot Only) | ____ | 5.0. | 58.0 | 290.0 |
| Rudder Balance Weight | ____ | 4.5 | 272.0 | 1224.0 |
| Stabilator Modification | ____ | 7.0 | 260.0 | 1820.0 |
| Aux Power Receptacle W/Jumper Cable | ____ | 7.0 | 153.3 | 1073.1 |
| Oxygen System Installation PAC 25342 | ____ | 41.5 | 161.2 | 6689.8 |
| Landing Gear Security Kit | ____ | Negligible Weight Change | | |
| Alternate Static Air Source | ____ | Negligible Weight Change | | |
| Stall Warning Indicator | ____ | Negligible Weight Change | | |
| DOA Approved Airplane Flight Manual | ____ | Negligible Weight Change | | |
| FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual | ____ | Negligible Weight Change | | |

# EQUIPMENT LIST (Cont.)

**7.) Other Equipment:**

| | Mark If Installed | Weight (lbs) | Arm (Aft of Datum) | Moment (in lb) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

**8.) Avionics:**

| | SN | Weight (lbs) | Arm (Aft of Datum) | Moment (in lb) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
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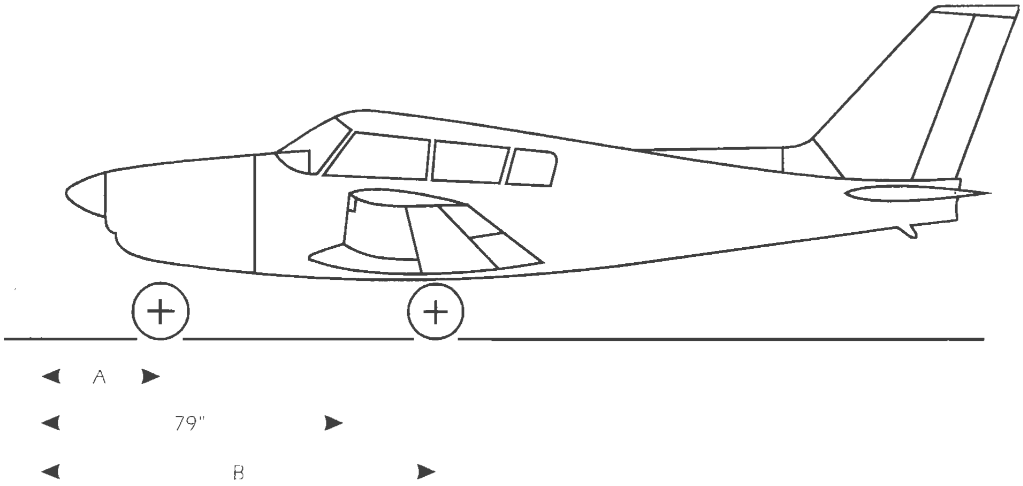
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

# WEIGHT AND BALANCE

PA-24-260B * 3100 POUNDS GROSS WEIGHT

SERIAL NO: 24 - __________ REGISTRATION NO: N - __________ DATE: __________




Basic Empty Weight as Weighed

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Left Wheel | (L) | __________ |
| Right Wheel | (R) | __________ |
| Nose Wheel | (N) | __________ |
| Total | (T) | __________ |

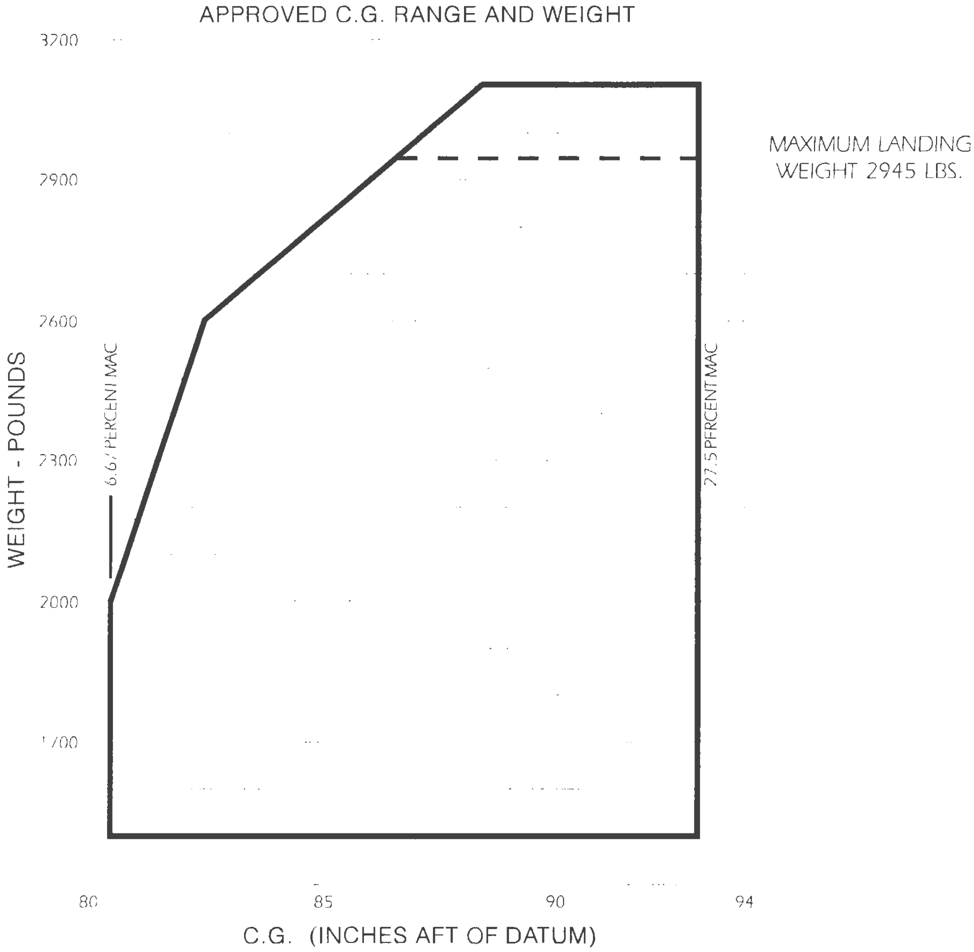



**FIGURE 6-01**

# SECTION 7 - SYSTEMS DESCRIPTION

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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# SYSTEMS DESCRIPTION

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

## INTRODUCTION

The PA-24-260B Comanche is a high-performance, single-engine, low-wing, retractable-gear monoplane of all-metal construction. It has four (optional six) place seating, two-hundred and fifty pound baggage capacity, and a 260 horsepower engine with a constant-speed propeller.

## AIRFRAME

The structures of the PA-24, except for the tubular-steel engine mount, steel landing-gear struts, and other miscellaneous steel parts, are of sheet-aluminum construction, alodine treated and completely primed with zinc-chromate primer, then covered with acrylic lacquer on the exterior surfaces. The extremities (wing tips, stabilator and rudder end pieces) are constructed of fiberglass or ABS thermoplastic. The fuselage is an all-metal semi-monocoque construction composed of bulkheads, stringers, stiffeners and longitudinal beams to which the outer skin is riveted.

The laminar-flow wing is of all-metal stressed skin, full-cantilever design. The wing section is a NACA $64_2$ A215 airfoil with maximum thickness approximately forty-percent aft of the leading edge. This permits the main spar to pass through the cabin under the rear seats, providing unobstructed cabin-floor space. The extruded-beam type main spar is joined with high-strength butt fittings at the center of the fuselage making in effect a continuous main spar. The spars are attached to the fuselage at the side and in the center of the structure. The wings are also attached at the rear spar and at an auxiliary front spar. The ailerons are cable and push-rod controlled and are statically and dynamically balanced. The trailing-edge wing flaps are electrically operated. Flush riveting is used over the forward part of the wing up to the main spar.

The all-metal empennage group is a full-cantilever design consisting of a vertical fin, rudder, and stabilator with an anti-servo tab. The rudder and stabilator are statically and dynamically balanced. The stabilator and vertical fin have two-channel main spars running full length. The stabilator is attached to the fuselage by a torque tube supported by bearing blocks.

## ENGINE AND PROPELLER

The Comanche 260B is powered by a Lycoming I0-540 series engine rated at 260 bhp, at 2700 rpm. The I0-540 series engines are six cylinder, direct drive, wet sump, horizontally opposed, air cooled, and have 541.5 cubic inches of displacement. The engine is designed to operate on 91/96 (minimum) octane aviation-grade fuel. Major accessories furnished with the engine are a geared starter, 50-ampere, 12-volt alternator, a vacuum pump, a direct-drive fuel pump, a dry automotive-type induction air filter, and dual magnetos.

Engine cooling is accomplished without drag producing cowl flaps, exhaust augmenters, or cowl flanges. An external oil cooler is mounted in the front of the engine baffle.

The fuel injection system is a Bendix self-purging servo regulator metering system. The system is equipped with a manual mixture control and idle cut-off mechanism. A fuel flow indicator is installed in the instrument panel to give an accurate indication of fuel flow. It is important to note that an indication of increasing or abnormally high fuel flow is a possible symptom of restricted injector lines or nozzles.

Induction air is normally directed through a filter, but the induction system includes a spring loaded door which opens automatically if the filter becomes blocked to allow heated air to the engine. This alternate air door can also be operated manually by a push-pull (ALT AIR) control on the instrument panel. This control should be operated if induction system icing is suspected.

The dual exhaust system incorporates stainless steel mufflers that are fitted with heater shrouds to provide heat for the cabin and the induction heat system.

The constant-speed, controllable-pitch propeller is alloy forged and controlled by a governor mounted on the engine that supplies oil to the propeller at various pressures through the engine crankshaft.

## ENGINE CONTROLS

Engine controls consist of a throttle control, a mixture control, and a propeller rpm control which are located on the lower center of the instrument panel where they are accessible to both the pilot and copilot.

## FLIGHT CONTROLS

The primary flight controls of the PA-24 are of conventional design consisting of a control wheel that operates the ailerons and stabilator, and pedals that operate the rudder. Duplicate controls are provided for the copilot.

The stabilator trim is operated by an overhead crank in the cabin and controlled by a rotating drum in the tail section. The rudder trim is operated by a knob mounted below the right center of the instrument panel that controls a bungee mechanism that extends forward to the nose gear steering arm. For coordinated action of the rudder and ailerons, their control cables are interconnected by a cable-spring system.

Installed on the Comanche 260B are electrically operated fowler flaps which can be lowered and stopped at any position up to 32 degrees. The flap control switch is located below the right center of the instrument panel just above the rudder trim control. Above the switch is the flap position indicator. It is marked to show the degree of flap travel and also shows a range of operation for takeoff. A locking mechanism holds the flap on the right side when it is in the up position so that it may be used as a step while entering or exiting the aircraft.

## LANDING GEAR

The Comanche tricycle landing-gear system is a fully retractable air-oil, oleo-strut type, and is electrically operated by a selector switch located on the instrument panel. The three landing gear are mechanically connected, and move as a unit.

The nose gear is steerable with the rudder pedals through a forty-degree arc. The steering mechanism is disconnected automatically during gear retraction to reduce rudder pedal loads in flight. The nose wheel is equipped with a hydraulic shimmy damper.

Retraction of the landing gear is accomplished by an electric motor and transmission assembly located under the floorboard, activating push-pull cables to each of the main gear, and a push-pull tube to the nose gear. Limit switches are installed in the system to cut off the gear motor when the gear is fully extended or retracted.

To guard against inadvertent movement of the landing-gear selector switch while on the ground, a mechanical guard is positioned just below the switch. The switch handle must also be pulled aft before being placed in the "gear up" position. A warning horn will sound if the selector switch is placed in the "gear up" position while the weight of the airplane is resting on the landing gear.

To prevent inadvertent retraction of the landing gear while the airplane is on the ground, a safety "squat" switch is installed on the left main gear to open the electric circuit to the landing-gear motor until the strut is fully extended.

If manifold pressure is reduced below approximately 12-inches, and the landing gear is not down and locked, a warning horn will sound to alert the pilot to the possibility of a gear-up landing. The landing-gear warning horn emits a continuous sound.

As an added safety feature, a visual indicator (optional) located on the top of the instrument panel will pop up if the landing gear is retracted and manifold pressure is reduced below 15 inches. The indicator is operated mechanically and is therefore independent of the electrical system.

A green light on the instrument panel is the primary indication that the landing gear is down and locked. When the gear is fully extended, the series circuit that lights this lamp is completed through a switch located on each of the three gear. All three gear must be down and locked for the indicator to light. An amber light above the landing-gear selector switch indicates the gear is up. It is important to note that the landing-gear indication lights are automatically dimmed when the navigation lights are turned on.

A telescoping emergency handle is used to manually extend the landing gear in the event of a malfunction of the electrical system.

## BRAKE SYSTEM

The brakes are activated by toe pedals mounted above the pilot (optional copilot) rudder pedals, or by a hand lever located below the left center of the instrument panel. The hydraulic brake system is a self-adjusting, single-disk, double-piston assembly. Each rudder pedal has its own master cylinder, but both share a common reservoir.

The parking brake is connected mechanically to the master cylinders and may be set by applying the toe brakes or hand lever and pulling out the parking brake "T" handle. To prevent inadvertent application of the parking brake in flight, a safety lock is incorporated to eliminate the possibility of pulling out the "T" handle until pressure is applied by use of the toe brakes or hand lever. To release the parking brake, apply the brakes and push in on the parking brake "T" handle.

## FUEL SYSTEM

The fuel cells on the Comanche consist of rayon-neoprene bladders which are contained in cavities in the forward sections of the wing. The inboard cells hold a capacity of 30 gallons (28 usable) each, and the outboard auxiliary cells have a capacity of 15 gallons each. It is important to note that due to several factors, including aircraft attitude while refueling, many fuel cells do not hold their full rated capacity.

Fuel cells should be kept full when the aircraft is not in use to prevent accumulation of moisture through condensation and to keep the rubber from deteriorating by drying out.

Fuel cells are vented individually by NACA anti-icing vent tubes located beneath the wing. Fuel from each cell passes through a selector-shutoff valve to a sediment bowl in the lowest part of the fuel system where it is filtered, and any water or foreign particles are trapped. From there the fuel is drawn to the fuel injection system by an engine-driven pump. In the event of failure of the engine-driven pump, an electric auxiliary fuel pump is provided. In addition to the back-up function, this pump is normally operated when switching fuel tanks and during starting, takeoff and landing.

The fuel-strainer unit is located under the floorboard between the pilot and copilot seats just aft of the fuel-selector valve. Daily draining of the sediment bowl is accomplished by opening the hinged access door and operating the quick-drain valve for approximately five seconds with the fuel-selector valve on one cell. Change the fuel selector to the next cell and repeat the procedure until all cells are checked. Allow enough fuel to flow to clear the lines as well as the sediment-bowl strainer. Positive fuel-flow shutoff can be observed by means of the clear plastic tube which carries the fuel overboard.

Fuel quantity is indicated by an electric gauge located in the engine instrument cluster. The single fuel-quantity gauge will indicate the amount of fuel in the cell that is selected by the selector-shutoff valve. An override feature is incorporated in the valve to check the amount of fuel available in the remaining cells without moving the position of the selector handle. This is accomplished by depressing the red button under the desired fuel cell position on the selector. The fuel gauge will indicate the amount of fuel available in that cell. When the red button is released, the indicating system will return to its normal operation.

## ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Electrical power for the Comanche 260B is supplied by a 12-volt, direct-current, negative-ground system. The primary electrical power source is a 12-volt, 70-ampere alternator controlled by a voltage regulator, and protected by an overvoltage relay.. Secondary power is provided by a 12-volt, 35 ampere-hour battery which supplies power for starting, and is a reserve power source in the event of alternator failure.

The battery is mounted in a stainless-steel box on the firewall in the engine compartment. The voltage regulator and relay is mounted immediately aft of the baggage compartment. The ammeter, located in the engine gauge cluster, indicates battery discharge.

Electrical switches are located on the lower left side of the instrument panel. The master switch is positioned on the far left of these switches. Circuit breakers are mounted in a cluster below the switches.

Standard lighting on the Comanche includes navigation lights, landing lights, cabin and instrument lights. Optional equipment includes a rotating beacon and strobe lights. A combination on-off rheostat switch controls the navigation lights and the instrument and radio lights.

## INSTRUMENT PANEL

The instrument panel is designed to accommodate the customary advanced flight instruments, the normally required engine instruments, and avionics for VFR and IFR flight. The artificial horizon and directional gyro are vacuum operated. The turn-indicator gyro is electrically operated and serves as a standby for the vacuum gyros in the event of a vacuum system failure.

Radios are located in the center section of the instrument panel. The avionics master switch (if installed) is located with the other electrical switches to the right of the master switch.

## VACUUM SYSTEM

The vacuum system provides the suction necessary to operate the attitude indicator and the directional gyro. The engine-driven system consists of a vacuum pump, a vacuum relief valve with filter, a system inlet-air filter, and a suction gauge.

The vacuum pump is a dry-type pump. A shear drive in the pump assembly protects the engine from damage. Caution should be exercised to insure that the propeller is never pulled through backward, as doing so will damage the rotary vanes in the vacuum pump and render the gyros inoperative.

The vacuum regulator is adjustable to a normal reading of 5.0 inch Hg plus .1 or minus .2 inch Hg. Proper adjustment is important because higher settings will damage the gyros, and the instruments will be unreliable with a low setting.

## PITOT-STATIC SYSTEM

The pitot-static system provides ram-air pressure to the airspeed indicator and static pressure to the airspeed indicator, vertical-speed indicator, and altimeter. The system is composed of a heated (optional) pitot tube mounted on the lower surface of the left wing, a pair of static ports located on either side of the fuselage aft of the baggage compartment, and the associated piping necessary to connect the instruments to the sources.

An alternate static source is available as an option. Airspeed and altitude instruments can be expected to read higher than normal when operating from the alternate air source.

In the event of static pressure tube malfunction due to ice or other obstructions, close window and activate alternate static source valve.

The following airspeeds apply when the alternate static system is in use.

| Indicated Airspeed (mph) | Actual (mph) |
|---|---|
| 105 | 100 |
| 136 | 130 |
| 158 | 150 |
| 178 | 170 |

## HEATING AND VENTILATING SYSTEM

There are four individual controls located on the lower right side of the instrument panel which regulate the flow of heating, defrosting and ventilating air.

Heat for the cabin interior is provided by a hot-air exchanger installed on the exhaust muffler. Heated air for the defroster system is provided by the same heater muff, but has an individual control. Caution should be used when operating the defroster on the ground as prolonged application of heat may cause damage to the Plexiglas windshield.

Fresh air is supplied to the cabin by air inlets located in the leading edge of each wing. Two adjustable ventilators are located near the floor forward of the front seats. In addition, fresh air scoops are located in the dorsal fin which provide air to the four seating positions.

## CABIN FEATURES

The front seats adjust fore and aft for ease of entry and exit to the cabin, and for occupant comfort. All seats are easily removed, and all seat positions are equipped with seat belts.

A large baggage area located aft of the center seats, is accessible either from the cabin or through a 19 x 21 inch outside baggage door on the left side of the fuselage. Maximum capacity of the baggage compartment is 250 pounds. Tie-down straps, and clamps for stowing the tow bar are provided. The baggage area can be used for additional seating with the installation of optional 5th and 6th seats.

The baggage door may be used as an emergency exit. It is opened from the inside of the aircraft by holding the door knob up while turning the latch clockwise.

Each airplane is equipped with a tow bar. It is stowed next to the main spar under the flap covering.

## STALL WARNING

An approaching stall is indicated by a stall-warning light which is activated between five and ten knots above stall speed. Mild to moderate airframe buffeting and gentle pitching may precede the stall. The stall-warning lamp is activated by a lift detector installed in the leading edge of the left wing. The stall-warning system is inoperative with the master switch off.

## OXYGEN SYSTEM

The oxygen system for the PA-24 consists of an oxygen cylinder and regulator, filter valve, pressure gauge, outlets for masks and an on-off control mounted on the instrument panel. The cylinder has a 63 cubic foot capacity at a working pressure of 1800 pounds per square inch. Each outlet has a spring-loaded valve that prevents the flow of oxygen until a mask hose is engaged into the outlet.

**** WARNING ****

The utmost care should be taken to insure that no combustion source exists in the cabin while operating on oxygen. Smoking is prohibited while oxygen is in use.

When recharging the oxygen supply, be certain to use only aircraft quality aviator's breathing oxygen. Do not use hospital or industrial oxygen because the moisture contained in these products may freeze at altitude and disable the oxygen system.

## EMERGENCY LOCATOR TRANSMITTER

Federal Aviation Regulations require (with certain exceptions) that all civil aircraft registered in the United States must be equipped with an ELT which meets the applicable requirements of TSO-C91 or TSO-C91-A.

The ELT battery must be replaced if the transmitter has been used in an emergency, or after one hour of accumulated testing time, or if the unit has been inadvertently activated for an undetermined period of time, or after half of the useful life has expired. The battery expiration date is marked on the outside of the ELT case.

The ELT should be checked after each flight to make certain that the unit has not been accidentally activated. Check by tuning a radio receiver to 121.5 and listening for an oscillating sound. If the ELT has been activated, it should be turned off immediately.

**** NOTE ****

Testing of the ELT should be conducted only in the first five minutes of the hour, and limited to three audio sweeps.

# FUEL SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

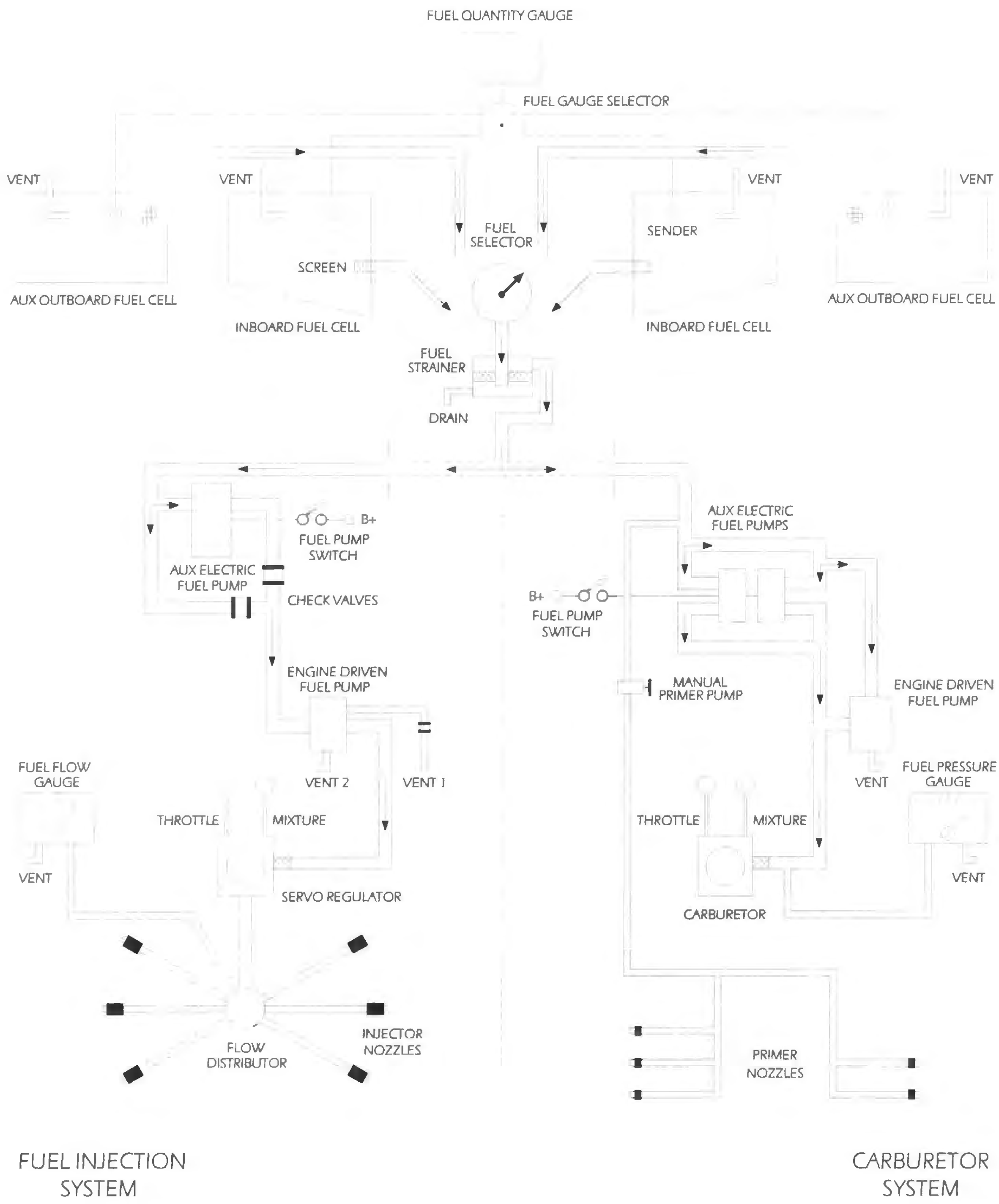


**FIGURE 7-01**

# ALTERNATOR AND STARTER SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

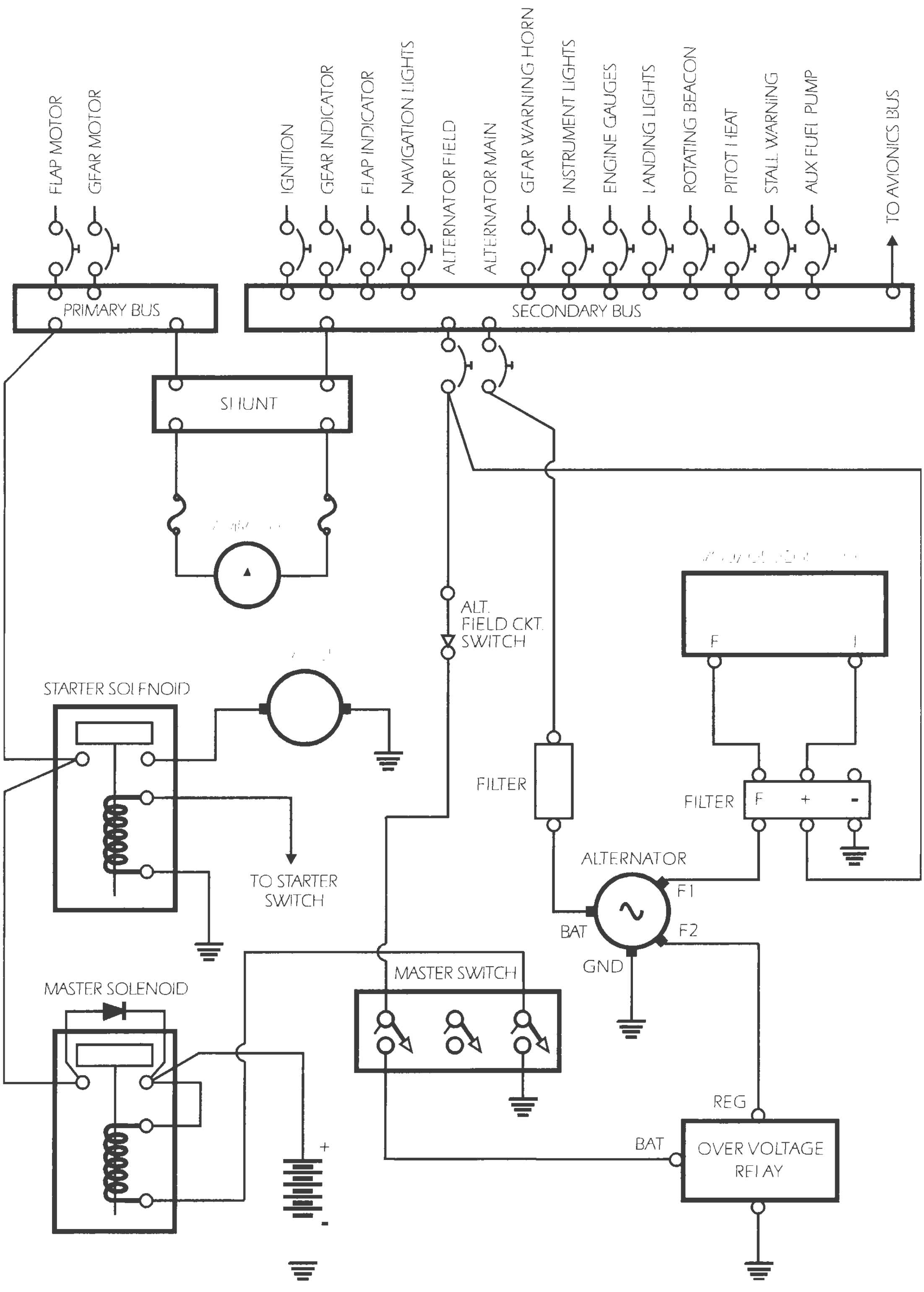


FIGURE 7-02

# TYPICAL INSTRUMENT PANEL

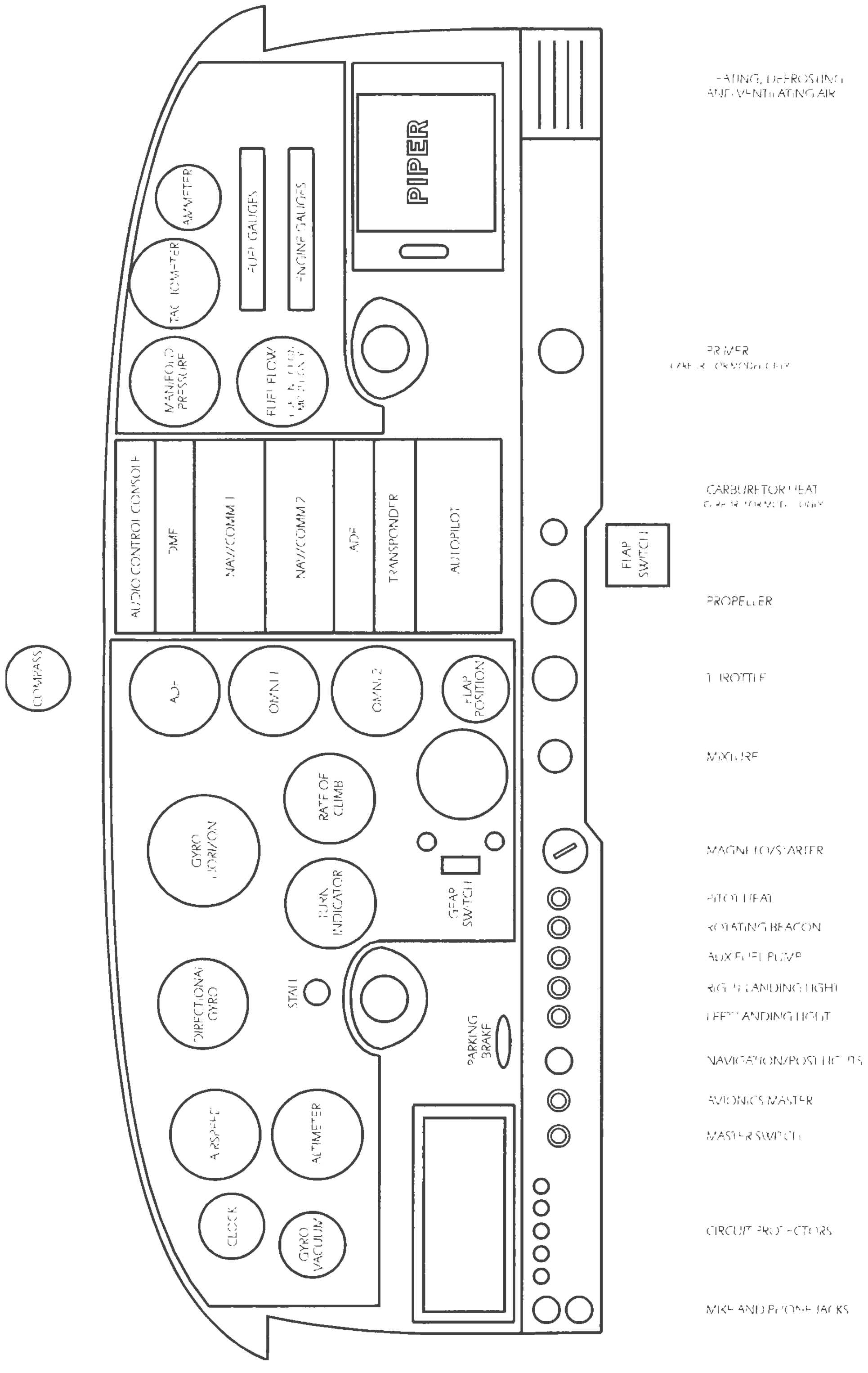


**FIGURE 7-03**

# HEATING AND VENTILATING SYSTEM

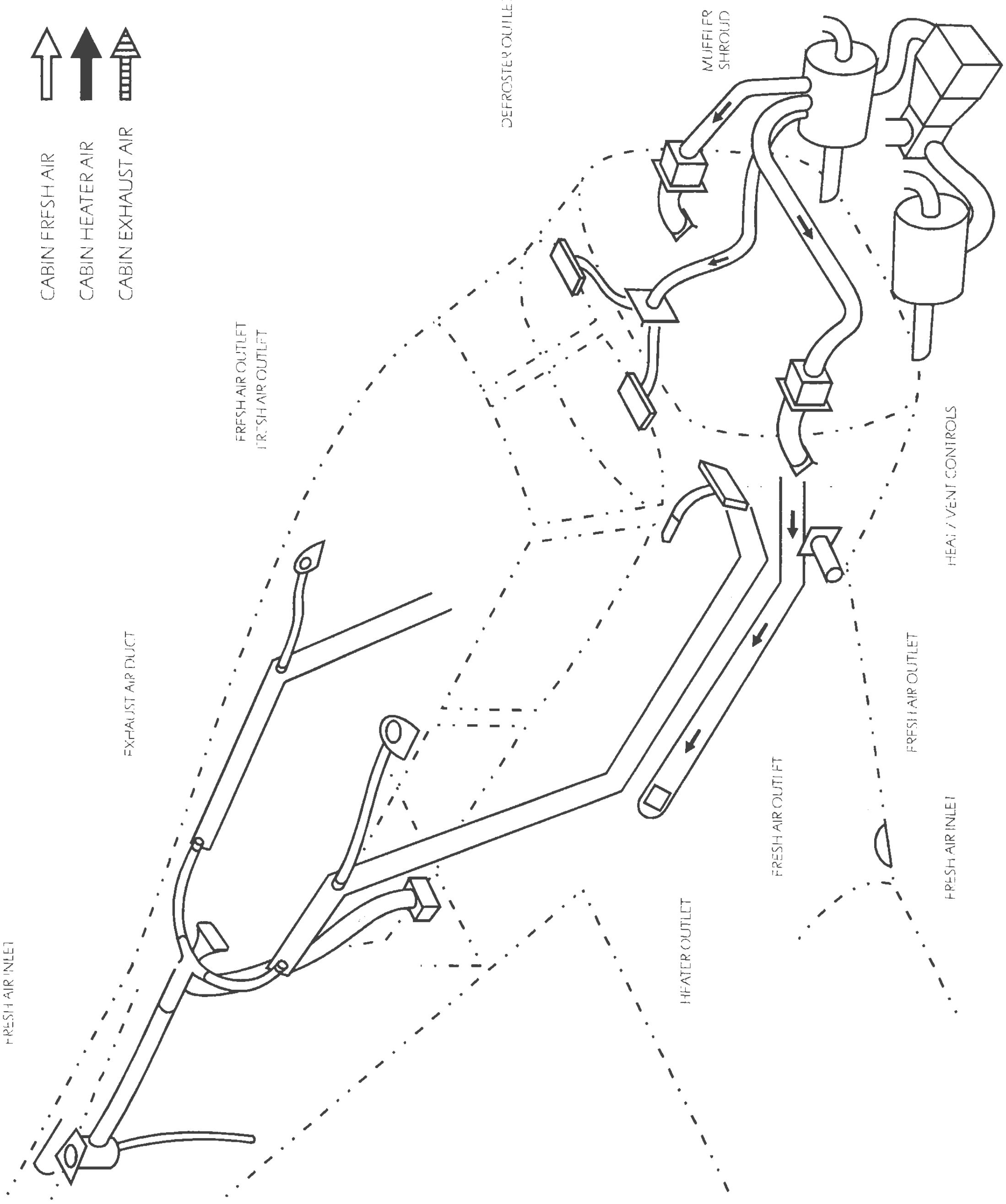


**FIGURE 7-04**

# VACUUM SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

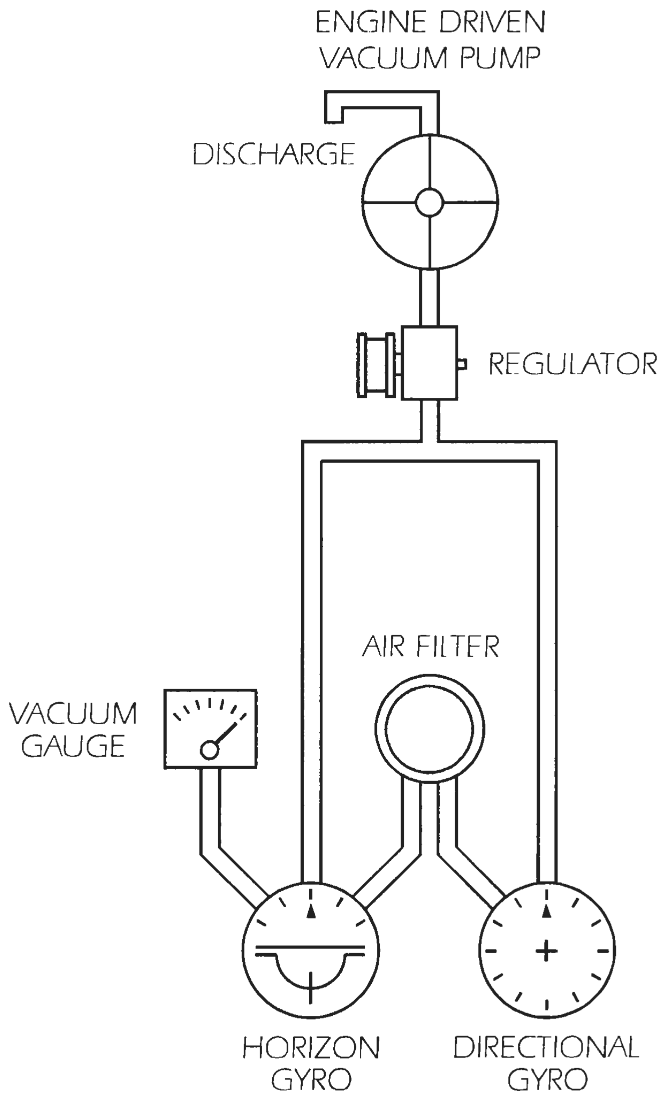


**FIGURE 7-05**

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# SECTION 8 - MAINTENANCE

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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# MAINTENANCE

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

## INTRODUCTION

This section provides general guidelines relating to servicing and maintenance of the Comanche. Piper Aircraft has from time to time issued Service Bulletins, Service Letters and Service Spares Letters relating to the aircraft which have been available from various sources including a subscription service.

Service Bulletins are of special importance and should be complied with promptly. Service Letters deal with product improvements and service hints pertaining to the aircraft. Service Spares Letters offer improved parts, kits and optional equipment that were not available originally, and which may be of interest to the owner. In addition, numerous STC modifications are available for the aircraft from independent sources.

A Service Manual and Parts Catalog are also available from Piper dealers and other sources.

## SERIAL NUMBER PLATE

The serial number plate on the Comanche 260B is located on the left side of the fuselage by the tail skid. The serial number of the plane should always be used when referring to the airplane in service matters.

## INSPECTION PERIODS

The FAA occasionally publishes Airworthiness Directives that apply to specific groups of aircraft. When an AD is issued, it is sent to the registered owner of the aircraft. The owner is advised to periodically check with his Piper dealer or A&P mechanic to insure that he has all ADs issued against his aircraft.

One-Hundred Hour Inspections are required by law if the aircraft is used commercially, otherwise this inspection is left to the discretion of the owner. Details of the inspection are listed in the inspection report of the Service Manual.

An Annual Inspection is required once each twelve calendar months to keep the Airworthiness Certificate in effect. It is the same as a 100 Hour Inspection except that it must be signed by an IA mechanic or a GADO representative. This inspection is required whether the aircraft is operated commercially or otherwise.

In place of the 100 Hour and Annual Inspection requirements, an aircraft may be inspected in accordance with a Progressive Inspection schedule which allows the work to be divided into smaller operations that can be accomplished in shorter time periods thereby allowing maximum utilization of the aircraft while complying with all FAA and factory recommended maintenance procedures.

## ALTERATIONS

If the owner of an aircraft desires to have it modified, FAA approval must be obtained prior to modification to insure that the proposed alteration does not violate the airworthiness of the aircraft. Any major alteration to the basic airframe or any aircraft system requires a STC and must be accomplished by licensed personnel.

## GROUND HANDLING

### 1.) Towing:

The airplane is most safely and easily moved on the ground by use of the nose wheel steering bar that is stowed in the baggage compartment. Towing lugs are incorporated as part of the nose gear fork. The three-view drawing in Section 1 of this Handbook shows the minimum clearances needed to hangar the airplane.

**** CAUTION ****

When towing with power equipment, do not exceed the nose gear steering angle of 20 degrees either side of center or structural damage will result. To insure adequate propeller ground clearance, always observe recommended strut servicing procedures and tire inflation pressures.

### 2.) Parking and Mooring:

When parking the airplane, face it into the wind if possible and set the parking brake. Care should be exercised when setting parking brakes that are overheated or in cold weather when accumulated moisture can freeze the brake.

The airplane should be moored for immovability, security and protection. The following procedure is recommended.

A.) Block the wheels, fore and aft.
B.) Secure tie-down ropes to the wing tie-down rings and tail skid at approximately 45 degree angles to the ground. Use bowline or square knots; do not use slip knots.
C.) Immobilize ailerons and stabilator.
D.) Retract the wing flaps.
E.) Close fresh air inlets.
F.) Release the parking brake.
G.) Install a pitot head cover.
H.) Cabin, baggage compartment and storm window should be locked when the airplane is unattended.

### 3.) Jacking:

When jacking the airplane for landing-gear service or any other purpose, two hydraulic jacks and a tail stand should be used. The airplane is equipped with a jacking pad located on each main spar just outboard of the main landing gear. Approximately 300 to 400 pounds of ballast should be placed on the base of the tail stand before jacking the airplane.

# PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

A certified pilot who owns or operates an aircraft not used as an air carrier is authorized to perform certain preventative maintenance described in FAR Part 43. A Service Manual should be obtained prior to performing any preventative maintenance to insure that proper procedures are followed.

Although such maintenance is allowed by law, each individual should determine whether he has the ability to perform the work. All other maintenance not outlined in FAR Part 43 is required to be accomplished by appropriately licensed personnel. A pilot can, however, perform any other maintenance on an aircraft if he works under the direct supervision of a properly certified mechanic.

If maintenance is performed, an entry must be made in the appropriate logbook. The entry should contain:

1.) Date the work was accomplished.
2.) Engine tachometer hours.
3.) Description of the work.
4.) Signature and certificate number of pilot performing the work.

Among the examples listed in FAR Part 43 considered as preventative maintenance are:

**1.) Engine Care:**

The engine may be cleaned with Stoddard solvent or the equivalent then thoroughly dried. Cleaning solutions should be used cautiously and should always be properly neutralized after use. Care should be taken to prevent cleaning fluids from entering the magnetos, starter, alternator or vacuum pump. Spark plugs should be cleaned and gapped every 50 hours of engine operation.

**2.) Fuel Requirements:**

The minimum grade of aviation fuel that can be used in the Comanche 260B is (blue) 91/96 octane (100 LL). The use of lower grades of fuel can cause serious engine damage in a short period of time, and use of fuel with lower grades of octane will invalidate the engine warranty.

The fuel system sump should be drained daily to avoid the accumulation of contaminates such as water or sediment. Keep fuel tanks full after aircraft operation to minimize the chance of accumulation of water in the tanks due to condensation. The fuel strainer and injector screens should be checked and cleaned with acetone at 50 hour intervals.

### 3.) Oil Requirements:

Ashless dispersant aircraft engine oil must be used for all operating conditions. The oil capacity of the engine is 12 US quarts, but the operating level is normally kept a few quarts below maximum to reduce oil consumption. It is recommended that the oil and filter be changed and the oil screen be checked after every 50 hours of operation (25 hours if the engine is not equipped with an external full flow, spin-on oil filter) or every four months, whichever comes first. Under unfavorable conditions, the oil should be changed even sooner.

The following oil grades are required for the specified temperature:

| Temperature | Single-Viscosity | Multi-Viscosity All Temps. |
|---|---|---|
| Above 60 Degrees F. | SAE 50 | |
| Between 30 & 90 Degrees F. | SAE 40 | |
| Between 00 & 70 Degrees F. | SAE 30 | 15W50 or 20W50 |
| Below 10 Degrees F. | SAE 20 | |

During the oil and filter change it is advisable to inspect the overall condition of the engine compartment giving attention to items not normally checked during a preflight inspection.

Hoses, metal lines and fittings should be inspected for signs of oil or fuel leaks, and checked for abrasions, chafing, support and evidence of deterioration. Inspect the intake and exhaust systems for cracks, evidence of leakage and security of attachment. Inspect wiring for loose, broken or corroded terminals and any evidence of chafing, burning or heat deterioration.

### 4.) Battery Service:

Access to the 12-volt, 35 ampere-hour battery is obtained through the right side of the engine compartment. The stainless-steel battery box has a plastic drain tube which is normally closed off with a clamp and should be opened occasionally to drain off any accumulation of liquid.

The battery should be checked frequently for proper fluid level. Do not fill the battery above the baffle plates. Use only distilled water to replenish the electrolyte, never use acid.

A hydrometer can be used to determine the percentage of charge in the battery. If the battery is not up to proper charge, re-charge following the instructions located on the battery-box cover and in Section 9 (Supplements) of this Manual under the heading "Placards". Quick charges are not recommended.

### 5.) Air Filter Care:

The induction system air filter must be cleaned at least once every 50 hours and more often, even daily, when operating in dusty conditions. To clean the filter, tap it gently to dislodge dust particles. Do not use compressed air or wash the filter in any liquid.

Replace the filter when it becomes excessively dirty or shows any damage. The usable life of the filter should be limited to one year or 500 hours of operation, whichever comes first.

### 6.) Propeller Care:

Before each flight, the propeller should be checked for nicks and corrosion. Small nicks produce stress concentrations and should be dressed-out as soon as possible to prevent serious cracks or the loss of a propeller tip.

### 7.) Landing Gear Service:

Raise the airplane on jacks using procedures outlined in "Ground Handling" of this Section.

Wheels are removed by taking off the hub nut and withdrawing the axle bolt, the axle retainer clips and the axle. Main gear wheels also require the removal of four bolts from the brake assembly.

Mark the tire and wheel for re-installation. Tires are dismounted from the wheels by deflating the tube, then removing the wheel through-bolts, allowing the wheel halves to be separated.

Landing-gear strut exposure is measured with the airplane parked on a level surface with all fuel tanks full. Should the strut exposure be below that required, it should be determined if oil or air is needed. To do this, first raise the airplane on jacks.

To add oil, release the air in the strut allowing the oleo to compress fully. Remove the air-valve core and fill the unit through this opening by attaching a clear plastic hose to the valve stem and submerging the other end in a container of hydraulic fluid. Fully compress and extend the strut several times, thus drawing fluid from the container and expelling air from the strut chamber. When air bubbles cease to flow through the hose, compress the oleo to within 1/4 inch of full compression allowing excess oil to escape.

Air (or preferably dry nitrogen) is then added to the oleo struts with the aid of a strut pump. Re-insert the valve core, and with the airplane on the ground; inflate the strut to the proper position.

Wheel bearings should be replaced if they show signs of pitting or wear. If the bearings are serviceable, clean them thoroughly in solvent and re-pack with wheel-bearing grease.

### 8.) Brake Service:

The hydraulic brake system is filled with petroleum base MIL-H-5606 (red) hydraulic fluid. The fluid level should be checked after every 50 hours of airplane operation and replenished if necessary. The brake fluid reservoir is located on the firewall in the engine compartment.

No adjustment of brake clearances is necessary. If brake blocks become worn excessively, an A&P mechanic can easily replace them with new segments.

**9.) Tire Care:**

For maximum service from the tires, keep them inflated to the proper pressures. When checking tire pressure, examine the tires for wear, cuts and bruises.

All wheels and tires are balanced before installation, and the relationship of tire, tube and wheel should be maintained when servicing. Unbalanced wheels can cause extreme vibration in the landing gear. In the installation of new components, it may be necessary to re-balance the wheels with the tires mounted.

**10.) Lubrication:**

Lubrication at regular intervals is an essential part of the maintenance of any aircraft. The Service Manual contains charts showing lubrication points, types of lubricants to be used, and recommended frequency of application. Refer to the Service Manual for detailed lubrication instructions and methods.

## CLEANING

**1.) Windshield and Window Care:**

The Plexiglas windshield and windows should be cleaned with an aircraft windshield cleaner following directions supplied with the cleaner. If windshield cleaner is not available, the Plexiglas can be cleaned by using water and a mild soap to remove dirt and loose particles. After cleaning, apply a thin coat of a good commercial wax. A severe scratch or mar can be removed with Plexiglas polish.

Oil and grease can be removed with kerosene or Stoddard solvent. Never use gasoline, benzine, alcohol, acetone, paint or lacquer thinner, or glass cleaner to clean the Plexiglas. These materials will attack the plastic and cause it to craze.

**2.) Exterior Surfaces:**

The airplane should be washed with a mild soap and water. Harsh abrasives or alkaline detergents can cause scratches on painted and plastic surfaces or cause corrosion of metal. Oil and grease can be removed with kerosene or Stoddard solvent. Any good auto wax may be used to preserve painted surfaces.

**3.) Interior Care:**

Clean side panels, seats and carpet with a stiff-bristle brush and vacuum cleaner. Soiled upholstery may be cleaned with a good upholstery cleaner suitable for the material. Carefully follow the instructions supplied with the product.

## INTERMITTENT OPERATION PROCEDURE

Airplanes that receive only intermittent operation should be flown once every two to three weeks for fifteen to thirty minutes. This practice is intended to prevent accumulation of corrosion on engine cylinder walls and keep the battery fully charged. It also helps to eliminate accumulations of water in the fuel system and air spaces in the engine, and helps prevent seals from drying out and leaking.

If the airplane is to be stored temporally or indefinitely, refer to the Service Manual for proper storage procedures.

## AIRPLANE FILE

The pilot is responsible for insuring that the following papers are in order and in the aircraft for inspection by the proper authority.

**1.) To be displayed in the airplane at all times:**

- **A.**) Aircraft Airworthiness Certificate (FAA Form 8100-2)
- **B.**) Aircraft Registration Certificate (FAA Form 8050-3)
- **C.**) Aircraft Radio Station License (FCC Form 556)

**2.) To be carried in the airplane at all times:**

- **A.**) FAA Approved "Airplane Flight Manual"
- **B.**) Weight and Balance Data
- **C.**) Aircraft Equipment List
- **D.**) Repair and Alteration Form (FAA Form 337)

**3.) To be made available upon request:**

- **A.**) Airplane Logbook
- **B.**) Engine Logbook

**** NOTE ****

The items listed are required by Federal Aviation Regulations of the United States of America. Owners of aircraft not registered in the United States should check with their country's aviation officials to determine their individual requirements.

# SECTION 9 - SUPPLEMENTS

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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# SUPPLEMENTS

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

## INTRODUCTION

This section is used to provide supplemental information. Each supplement covers miscellaneous information, a single piece of optional equipment, or an optional operating system that is installed on the Airplane. To ensure proper operation of the airplane with optional equipment installed, the owner/operator should always refer to all supplements, whether issued by Piper Aircraft or vendor issued STC supplements, for possible changes or additions to the airplane's limitations, placards, normal or emergency operating procedures, and performance characteristics. Supplements must be kept with the POH when the subject equipment is installed on the airplane. Limitations contained in the supplements are FAA approved and required to be observed by Regulation.

## LOG OF SUPPLEMENTS

This Supplement Log is used to maintain a listing of all equipment revisions to the airplane whether the equipment was delivered with the airplane when new or installed by STC authority.

| Revision No. | Description of Revision | Part Number | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
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# SUPPLEMENT 1 - COMPLETE OPERATING AND LIMITING AIRSPEEDS

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

$V_A$ - Design Maneuvering Speed / Turbulent Air Penetration Speed

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| At 3,100 lbs Gross Weight | 144 mph | 125 kt |
| At 1,900 lbs Gross Weight | 120 mph | 104 kt |

**** CAUTION ****

Maneuvering speed decreases at lighter weight as the effects of aerodynamic forces become more pronounced. Linear interpolation may be used for intermediate gross weights. Maneuvering speed should not be exceeded while operating in rough air.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $V_{APP}$ - Final Approach to Landing Speed | 87 mph | 76 kt |
| $V_{APP}$ - Final Approach (W/Zero Degrees of Flap) | 100 mph | 87 kt |
| $V_{APP}$ - Final Approach (IFR Approach/Clean) | 120 mph | 104 kt |
| $V_C$ - Design Cruising Speed | 180 mph | 156 kt |
| $V_D$ - Demonstrated Diving Speed | 252 mph | 219 kt |
| $V_{FE}$ - Flap Extension Speed | 125 mph | 108 kt |
| $V_{FE}$ - Recommended | 100 mph | 87 kt |
| $V_H$ - Maximum Operating Speed | 194 mph | 169 kt |
| $V_{IMD}$ - Maximum Endurance Speed | 100 mph | 87 kt |
| $V_{IMR}$ - Maximum Range Speed | 130 mph | 113 kt |
| $V_{LE}$ - Landing-Gear Extended Speed | 150 mph | 130 kt |
| $V_{LO}$ - Landing-Gear Operation Speed | 150 mph | 130 kt |
| $V_{LO}$ - Recommended | 125 mph | 108 kt |
| $V_{NE}$ - Never Exceed Speed | 227 mph | 197 kt |

**** WARNING ****

AD 72-22-05 may reduce $V_{NE}$ to 203 mph CAS (176 kt) or 188 mph CAS (163 kt) depending on how the airplane is modified. Refer to the AD for the airspeed applicable to your airplane.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| $V_{NO}$ - Normal Operating Speed / Maximum Structural Cruising Speed | 180 mph | 156 kt |
| $V_R$ - Rotation Speed (W/Zero Degrees of Flap) | 85 mph | 74 kt |
| $V_{S0}$ - Stall Speed (Power Off - Full Flaps and Gear Extended) | 67 mph | 58 kt |
| $V_{S1}$ - Stall Speed (Power Off - Clean) | 75 mph | 65 kt |
| $V_X$ - Best Angle-of-Climb Speed (At Sea Level) | 87 mph | 76 kt |
| $V_Y$ - Best Rate-of-Climb Speed (At Sea Level) | 111 mph | 96 kt |

## Emergency Airspeeds

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Best Engine-Out Glide Speed (Optimum) | 105 mph | 91 kt |
| Best Engine-Out Glide Speed (Endurance) | 90 mph | 78 kt |

## Other Speeds

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Best En Route Rate-of-Climb Speed | 130 mph | 113 kt |
| Demonstrated Crosswind Component | 20 mph | 17 kt |

## SUPPLEMENT 2 - ADDITIONAL PLACARDS NOT LISTED IN SECTION 2

The following is a list of placards that are not a part of the FAA approved placards that are listed in Section 2 (Limitations). They are provided here as they appear on the airplane.

**1.) In Full View of the Pilot:**

TAKEOFF CHECK LIST

| | |
|---|---|
| SEAT BELTS ---- FASTENED | MIXTURE ---------------------- SET |
| CONTROLS -------------- FREE | ELECTRIC FUEL PUMP ---- ON |
| TRIM TAB ------------------ SET | PROPELLER ------------------ SET |
| FLAPS ------------------------ SET | ENGINE GAUGES ------ CHECK |
| FUEL ----- ON PROPER TANK | DOOR ---------------------- LATCH |

LANDING CHECK LIST

| | |
|---|---|
| SEATS ----------------------------- ERECT | MIXTURE ------------------------------- SET |
| SEAT BELTS -------------- FASTENED | PROPELLER --------------------------- SET |
| FUEL --------------- ON PROPER TANK | LANDING GEAR DOWN --- LOCKED |
| ELECTRIC FUEL PUMP ------------ ON | FLAPS ------- DOWN UNDER 100 MPH |

**2.) On Instrument Panel:** (When Item is Installed)

WARNING

TO AVOID SPATIAL DISORIENTATION
TURN OFF STROBE LIGHTS WHEN IN CLOSE
PROXIMITY TO THE GROUND, OR DURING
FLIGHT THROUGH CLOUDS, FOG OR HAZE.

**3.) Inside Cabin Door:**

ENGAGE LATCH BEFORE FLIGHT

**4.) Adjacent to the Parking Brake Handle:**

PARKING BRAKE - PULL ON

WARNING
NO BRAKING WILL OCCUR IF AIRPLANE
BRAKES ARE APPLIED WHILE PARKING
BRAKE HANDLE IS PULLED AND HELD.

## SUPPLEMENT 2 - ADDITIONAL PLACARDS (Cont.)

**5.) Inside Landing Gear Motor Release Arm Access Door:**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMERGENCY EXTENSION OF LANDING GEAR

1. REDUCE POWER - AIRSPEED NOT TO EXCEED 100 M.P.H.
2. PLACE LANDING GEAR SWITCH IN "GEAR DOWN LOCKED" POSITION
3. DISENGAGE MOTOR - RAISE MOTOR RELEASE ARM AND PUSH FORWARD THROUGH FULL TRAVEL.
4. EXTEND EMERGENCY GEAR HANDLE TO FULL LENGTH.
5. ROTATE HANDLE FORWARD FULL TRAVEL TO EXTEND LANDING GEAR. GREEN LIGHT ON PANEL INDICATES LANDING GEAR DOWN AND LOCKED.

DO NOT RE-ENGAGE MOTOR IN FLIGHT

**6.) Above Alternate Static Source Valve:** (When Item is Installed)

ALTERNATE STATIC SOURCE
PULL AFT TO OPEN

IN CASE OF STATIC PRESSURE TUBE MALFUNCTION
DUE TO ICE OR OTHER OBSTRUCTION, CLOSE WINDOW
AND ACTIVATE ALTERNATE STATIC SOURCE VALVE.

**7.) On Brake Fluid Reservoir:**

BRAKE FLUID
HYDRAULIC OIL
MIL-H-5606

**8.) Adjacent to Fuel Filler Caps:**

MAIN FUEL

91-96 OCTANE MIN.
TANK CAPACITY 30 GAL.
USABLE CAPACITY 28 GAL.
FILLING INSTRUCTIONS
TO OBTAIN MAXIMUM
CAPACITY, AIRPLANE
MUST BE APPROXIMATELY
LEVEL WITH LANDING
GEARS EQUALLY EXTENDED

AUX. FUEL

91-96 OCTANE MIN.
CAPACITY 15 GAL.

## **SUPPLEMENT 2 - ADDITIONAL PLACARDS** (Cont.)

**9.) Adjacent to Oil Filler Cap:**

ENGINE OIL SPEC.

| VISCOSITY | OUTSIDE AIR TEMP. |
|---|---|
| SAE 50 | ABOVE 60 DEGREES F. |
| SAE 40 | BETWEEN 30 & 90 DEGREES F. |
| SAE 30 | BETWEEN 00 & 70 DEGREES F. |
| SAE 20 | BELOW 10 DEGREES F. |

OIL CAPACITY 12 QTS.

**10.) On Battery Compartment Cover:**

ALWAYS ADD WATER - NEVER ADD ACID
DO NOT FILL ABOVE BAFFLES
FULLY CHARGED SPECIFIC GRAVITY 1.275
CHARGING RATE
START 4 AMPERES - FINISH 2 AMPERES
MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE ON CHARGE 120 DEGREES F.
KEEP CHARGED TO PREVENT FREEZING

**11.) At Each Oxygen Outlet:** (When Item is Installed)

NO SMOKING WITH OXYGEN IN USE

**12.) On Wing Flap Indicator:**

| | |
|---|---|
| TAKEOFF | 15° |
| LANDING | 32° |

## SUPPLEMENT 3

## OFFICIAL WORLD RECORDS HELD BY MAX CONRAD IN COMANCHE AIRCRAFT

World class records recognized by the Federation Aeronautique Internationale and the National Aeronautic Association.

Category: C (Airplanes)
Group: 1 (Piston Engine)
Class: 1 (Landplanes)

**WORLD RECORD #1**

Sub Class: D - 1,750 to 3,000 kg (3,858 to 6,614 lb)
Record: Distance in a Straight Line (Non-Stop)
From: Casablanca, Morocco - To: Los Angeles, California
Distance: 7,668 sm * 6,663 nm * 12,338 km
Time: 58 Hours, 38 Minutes
Date: June 02, 1959
Airplane Model: Piper Comanche PA-24-250

**WORLD RECORD #2**

Sub Class: C - 1,000 to 1,750 kg (2,204 to 3,858 lb)
Record: Distance in a Straight Line (Non-Stop)
From: Casablanca, Morocco - To: El Paso, Texas
Distance: 6,967 sm * 6,053 nm * 11,212 km
Time: 56 Hours, 26 Minutes
Date: November 24, 1959
Airplane Model: Piper Comanche PA-24-180

**WORLD RECORD #3**

Sub Class: C - 1,000 to 1,750 kg (2,204 to 3,858 lb)
Record: Distance in a Closed Circuit (Non-Stop)
From: Minneapolis, Minnesota - To: Chicago, Illinois - To: Des Moines, Iowa - To: Minneapolis, Minnesota
Distance: 6,921 sm * 6,014 nm * 11,139 km
Time: 60 Hours, 10 Minutes
Date: July 14, 1960
Airplane Model: Piper Comanche PA-24-180

**WORLD RECORD #4**

Sub Class: E - 3,000 to 6,000 kg (6,614 to 13,228 lb)
Record: Distance in a Straight Line (Non-Stop)
From: Capetown, South Africa - To: St. Petersburg, Florida
Distance: 7,879 sm * 6,845 nm * 12,677 km
Time: 56 Hours, 8 Minutes
Date: December 24, 1964
Airplane Model: Piper Twin Comanche PA-30

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# SUPPLEMENT 4 - COMPARISON OF PRODUCTION MODEL SINGLE ENGINE COMANCHES

## SPECIFICATIONS

| Type Designation | PA-24-180 | PA-24-250 | PA-24-250 | PA-24-250 | PA-24-250 | PA-24-260 | PA-24-260 | PA-24-260B | PA-24-260B | PA-24-260C | PA-24-260T | PA-24-400 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year(s) Manufactured | 1957-64 | 1958-60 | 1961 | 1962-64 | 1962-64 | 1965 | 1965 | 1966-68 | 1966-68 | 1969-72 | 1970-72 | 1964-65 |
| Approximate Number Built | 1,143 | 1,526 | 407 | 604 | N/A | 300 | N/A | 504 | N/A | 225 | N/A | 146 |
| Length (ft) | 24.7 | 24.9 | 24.9 | 24.9 | 24.9 | 25.0 | 25.0 | 25.3 | 25.3 | 25.8 | 25.8 | 25.7 |
| Height (ft) | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.8 |
| Wing Span (ft) | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 36.0 |
| Powerplant (Lycoming) | O-360-A | O-540-A | O-540-A | O-540-A | IO-540-C | IO-540-D | O-540-E | IO-540-D | O-540-E | IO-540-N | IO-540-R | IO-720-A |
| BHP-RPM | 180-2700 | 250-2575 | 250-2575 | 250-2575 | 250-2575 | 260-2700 | 260-2700 | 260-2700 | 260-2700 | 260-2700 | 260-2700 | 400-2650 |
| TBO (hr) | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,800 | 1,800 |
| Wing Area (sq ft) | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 |
| Wing Loading (lb/sq ft) | 14.3 | 15.7 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 18.0 | 18.0 | 20.2 |
| Power Loading (lb/bhp) | 14.2 | 11.2 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 11.9 | 11.9 | 12.3 | 12.3 | 9.0 |
| Seats | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4-6 | 4-6 | 4-6 | 4-6 | 4 |
| Fuel Capacity (US gal) | 60 | 60 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 130 |
| Baggage Capacity (lb) | 100/200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 250 | 250 | 250 | 250 | 200 |
| Gross Weight (lb) | 2,550 | 2,800 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 3,100 | 3,100 | 3,200 | 3,200 | 3,600 |
| Max Landing Weight (lb) | 2,550 | 2,800 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,945 | 2,945 | 3,040 | 3,040 | 3,600 |
| Standard Empty Weight (lb) | 1,455 | 1,600 | 1,630 | 1,690 | 1,690 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,728 | 1,728 | 1,773 | 1,894 | 2,110 |
| Max Useful Load (lb) | 1,095 | 1,200 | 1,270 | 1,210 | 1,210 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,372 | 1,372 | 1,427 | 1,306 | 1,490 |
| Max Useful Load W/Full Fuel (lb) | 735 | 840 | 730 | 670 | 670 | 660 | 660 | 832 | 832 | 887 | 766 | 710 |

## PERFORMANCE

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fuel Flow @ 75% Power (gph) | 10.0 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 13.7 | 14.1 | 14.5 | 14.1 | 14.5 | 14.1 | 14.1 | 20.0 |
| Fuel Flow @ 55% Power (gph) | 7.4 | 10.3 | 10.3 | 10.3 | 11.0 | 11.4 | 10.7 | 11.4 | 10.7 | 11.4 | 11.4 | 15.5 |
| Endur @ 75% Power W/45 min Rsv (hr) | 5.2 | 3.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 5.6 |
| Endur @ 55% Power W/45 min Rsv (hr) | 7.1 | 5.1 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 7.2 |
| Range @ 75% Power W/45 min Rsv (sm) | 832 | 670 | 1,032 | 1,032 | 1,068 | 1,055 | 1,018 | 1,037 | 1,001 | 1,055 | 1,177 | 1,193 |
| Range @ 55% Power W/45 min Rsv (sm) | 994 | 836 | 1,279 | 1,279 | 1,197 | 1,193 | 1,260 | 1,157 | 1,223 | 1,228 | 1,313 | 1,426 |
| Cruise Speed @ 75% Power (mph) | 160 | 181 | 181 | 181 | 181 | 185 | 185 | 182 | 182 | 185 | 222 | 213 |
| Cruise Speed @ 55% Power (mph) | 140 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 164 | 168 | 168 | 163 | 163 | 173 | 196 | 198 |
| Rate of Climb (ft/min) | 910 | 1,350 | 1,350 | 1,350 | 1,350 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,370 | 1,370 | 1,320 | 1,320 | 1,600 |
| Climb Gradient (ft/nm) | 658 | 890 | 890 | 890 | 890 | 938 | 938 | 856 | 856 | 817 | 817 | 923 |
| Ceiling (ft) | 21,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 | 21,400 | 21,400 | 21,000 | 25,000 | 21,000 |
| Takeoff Distance, Ground Run (ft) | 1,370* | 1,095 | 1,180 | 1,180 | 1,180 | 1,090 | 1,090 | 1,260 | 1,260 | 1,360 | 1,360 | 980 |
| Total Over a 50 ft Obstacle (ft) | 2,250* | 1,575 | 1,675 | 1,675 | 1,675 | 1,540 | 1,540 | 1,725 | 1,725 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,500 |
| Landing Distance, Ground Roll (ft) | 460 | 885 | 920 | 920 | 920 | 920 | 920 | 925 | 925 | 965 | 965 | 1,180 |
| Total Over a 50 ft Obstacle (ft) | 1,340 | 1,390 | 1,420 | 1,420 | 1,420 | 1,420 | 1,420 | 1,435 | 1,435 | 1,465 | 1,465 | 1,820 |

## LIMITING AND RECOMMENDED AIRSPEEDS (MPH)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $V_A$ - Design Maneuvering Speed | 154 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 144 | 150 | 150 | 160 |
| $V_{FE}$ - Max Flap Extension Speed | 100/125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 |
| $V_H$ - Max Operating Speed | 167 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 190 | 195 | 195 | 194 | 194 | 195 | 233 | 223 |
| $V_{LO}$ - Max Gear Operation Speed | 125/150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 |
| $V_{NE}$ - Never Exceed Speed | 202 | 227 | 227 | 227 | 227 | 227 | 227 | 227 | 227 | 227 | 227 | 250 |
| $V_{NO}$ - Normal Operation Speed | 160 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 210 |
| $V_R$ - Rotation Speed * | 75 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 90 |
| $V_{S0}$ - Stall Speed (Landing Configuration) | 60 | 64 | 62 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 63 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 67 | 68 |
| $V_{S1}$ - Stall Speed (Clean) | 67 | 71 | 75 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 75 | 75 | 77 | 77 | 78 |
| $V_X$ - Best Angle-of-Climb Speed | 75 | 84 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 87 | 87 | 88 | 88 | 92 |
| $V_Y$ - Best Rate-of-Climb Speed | 96 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 110 | 110 | 111 | 111 | 112 | 112 | 120 |
| Engine-Out Glide Speed (Optimum) | 95 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 115 |

* = With Zero Degrees of Flap    N/A = Information Not Available

## SUPPLEMENT 5 - COMPARISON OF PRODUCTION MODEL TWIN COMANCHES

### SPECIFICATIONS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Type Designation | PA-30 | PA-30T | PA-39 | PA-39T |
| Years Manufactured | 1963-69 | 1964-69 | 1970-72 | 1970-72 |
| Approximate Number Built | 2,000 | N/A | 155 | N/A |
| Length (ft) | 25.2 | 25.2 | 25.2 | 25.2 |
| Height (ft) | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.2 | 8.2 |
| Wing Span (ft) | 36.0 | 36.8 | 36.0 | 36.8 |
| Powerplant (Lycoming) | IO-320-B | IO-320-C | IO-320-B | IO-320-C |
| Ratings (bhp-rpm) | 160-2700 | 160-2700 | 160-2700 | 160-2700 |
| TBO (hr) | 2,000 | 1,800 | 2,000 | 1,800 |
| Wing Area (sq ft) | 178 | 178 | 178 | 178 |
| Wing Loading (lb/sq ft) | 20.2 | 20.9 | 20.2 | 20.9 |
| Power Loading (lb/bhp) | 11.3 | 11.7 | 11.3 | 11.7 |
| Seats | 4-6 | 4-6 | 4-6 | 4-6 |
| Fuel Capacity (US gal) | 90 | 120 | 90 | 120 |
| Baggage Capacity (lb) | 200-250 | 200-250 | 250 | 250 |
| Gross Weight (lb) | 3,600 | 3,725 | 3,600 | 3,725 |
| Maximum Landing Weight (lb) | 3,600 | 3,725 | 3,600 | 3,725 |
| Standard Empty Weight (lb) | 2,207 | 2,384 | 2,270 | 2,416 |
| Maximum Useful Load (lb) | 1,393 | 1,341 | 1,330 | 1,309 |
| Maximum Useful Load W/Full Fuel (lb) | 853 | 621 | 790 | 589 |

### PERFORMANCE

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fuel Flow @ 75% Power (gph) | 17.2 | 17.2 | 17.2 | 17.2 |
| Fuel Flow @ 65% Power (gph) | 15.2 | 15.2 | 15.2 | 15.2 |
| Fuel Flow @ 55% Power (gph) | 13.4 | 13.4 | 13.4 | 13.4 |
| Range @ 75% Power W/45 min Reserve (sm) | 892 | 1,316 | 892 | 1,316 |
| Range @ 65% Power W/45 min Reserve (sm) | 967 | 1,353 | 967 | 1,353 |
| Range @ 55% Power W/45 min Reserve (sm) | 1,015 | 1,386 | 1,015 | 1,386 |
| Endurance @ 75% Power W/45 min Reserve (hr) | 4.6 | 5.9 | 4.6 | 5.9 |
| Endurance @ 65% Power W/45 min Reserve (hr) | 5.2 | 6.7 | 5.2 | 6.7 |
| Endurance @ 55% Power W/45 min Reserve (hr) | 5.9 | 7.7 | 5.9 | 7.7 |
| Cruise Speed @ 75% Power (mph) | 194 | 223 | 194 | 223 |
| Cruise Speed @ 65% Power (mph) | 186 | 202 | 186 | 202 |
| Cruise Speed @ 55% Power (mph) | 172 | 180 | 172 | 180 |
| Rate of Climb(ft/min) | 1,460 | 1,290 | 1,460 | 1,290 |
| Single-Engine Rate of Climb(ft/min) | 260 | 165 | 260 | 165 |
| Climb Gradient (ft/nm) | 903 | 798 | 903 | 798 |
| Service Ceiling (ft) | 18,600 | 25,000 | 18,600 | 25,000 |
| Absolute Ceiling (ft) | 20,000 | 25,000 | 20,000 | 25,000 |
| Single-Engine Service Ceiling (ft) | 5,800 | 8,800 | 5,800 | 8,800 |
| Single-Engine Absolute Ceiling (ft) | 7,100 | 12,600 | 7,100 | 12,600 |
| Accelerate - Stop Distance (ft) | 3,000 | 3,100 | 2,470 | 2,560 |
| Takeoff Distance, Ground Run (ft) | 1,250 | 1,300 | 940 | 990 |
| Total Over a 50 ft Obstacle (ft) | 2,160 | 2,285 | 1,530 | 1,590 |
| Landing Distance, Ground Roll (ft) | 700 | 700 | 700 | 725 |
| Total Over a 50 ft Obstacle (ft) | 2,100 | 2,155 | 1,870 | 1,900 |

### LIMITING AND RECOMMENDED AIRSPEEDS (MPH)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $V_A$ - Design Maneuvering Speed | 162 | 162 | 162 | 162 |
| $V_{FE}$ - Maximum Flap Extension Speed | 125 | 125 | 125 | 125 |
| $V_H$ - Maximum Operating Speed | 205 | 240 | 205 | 240 |
| $V_{LO}$ - Maximum Gear Operation Speed | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 |
| $V_{MCA}$ - Minimum Control Speed W/Critical Engine Inoperative | 90 | 90 | 80 | 80 |
| $V_{NE}$ - Never Exceed Speed | 230 | 230 | 230 | 230 |
| $V_{NO}$ - Normal Operation Speed | 194 | 194 | 194 | 194 |
| $V_R$ - Rotation Speed | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| $V_{S0}$ - Stall Speed (Landing Configuration) | 69 | 69 | 70 | 70 |
| $V_{S1}$ - Stall Speed (Clean) | 76 | 76 | 76 | 76 |
| $V_{SSE}$ - Minimum Intentional Single-Engine Speed | 97 | 97 | 97 | 97 |
| $V_X$ - Best Angle-of-Climb Speed | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| $V_{XSE}$ - Best Single-Engine Angle-of-Climb Speed | 94 | 94 | 94 | 94 |
| $V_Y$ - Best Rate-of-Climb Speed | 112 | 112 | 112 | 112 |
| $V_{YSE}$ - Best Single-Engine Rate-of-Climb Speed | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 |
| Both Engine Out Glide Speed (Optimum) | 110 | 110 | 110 | 110 |

N/A = Information Not Available

# SUPPLEMENT 6 - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES INFORMATION

## Engine-Out Glide Speed:

During the era when Piper Aircraft was producing the Comanche, no flight tests were conducted to determine the best engine-out glide speed for the airplane. The one exception to this was the Turbo 260C, and it is estimated that only two dozen were built. The figures in this Handbook have been determined by the following method:

Use of the term "best" is a misnomer, however, best glide speed is most generally referred to as the optimum, or maximum-range glide speed, and results in the best glide ratio.

Best glide ratio is obtained when the wing is operated at an angle of attack that will produce the best lift-drag ratio, or $L/D_{max}$. This is basically true of the airplane's best rate-of-climb speed also.

Theoretically, optimum glide speed will be close to the best rate-of-climb speed, but included among the variables in the mathematical formulas related to the best rate-of-climb speed are the elements of thrust and drag. Because efficiency is reduced by a dead engine (thrust is now zero), and airplane drag is increased (due to the windmilling propeller), optimum glide speed can be expected to be a value somewhat less than $V_Y$.

The generally accepted formula for estimating best engine-out glide speed in a typical reciprocating-engine, propeller-driven, light airplane when it is not provided by the aircraft manufacturer is to multiply 1.4 times $V_{S1}$.

$V_Y$ for this model of the Comanche is 111 mph, and 1.4 times $V_{S1}$ is 105 mph. Therefore, for the purposes of this Handbook, the best engine-out glide speed for the Comanche 260B at 3100 lbs maximum allowable gross weight has been established to be 105 mph IAS. Actual glide tests conducted in a Comanche 250 support this figure.

Glide testing done on sub-sonic aircraft by the military has produced graphs which show that a five-percent deviation from best glide speed will not cause a significant reduction in glide ratio. This means that if this figure is not exactly correct, the error is not enough to produce a measurable difference.

In addition, since optimum glide speed decreases as the airplane's gross weight decreases, this fact also allows the specifying of glide speeds for a range of gross weights. An example of when use of a lower glide speed applies would be a solo pilot who is totally out of fuel. In this case the airplane would be several hundred pounds below maximum allowable gross weight, and use of an airspeed below 105 mph IAS would be appropriate.

| Airplane Gross Weight | Suggested Glide Speed |
|---|---|
| 3100 lbs | 105 mph (91 kt) |
| 2900 lbs | 101 mph (88 kt) |
| 2700 lbs | 97 mph (84 kt) |
| 2500 lbs | 93 mph (81 kt) |

## SUPPLEMENT 6 - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES INFORMATION (Cont.)

### Engine-Out Glide Speed: (Cont.)

Equally important in any discussion of engine-out glide speed is the best endurance, or minimum sink glide speed. This airspeed is used when glide range is not important (such as when directly over an airport at an altitude of several thousand feet AGL), and the possibility of re-starting the engine is a factor (such as when engine failure is due to having run a fuel tank dry, but then starting difficulty is experienced after switching tanks).

Best endurance glide speed is typically equal to 75 percent of the optimum glide speed. However, there is a problem associated with this figure due to the fact that this airspeed is close to the airplane's stall speed. This condition could become dangerous for the pilot who is otherwise distracted by the emergency.

For this reason, the generally accepted formula for estimating best endurance glide speed is to multiply 1.2 times $V_{S1}$. This results in an airspeed of 90 mph IAS for this model of Comanche.

It is suggested that at approximately 1000 feet AGL, the pilot should establish optimum glide speed in preparation of landing. The additional airspeed will provide maneuvering control, and a safety margin to counter any unexpected low-level wind shear. Also, if the airplane is operated close to stall, there may be insufficient airspeed with which to flare on landing.

For the individual who wants a more in-depth knowledge of this subject, the books by Kershner and Hurt referenced in the Preamble of this Handbook are recommended reading.

### Glide Ratio:

Engine-out glide ratio for the Comanche with landing gear and flaps retracted and propeller windmilling in low pitch is 10 to 1, or approximately two miles of gliding distance for each 1,000 feet of altitude above the terrain. Drag is substantially reduced when the propeller is put in high pitch, and glide ratio improves to 13 to 1. When the landing gear is extended, drag is increased and glide ratio is radically reduced to approximately 7 to 1. For this reason, it is suggested that the landing gear and flaps not be extended in most engine-out emergencies until over the threshold of the landing area. Landing gear down operating time is approximately 7 seconds.

## SUPPLEMENT 7 - NORMAL PROCEDURES INFORMATION

**Best Range Speed:**

High speed and the resultant savings in time is one of the major reasons for using an aircraft as transportation. In recent years, however, increasing fuel costs have led to an interest in efficiency to minimize fuel usage. In addition, every year there are a large percentage of accidents caused by fuel exhaustion and poor fuel management. Moreover, there can be unexpected headwinds or adverse weather conditions that result in a much longer flight than anticipated. For all of these reasons, a pilot will want to give consideration to getting the maximum range possible from an aircraft. Range and endurance records established by Max Conrad in various models of the Comanche are substantial, and are listed in this Handbook.

Tests were not conducted by Piper Aircraft to determine the airspeeds that will result in maximum range ($V_{IMR}$) and maximum endurance ($V_{IMD}$) for the Comanche. In the absence of this information, the following is provided:

The aerodynamic principals that are involved in determining maximum gliding distance for a typical reciprocating-engine, propeller-driven, light airplane (see Emergency Procedures Information in this section) are the same that are used in determining its maximum range. Maximum range is obtained when the wing is operated at the angle of attack that produces the best lift-drag ratio or $L/D_{max}$. This is basically true of the best rate-of-climb speed, but $V_{IMR}$ can be expected to be some value higher than $V_Y$ because other factors are involved such as the lift coefficient of the wing, and the propulsive efficiency of the engine/propeller combination.

A common method of estimating the best range speed when it is not provided by the aircraft manufacturer is to use a figure that is approximately 15 percent greater than $V_Y$ which for this model of the Comanche is equal to 128 mph. Another generally accepted formula for estimating $V_{IMR}$ is to multiply 1.8 times $V_{S1}$. This results in a figure of 135 mph. Studies have shown that a five-percent deviation from optimum range speed will not cause a significant variation in the range obtained. For this reason, the figure of 130 mph is suggested. This figure is applicable for the airplane at full gross weight and will decrease at a rate of approximately two mph for every 100 pound decrease in weight.

Along with airspeed, other factors to consider when there is a need to obtain maximum range are:

1.) Decrease the aircraft weight and avoid headwinds.

2.) If possible, redistribute any movable weight within the airplane to obtain the most rearward center of gravity within C.G. limits. This will reduce drag and increase efficiency.

3.) Reduce rpm so the engine will consume less fuel. Operation at low rpm will typically result in a relatively high manifold pressure, but this is not a problem as long as the engine is operated within allowable rpm and manifold pressure limits as designated in the Lycoming charts.

4.) Adjust the mixture to the lean side of peak EGT. This condition is also acceptable because the power developed by the engine can be expected to be equal to 40 percent and less.

## SUPPLEMENT 7 - NORMAL PROCEDURES INFORMATION (Cont.)

**Best Range Speed:** (Cont.)

**** CAUTION ****

Never use low power settings during the engine's break-in period. This practice will result in glazed cylinder walls and high oil consumption. Also, routine operation at low power and the resultant low operating temperature can lead to problems such as high oil consumption and sticking valves. These problems are amplified during cold weather operation, so the practice of cruising at low power settings is not recommended as a standard operating procedure.

### Best Endurance Speed:

The most common application where there is a need to obtain maximum endurance from the airplane is when directed into a holding pattern by Air Traffic Control. Best endurance speed is typically equal to 75 percent of the best range speed. The generally accepted formula for estimating best endurance speed is to multiply 1.3 times $V_{S1}$. Seventy-five percent of 130 mph is 98 mph, and 1.3 times $V_{S1}$ is 98 mph. Therefore, for the purposes of this Handbook, maximum endurance airspeed is suggested to be 100 mph.

An airspeed of 100 mph is not practical in many applications due to the increased angle of attack at this relatively low speed which results in high induced drag and poor aerodynamic efficiency. In addition, an airspeed this low will result in comparatively sluggish control response requiring the pilot to have to work that much harder to control the airplane. For these reasons, the pilot may wish to operate off-optimum when seeking to extend the airplane's endurance. Since the most common application of the use of the best endurance speed is the holding pattern, it is suggested that the airplane's IFR approach speed of 120 mph be used.

Another factor to consider is the fact that maximum endurance is obtained at sea level, so it is advisable to use the lowest practical altitude. Also, wind is not a factor with endurance, but turbulence should be avoided, if possible, because of the drag that turbulence will induce.

These are the major factors involved in extending an aircraft's range and endurance, but they do not provide actual figures that the pilot can expect to obtain. It is therefore recommended that the aircraft owner/operator conduct his own tests using these techniques to determine the specific fuel consumption that can be expected from the airplane. For the individual who wants a more in-depth knowledge of this subject, the books by Kershner and Hurt referenced in the Preamble of this Handbook are recommended reading.

### IFR Approach Speed:

There are several factors involved in IFR approach stability, most of which are beyond the scope of this discussion. The aircraft needs to be stable at all times during an IFR approach, and one of the most important factors contributing to approach stability is the aircraft's speed. The airspeed chosen by the pilot when making an IFR approach is dependent on several factors.

## SUPPLEMENT 7 - NORMAL PROCEDURES INFORMATION (Cont.)

**IFR Approach Speed:** (Cont.)

Among the most significant factors to consider are:

1.) Requirements and demands of single-pilot IFR. FAR Part 135 specifies that an auto-pilot is required when operating single-pilot IFR. The rules in Part 135 are not required of most private pilots, but they are nonetheless a good guideline. Therefore the limitations of the auto-pilot should be considered. Most auto-pilots approved for use in the Comanche have a minimum airspeed limitation of 110 mph, so this figure is used to define the low end of airspeeds for consideration.

2.) Air Traffic Control requirements and the pilot's responsibility to expedite traffic flow. The pilot making an instrument approach will comply with ATC airspeed instructions in most circumstances, however, prior to reaching the Final Approach Fix/Point the pilot will want to be established at the airspeed normally used to make the final approach. Since the choice of this airspeed is left to the pilot's discretion, choice of a reasonably high speed is preferable.

3.) Airplane controllability. Aircraft stability is greater the higher the airspeed and this reduces the pilot's work load. For this reason the highest airspeed within the aircraft's limitations is preferred.

4.) Limitations of the aircraft. The Comanche has a wing-flap operating limitation of 125 mph so it is this figure that is used to define the high end of airspeeds for consideration. Choice of an airspeed just below this limitation gives a buffer in the event of any deviation in airspeed control, and some pilots prefer the option of using partial flaps on approach.

5.) Transition from approach configuration to touchdown configuration. FAR Part 91 requires that the pilot must be able to use normal maneuvers to land, and FAR Part 135 requires that the airplane must touch down within the touchdown zone which is defined as the first 3,000 ft of the runway. Under conditions of hard IFR (200 ft ceiling, and 1/2 mile visibility) and a 5,000 ft runway, it is not likely that the pilot will be able to transition the airplane, get it on the ground, and land it safely if the airspeed is much above 125 mph. Consistency is important in the IFR environment, for this reason the instrument pilot should be prepared for these minimal conditions even though they are not what he faces with every instrument approach and landing. Operating in conditions of hard IFR into an airport with a relatively short runway is not the time to be improving your proficiency.

Therefore, for the purposes of this Handbook, the IFR approach speed for the Comanche has been established to be 120 mph.

# SECTION 10 - SAFETY INFORMATION

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

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# SAFETY INFORMATION

PA-24-260B * 3100 LBS GROSS WEIGHT

## INTRODUCTION

This section provides tips and safety information of particular importance in the operation of an airplane. The FAA recommends that the pilot periodically review the airplane's POH to remain familiar with its contents and help ensure safe operation of the airplane. Familiarity with the information contained in the POH is considered essential to the safe and efficient operation of the airplane.

There are several safety related items that every pilot should consider before any flight. Among them are the pilot's physical condition and proficiency, the airworthiness of the airplane, airplane loading, the weather, the flight's route and fuel required, en route airport facilities, and en route navigational facilities. Failure to consider these items could result in personal injury, fatalities, and/or substantial damage to property.

## GENERAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Subjects in this section are composed of excerpts from various FAA publications which pertain to flying safety. The information contained herein is general in nature and not limited to any particular make or model of aircraft. The Pilot's Operating Handbook and FAA Approved Airplane Flight Manual is the proper source for information and operating procedures on a specific airplane. It is also recommended that the pilot be familiar with the following publications in order to have a greater understanding of the subjects related to flight safety.

1.) **Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR)** -- Regulations that govern the aviation community are available locally or through the Superintendent of Documents at the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC. The Regulations are sold as individual parts. The more frequently amended parts are sold by subscription service, and less active parts are sold on a one-time basis. Information about chances in the Regulations are published in AC 00-44 (Status of Federal Aviation Regulations).

2.) **Airman's Information Manual** (AIM) -- This manual is intended to provide the pilot with basic flight information and information on Air Traffic Control procedures. It also contains items of interest to pilots concerning medical physiology, flight safety, accident and hazard reporting procedures, IFR procedures, and an extensive pilot/controller glossary to name only a few. This manual is revised on 6 month intervals and is available locally or through the Superintendent of Documents.

3.) **Airworthiness Directives (AD)** -- These are notices issued by the FAA for the purpose of amending the certification of an aircraft. No aircraft may be operated except in accordance with the requirements of any and all ADs that have been issued on it.

4.) **Notices To Airman (NOTAMS)** -- This is a compilation of information considered essential to the safety of flight. It also includes regulatory matters issued to establish restrictions to flight or amend Aeronautical Charts or Instrument Approach Procedures. This publication is issued every 2 weeks and is made available locally and by subscription from the Superintendent of Documents.

5.) **Advisory Circulars (AC)** -- These are issued by the FAA to disseminate non-regulatory material of interest to the aviation community. AC 00-2 (Advisory Circular Checklist) contains a listing of ACs and covers a wide range of subjects. AC 00-2 is issued every 4 months by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Publications Section, Washington, DC.

6.) **Airport Facility Directory** -- This directory contains information on airports, frequencies for communications, navigational aids, instrument landing systems, VOR receiver check points, Flight Service telephone numbers, Air Route Traffic Control Center frequencies and other information essential to air navigation. This directory is available locally or from the National Ocean Service (NOS), NOAA Distribution Branch, Riverdale, Maryland.

## PILOT PHYSIOLOGY

### 1.) Medical Certification:

All pilots, except those flying gliders and free air balloons, must possess a valid Medical Certificate in order to exercise the privileges of their Airman's Certificate. The standards for medical certification are contained in FAR Part 67. It is the responsibility of the pilot to consider the status of his personal health when planning a flight. A pilot should never fly if it is known that a condition exists that would void the standards of the pilot's Medical Certificate.

### 2.) Fatigue:

Fatigue is one of the most treacherous hazards to flight safety because it may not become apparent to a pilot until serious errors have been made. Fatigue can be classified as both acute and chronic. Acute fatigue is the tiredness felt after long periods of physical and mental activity. This includes strenuous muscular effort, heavy mental workload, strong emotional pressure, and monotony and lack of sleep. Consequently, coordination and alertness, so vital to safe pilot performance, can be reduced. Acute fatigue is prevented by adequate rest, adequate sleep, regular exercise, and proper nutrition.

Chronic fatigue occurs when there is not enough time for full recovery between episodes of acute fatigue. Performance continues to decline and judgment becomes impaired to the point that unwarranted risks may be taken. Recovery from chronic fatigue requires a prolonged period of rest.

### 3.) Stress:

Stress from the pressures of everyday living can impair pilot performance in very subtle ways. Difficulties, both personal and professional, can occupy thought processes enough to markedly decrease alertness. The distraction precipitated by stress can so interfere with judgment that unwarranted risks will be taken. Stress coupled with fatigue can be an extremely hazardous combination. When more than the usual difficulties in everyday life are being experienced, a pilot should consider postponing flying until these difficulties are satisfactorily resolved.

**4.) Emotion:**

Emotionally upsetting events such as a serious argument, the death of a family member or friend, separation or divorce, the loss of a job, or a financial misfortune can contribute to the factors that can make a pilot unable to fly an aircraft safely. The emotions of anger, depression, and anxiety that result from events such as these not only decrease alertness, but may also lead to unnecessary risk-taking. Any pilot who suffers an emotionally upsetting event should not fly until satisfactorily recovered from it.

**5.) Illness:**

Even a minor illness can seriously impair a pilot's performance. Illness can produce fever and distracting symptoms that can diminish judgment, memory, alertness, and the ability to make calculations. The symptoms of an illness can often be brought under control by medication, but the medication itself may decrease pilot performance. The safest rule is not to fly if suffering from any illness. If this restriction is considered too stringent for a particular illness, the pilot should consult an Aviation Medical Examiner for advice.

**6.) Medication:**

Pilot performance can be substantially degraded by both prescription and non-prescription drugs, in addition to the medical condition for which the drugs were taken. Many medications, such as antihistamines, cough suppressants, strong pain relievers, motion sickness drugs, blood pressure medications, muscle relaxants, tranquilizers, and sedatives have primary effects that can impair alertness, vision, memory, coordination, judgment, and the ability to make calculations. Any medication that depresses the nervous system such as antihistamines, tranquilizers, and sedatives can also make a pilot much more susceptible to hypoxia.

Federal Aviation Regulations prohibit pilots from performing crewmember duties while using any medication that affects the faculties in any way contrary to safety. The safest rule is not to fly as a crewmember while taking any medication unless approved by an Aviation Medical Examiner.

**7.) Alcohol:**

Numerous studies and accident reports have chronicled the hazards of alcohol consumption and flying. As little as 1 bottle of beer, 4 ounces of wine, or 1 ounce of liquor can impair a pilot's flying skills, and the amount of alcohol in these drinks can be detected in the breath and blood for at least 3 hours after consumption. Even after the body completely metabolizes a moderate amount of alcohol, a pilot can still be impaired for several hours by hangover. The body metabolizes alcohol at a fixed rate, and there is no way of increasing the metabolism rate of alcohol by the use of coffee, medication, or any other remedy.

Do not fly while under the influence of alcohol or while impaired by a hangover. Federal Aviation Regulations prohibit pilots from performing crewmember duties while under the influence of alcohol or within 8 hours after drinking any alcoholic beverage. Because a pilot may still be under the influence for as long as 8 hours after consuming even a moderate amount of alcohol, it is recommended that the pilot allow at least 12 to 24 hours before operating an aircraft depending on the amount of alcoholic beverage consumed.

## 8.) Hypoxia:

Hypoxia is a condition of oxygen deficiency in the blood that is sufficient to impair functions of the brain and other organs. In addition to progressively diminishing oxygen pressure as altitude increases, anything interfering with the body's ability to carry oxygen can contribute to hypoxia.

Deterioration of night vision occurs at a cabin pressure altitude as low as 5,000 feet, but other significant effects of altitude hypoxia usually do not occur in the typical healthy pilot below 12,000 feet. From 12,000 feet to 15,000 feet of pressure altitude, judgment, memory, alertness, coordination, and the ability to make calculations are impaired, and headache, dizziness, drowsiness, and either euphoria or belligerence occurs. These effects occur more quickly the higher the altitude, and can manifest themselves within 15 minutes at 15,000 feet. At cabin pressure altitudes above 15,000 feet, the periphery of the field of vision "grays out" to a point where only central (tunnel) vision remains. A blue coloration of the fingernails and lips occurs indicating cyanosis. The ability to take corrective and protective action is lost within 20 to 30 minutes at 18,000 feet and within 5 to 12 minutes at 20,000 feet, followed soon thereafter by unconsciousness.

The altitude at which significant effects of hypoxia occur can be lowered by a number of factors. Carbon monoxide inhaled from smoking or from exhaust fumes, anemia, and certain medications can reduce the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood to the degree that the adverse effects mentioned above will occur at altitudes several thousand feet lower. Even small amounts of alcohol and low doses of drugs such as antihistamines, tranquilizers, sedatives and analgesics can, through their depressant action, render the brain much more susceptible to hypoxia. Extreme heat or cold, fever, and anxiety increase the body's demand for oxygen and hence its susceptibility to hypoxia.

The effects of hypoxia are usually quite difficult to recognize, especially when they occur gradually. Symptoms of hypoxia can vary greatly among individuals, but since they are always consistent with any one individual, the ability to recognize hypoxia can be greatly improved by experiencing the effects of hypoxia in the controlled environment of an altitude chamber. The FAA provides this opportunity at military facilities throughout the United States. Pilots can apply for this training by contacting the Physiological Operations and Training Section of the Civil Aeromedical Institute in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Hypoxia can be prevented by heeding factors that reduce tolerance to altitude, by enriching the inhaled air with oxygen from an appropriate oxygen system, and by maintaining a comfortable and safe cabin pressure altitude. For optimum protection, pilots are encouraged to use supplemental oxygen above 10,000 feet during the day, and above 8,000 feet at night.

Federal Aviation Regulations require that pilots use supplemental oxygen after 30 minutes of exposure to cabin pressure altitudes above 12,500 feet and immediately upon exposure to cabin pressure altitudes above 14,000 feet. Every occupant of the airplane must be provided supplemental oxygen at cabin pressure altitudes above 15,000 feet.

**9.) Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:**

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is a byproduct of internal combustion and present in engine exhaust. When breathed, even in exceptionally small quantities over a period of time, it can significantly reduce the ability of the blood to transport oxygen. Consequently, the effects of hypoxia occur. Most heaters in light aircraft work by flowing air over the muffler or exhaust manifold. Use of these heaters while exhaust is escaping through cracks and seals is responsible for several aircraft accidents every year, many of them fatal. A pilot who detects the odor of exhaust fumes, or experiences the symptoms of headache, drowsiness, or dizziness while using the airplane's heater should suspect carbon monoxide poisoning and take the corrective action of shutting off the heater and opening the air vents. If symptoms are severe, the pilot should land as soon as possible and seek medical attention.

**10.) Scuba Diving:**

Decompression sickness caused by exposure to altitude after scuba diving can create a serious inflight emergency. Anyone intending to fly after scuba diving should allow the body sufficient time to rid itself of excess nitrogen absorbed while diving. The recommended waiting period before going to flight altitudes of up to 8,000 feet MSL is at least 12 hours after diving which has not required controlled ascent (non-decompression stop diving), and at least 24 hours after diving which has required controlled ascent (decompression stop diving). The waiting period before going to flight altitudes above 8,000 feet MSL should be at least 24 hours after any scuba dive. These recommended altitudes are actual flight altitudes not pressurized cabin altitudes, and are intended to avoid any risk to the individual should an unplanned decompression of the aircraft occur during flight.

**11.) Aerobatic Flight:**

Pilots planning to engage in aerobatics should be aware of the physiological stresses associated with accelerative forces experienced during aerobatic maneuvers. Forces associated with a rapid pull-up maneuver result in the blood and body organs being displaced toward the lower part of the body away from the head. Since the brain requires a continuous circulation of blood to maintain an adequate oxygen supply, there is a limit to the time a pilot can tolerate higher G forces before losing consciousness. As the blood circulation to the brain decreases, the pilot will experience a narrowing of the visual field called: "gray out" followed by a complete visual loss called: "black out" followed by unconsciousness. Forces associated with a rapid push-over maneuver result in the blood and body organs being displaced toward the head. Depending on the magnitude of the forces involved and individual tolerance, the pilot will first experience the visual phenomena called: "red out" followed by unconsciousness.

Physiologically, humans progressively adapt to the strains and stresses imposed by aerobatic flight, and with practice, any maneuver will have decreasing effect. Tolerance to G forces is dependent on the physiology of the individual pilot. The factors involved include the skeletal anatomy, the cardiovascular architecture, the nervous system, the quantity of blood in the body, and the general physical state of the pilot along with his experience and recency of exposure. The pilot should consult an Aviation Medical Examiner prior to aerobatic training, and be aware that poor physical condition can reduce tolerance to accelerative forces.

## 12.) Spatial Disorientation:

Spatial disorientation is the confusion of the senses resulting in the inability to determine relative geometric position. Simply put: spatial disorientation is the inability to tell which way is up, or the attitude and position of the airplane.

The human body utilizes three sensory systems in determining orientation: the visual system, the motion sensing system of the inner ear, and the position sensing system involving nerves in the skin and muscles. Vision is the most dominate of the senses for orientation and in most cases provides accurate and reliable information. At times in flight, however, visual surface references to the natural horizon become obscured by numerous phenomena such as smoke, fog, haze, darkness, etc. During periods of low visibility the supporting senses sometimes conflict with what is observed. When this happens a pilot is particularly vulnerable to spatial disorientation.

During flight the human body is subjected to forces not normally experienced on the ground. The forces experienced in maneuvering an aircraft such as centrifugal force and the forces of turbulence, which can act in any direction, can result in a confused interpretation of the direction of gravity. Spatial disorientation most often leads to vertigo or "motion sickness" which will further jeopardize flight safety.

Under IFR conditions aircraft attitude can only be determined by observing and properly interpreting the flight instruments. A pilot who is not trained and competent in the ability to control an airplane by exclusive reference to instruments has very little chance of surviving an unintentional flight into IFR conditions.

Disorientation in flight is not limited to the VFR rated pilot alone. When operating under instrument meteorological conditions, the sensations of motion and position during various flight maneuvers are often quite misleading. The instrument rated pilot should always be aware of his physical and mental condition, his proficiency level in the airplane he is flying, and the weather conditions in which he will be operating. If the pilot experiences vertigo and anticipates losing control of the airplane and the airplane is not equipped with an autopilot, it is recommended that the landing gear be lowered. Lowering the landing gear will help stabilize the aircraft and substantially reduce the possibility of reaching an excessive airspeed that could result in airframe separation.

The following basic steps will substantially assist any pilot in preventing spatial disorientation.

**A.)** Before flying in conditions of less than 3 miles visibility, obtain training or maintain proficiency in control of an airplane by reference to instruments.

**B.)** When flying at night or in conditions of reduced visibility, keep reference to the airplane's instruments.

**C.)** Maintain currency in night operation. Practice should include cross-country and local operations at different airports.

**D.)** Be familiar with any unique geographical conditions along the route of any flight. Prominent terrain features will assist in orientation.

**E.)** Be familiar with weather conditions along the route of the planned flight and the kinds of meteorological conditions that can lead to spatial disorientation.

**F.)** Rely on instrument indications when the natural horizon or reference to the earth's surface is clearly not visible.

**13.) Illusions In Flight:**

There are several illusions (false interpretations) that can be experienced in flight which can lead to spatial disorientation and/or landing errors. Illusions rank among the most common factors cited as contributing to fatal aircraft accidents. Only through awareness of these illusions (and proficiency in instrument flight procedures) can an airplane be operated safely under conditions of low visibility. Examples of the illusions encountered in flight are:

A.) **Coriolis Illusion** -- An abrupt head movement in a prolonged constant-rate turn may set the fluid in more than one semicircular canal (located in the inner ear) in motion creating the illusion of turning or accelerating in an entirely different axis. The disoriented pilot will typically maneuver the aircraft into a dangerous attitude in an attempt to correct the perceived rotation. This most overwhelming of flight illusions may be prevented or alleviated by not making sudden extreme head movements particularly while making prolonged constant-rate turns under IFR conditions.

B.) **Graveyard Spin** -- In a prolonged spin the fluid in the semicircular canals in the axis of the spin will cease in motion. The deceleration that occurs during recovery to level flight will again set the fluid in motion creating the illusion of spinning in the opposite direction. The disoriented pilot will return the aircraft to its original spin.

C.) **Graveyard Spiral** -- In a prolonged coordinated constant-rate turn the fluid in the semicircular canals in the axis of the spin will cease in motion. An observed loss of altitude as indicated by the aircraft's instruments, combined with the absence of any sensation of turning may create the illusion of being in a wings-level descent. The disoriented pilot will pull back on the controls, tightening the spiral and increasing the loss of altitude.

D.) **Somatogravic Illusion** -- A rapid acceleration during takeoff can create the illusion of being in a nose-up attitude. The disoriented pilot will push the aircraft into a nose-down or dive attitude. Similarly, a rapid deceleration by a quick reduction of the throttle(s) will have the opposite effect resulting in the disoriented pilot pulling the aircraft into a nose-up or stall attitude.

E.) **Inversion Illusion** -- An abrupt change from a climb to straight-and-level flight can create the illusion of tumbling backwards. The disoriented pilot will push the aircraft into a nose-low attitude, possible intensifying this illusion.

F.) **Elevator Illusion** -- An abrupt upward vertical acceleration, usually caused by an updraft, can create the illusion of being in a climb. The disoriented pilot will push the aircraft into a nose-low or dive attitude. An abrupt downward vertical acceleration, usually caused by a downdraft, can create the opposite illusion, with the disoriented pilot pulling the aircraft into a nose-up or stall attitude.

G.) **False Horizon** -- A sloping cloud formation, an obscured horizon, a dark scene spread with ground lights and stars, and certain geometric patterns of ground lights at night can provide inaccurate visual information for aligning the aircraft with the actual horizon. The disoriented pilot may place the aircraft in a dangerous attitude.

H.) **Autokinesis** -- In the dark, a stationary light will appear to move about when stared at for many seconds. The disoriented pilot could lose control of the aircraft in an attempt to align it with the perceived movements of this light.

Various surface features and atmospheric conditions encountered in landing can create illusions of incorrect height above, and distance from, the runway threshold. Landing errors caused from these illusions can be prevented by anticipating them during approaches, by making an aerial visual inspection of an airport before landing, or by maintaining proficiency in landing procedures. Landing errors can also be avoided by use of landing aids such as a Visual Approach Slope Indicator (VASI), or an electronic glide slope (ILS) when available. Among the illusions leading to landing errors are:

**A.) Runway Width Illusion** -- A runway that is more narrow than usual can create the illusion that the aircraft is at a higher altitude than it actually is. The pilot who does not recognize this illusion will fly a lower approach with the risk of striking objects along the approach path or landing short. A runway that is wider than usual can have the opposite visual effect with the accompanying risk of leveling out high and landing hard or overshooting the runway.

**B.) Runway and Terrain Slopes Illusion** -- An upsloping runway and/or upsloping terrain can create an illusion that the aircraft is at a higher altitude than it actually is. The pilot who does not recognize this illusion will fly a lower approach. A downsloping runway and/or downsloping terrain will have the opposite visual effect.

**C.) Featureless Terrain Illusion** -- An absence of surrounding ground features, as experienced when approaching over water, darkened areas, and terrain made featureless by snow can create the illusion that the aircraft is at a higher altitude than it actually is. The pilot who does not recognize this illusion will fly a lower approach.

**D.) Atmospheric Illusions** -- Rain on the windshield can create the illusion of being at a higher altitude, while atmospheric haze can create the illusion of being at a greater distance from the runway. The pilot who does not recognize these illusions will fly a lower approach. Also, penetration of fog can create the illusion of pitching up. The pilot who does not recognize this illusion will steepen the approach, often quite abruptly with potentially disastrous results.

**E.) Ground Lighting Illusions** -- Lights along a straight path, such as a road, or even lights on a moving train can be mistaken for runway or approach lights. Bright runway and approach lighting systems, especially where few lights illuminate the surrounding terrain, may create the illusion of less distance to the runway than actually exists. The pilot who does not recognize this illusion will tend to fly a higher approach.

## PILOT PROFICIENCY

### 1.) Preflight Preparation:

Federal Aviation Regulations require that each Pilot In Command (PIC) of an aircraft shall, before beginning a flight, familiarize himself with all available information concerning the flight. The FAA maintains a nationwide network of Flight Service Stations (FSS) to provide pilots with weather data and other information necessary for flight preparation. The FSS can furnish the pilot with local, en route, and destination weather information as well as en route navigational aid (NAVAID) information. Because weather conditions can change quickly, it is also recommended that the pilot obtain updated weather information from an FSS while en route.

Preflight preparation should include a review of any Notices To Airman (NOTAMS) applicable to the route of the planned flight, runway information for destination airport(s), en route terrain and obstructions, and alternate airport(s) available. The pilot should only use current aeronautical charts for planning and conducting flight operations, and is encouraged to file a flight plan.

The pilot must be completely familiar with the performance characteristics of the airplane he will be operating. At a minimum this should include the takeoff and landing data for the airplane being flown, and the minimum fuel requirements for the planned flight. Federal Aviation Regulations require that an FAA approved Airplane Flight Manual must be carried on board the airplane when it is in flight and must be accessible to the pilot.

A complete preflight inspection of the airplane is also essential to safety. Each airplane has (or should have) a checklist for conducting the preflight inspection. The consistent use of the checklist is necessary for the safe operation of the airplane. Items on the checklist should be considered the minimum to review for preflight. Testing has shown that pilots who rely on memory rather than using a checklist will often leave out one or more important items. For this reason, pilots are encouraged to always use a checklist.

**2.) Fuel Management:**

The simplest fuel systems have only two tanks and feed from both at once. The more complex systems have main, auxiliary, and even wing-tip tanks in both wings which have to be rotated by the pilot to maintain lateral balance of the airplane. Most high-wing aircraft feed fuel to the engine by gravity. The fuel selector on most of these airplanes has a position that allows fuel flow from both tanks simultaneously and is normally set to this position to obtain automatically balanced fuel consumption. Many of these high-wing systems do not have a fuel pump, but some are designed in such a way that a fuel pump is required. All low-wing airplanes require a fuel pump. Multi-engine aircraft will also have a fuel crossfeed that can be used to feed the operating engine when the other engine fails.

The engine-driven fuel pump will be backed up by an auxiliary (typically) electric pump. This auxiliary boost pump is normally used for a starting aid and as a safety standby in the event of failure of the engine-driven pump. Some aircraft manufacturers recommend use of the auxiliary boost pump for starting the engine, others recommend that the boost pump be used before starting only, and still others recommend not using the auxiliary pump at all during start. If the auxiliary boost pump is used for starting, turn the pump off for taxiing to verify that the engine driven pump is working properly prior to takeoff. Typically the auxiliary pump will be turned on again just before takeoff and then once the airplane reaches cruising altitude the auxiliary pump will normally be turned off. It is recommended that the pilot check the fuel pressure as the boost pump is turned off to verify that the engine-driven pump is operating properly.

While cruising at altitude, it is recommended procedure to monitor the time on each fuel tank, because fuel gauges can be misleading. Study the fuel system schematic and carefully read the fuel system description in the Pilot's Operating Handbook. Understanding the characteristics of the fuel system is essential to safe operation of the aircraft.

Leaning reduces fuel consumption, extends flight range, reduces spark plug fouling, and establishes optimum engine operating temperature. Normally aspirated engines with manual mixture control should be leaned at ***any*** altitude once established in cruise flight at 75% or less power. Leaning is normally accomplished with the aid of an exhaust gas temperature (EGT) gauge, but many carbureted engines are not equipped with one. In this case the procedure is to lean the mixture until the engine begins to run rough, and then enrichen the mixture until the roughness stops. The roughness experienced at these cruise power settings is not caused by detonation, but rather by fuel starvation in the leanest cylinder.

A fuel injected engine with an EGT gauge can be leaned to achieve either best-power or best-economy fuel flow. Best-economy fuel flow is accomplished by leaning to peak EGT and best-power fuel flow is obtained by operating at 50 to 100 degrees rich of peak EGT depending on the aircraft and engine. When leaning to peak EGT be sure to monitor cylinder head temperature and enrichen the mixture if CHT begins to move out of the green.

Turbocharged engines have numerous operating restrictions for power settings, fuel flow, and operating temperature range which are prescribed by the manufacturer. Turbine inlet temperature (TIT) is considered to be the best parameter for measuring critical operation of a turbocharged engine and should be monitored carefully because over-leaning a turbocharged engine can cause a great deal of damage in a short amount of time. The manufacturer will typically recommend 65% or less power for a standard cruise setting for an aircraft equipped with a turbocharged engine, but consult the Pilot's Operating Handbook for operating information on any specific aircraft.

Unusable fuel is the quantity of fuel that can not be safely used in critical flight attitudes, and/or any residual fuel that will not flow through the aircraft's fuel system. The amount of unusable fuel varies among airplanes, and is determined in accordance with federal regulations. Unusable fuel is not available for flight planning purposes, and should always be included in the airplane's basic empty weight. The pilot should consult the Pilot's Operating Handbook to determine the amount of unusable fuel allocated for any specific aircraft.

Fuel mismanagement continues to be one of the major causes of General Aviation accidents. Listed among the improper practices that have resulted in crashes are:

**A.)** Failure to determine that there is enough fuel capacity on board to complete the planned flight, resulting in fuel exhaustion. This error is compounded by the pilot who also fails to monitor the fuel gauge(s) during the flight. Always consult the Pilot's Operating Handbook to verify the range capabilities of the aircraft and plan the flight with enough fuel to reach an alternate airport with 45 minutes reserve.

**B.)** Failure to visually verify the fuel supply during the preflight check, resulting in fuel exhaustion. This error is compounded by an inoperative fuel gauge and an inattentive pilot. Verifying that the fuel tanks are topped-off before flight and frequent inflight monitoring of fuel flow will prevent emergencies resulting from fuel exhaustion.

**C.)** Fuel contamination caused by improper fueling with the wrong grade of fuel or from water, rust particles, dust and sand particles, microorganisms, or unauthorized additives. Always verify that the proper grade of fuel is loaded and examine a fuel sample from each tank sump drain during preflight for water or other contaminates. Never use unauthorized additives which might rapidly deteriorate fuel system bladders, O rings, seals, and other essential rubber parts resulting in restricted or blocked fuel flow and an expensive repair.

**D.)** Changing fuel tanks after preflight runup and subsequently experiencing engine trouble in a critical phase of takeoff or climbout. If the preflight checklist directs verification of fuel flow from multiple tanks, always accomplish this task and select a fuel tank for takeoff prior to taxi and runup. If a fuel flow problem exists, this procedure is intended to allow enough time for the fuel line to run dry before the takeoff run is begun.

**E.)** Changing fuel tanks on short final and unintentionally switching to an empty tank. The resulting engine loss typically occurs at too low an altitude to identify and correct the error before the airplane contacts the ground. When changing fuel tanks prior to landing at the destination airport, always do so well before entering the airport traffic pattern to allow enough altitude and time to correct any problem that might develop.

**F.)** Cruising at low altitude. By the time fuel mismanagement is identified there is often not enough time to correct the problem before contacting the ground. Always cruise at a high enough altitude to allow adequate time to complete any emergency procedure and recover should the need arise. If recovery is not possible, altitude will expand options and allow more opportunity to glide to a suitable landing site.

**G.)** Routinely running a fuel tank dry before switching tanks. Vapor lock can occur under this condition, and if it cannot be corrected the result will be an emergency landing. Switch tanks on a periodic basis to balance the aircraft laterally and always do so prior to fuel exhaustion.

**3.) Stalls/Spins:**

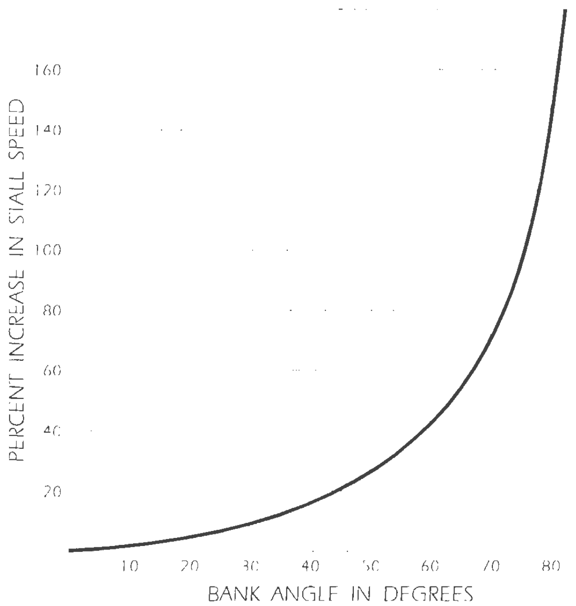
Stall/spin accidents are responsible for 25% of the fatalities and serious injuries in General Aviation. Numerous factors affect the stall speed of an aircraft. They include: weight, center of gravity, altitude, temperature, turbulence, and the presence of frost, snow, or ice on the wings.

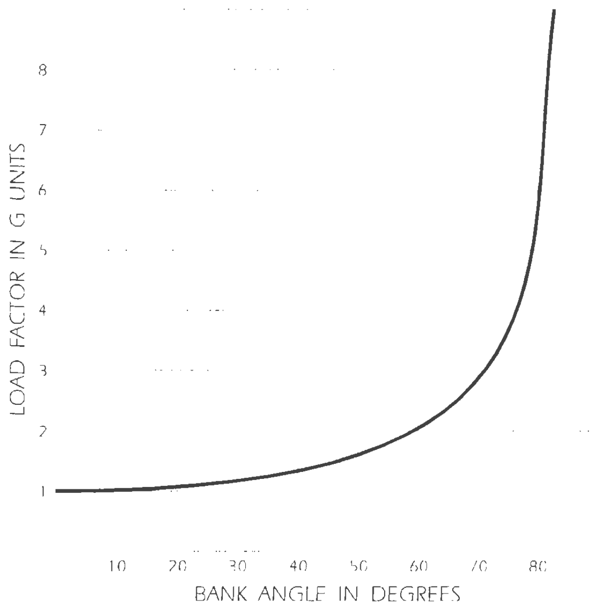
A stall occurs when the wing is flown at an angle of attack that is greater than the angle for maximum lift. This causes a disruption of the smooth airflow over the wing and results in a precipitous loss of lift. A stall can occur at ***any*** airspeed, in ***any*** attitude, and at ***any*** power setting. Stalls should be practiced periodically in order to familiarize the pilot with the airplane's particular stall characteristics. The practice of stall recovery and the resulting awareness of an imminent stall help familiarize the pilot with the conditions that produce stalls. Stall awareness is the primary means of avoiding a stall/spin accident. Single-engine stalls in a multi-engine airplane are very dangerous and should not be practiced.

The power-off stall is performed with the airplane in a normal landing configuration to simulate the conditions of an accidental stall occurring during the approach-to-landing. The power-on stall is practiced to simulate the conditions of an accidental stall occurring during takeoff and departure climb. The accelerated stall will occur in steep turns, pull-ups, or other abrupt changes in the airplane's flight path.

If recovery from a stall is not made promptly and correctly, a secondary stall or even a spin may result. A spin is a condition in which the aircraft descends in a helical path. The spin occurs because one wing is producing some lift, and the other wing is stalled. In order for a spin to take place a stall must first occur. The primary cause of an unintentional spin is exceeding the wing's critical angle of attack while executing an uncoordinated (cross-controlled) turn.

The following graphs depict how an aircraft's load and stall speed will increase with the angle of bank. Above 45 degrees of bank the increase in load factor and stall speed is quite rapid. This fact emphasizes the need for avoiding steep turns at low airspeeds (a flight condition common to stall/spin accidents).




A spin is divided into two phases. They are: incipient, and fully developed. An incipient spin occurs between that period of time when the airplane stalls and rotation begins, and when the stall fully develops. A fully-developed spin occurs when the aircraft's angular rotation rates, airspeed, and vertical speed are stabilized while turning in a path that is close to vertical. If the aircraft's center of gravity is too far aft when it enters a spin, this will result in a flat spin. Recovery from a flat spin may be extremely difficult, and is often impossible.

Aircraft that are certified in the Normal Category are spin tested, but only on a limited basis and only in the incipient phase. Airplanes placarded against spins provide no assurance whatsoever that recovery from a fully-developed spin is possible under any circumstance.

Before engaging in spin recovery practice the pilot should be familiar with the characteristics of the aircraft he is operating. Spin training should only be practiced in an aircraft that is approved for spins. Any aircraft should have a specific procedure for spin recovery, and if so, this procedure will be outlined in the Pilot's Operating Handbook. The standard procedure for recovering from a spin is to close the throttle, neutralize the ailerons, and apply full rudder opposite to the direction of the turn. Then briskly move the elevator control forward. (Some aircraft require merely a relaxation of back pressure, others require full forward elevator control pressure.) Once the stall is broken, the spinning will stop. The pilot should neutralize the rudder when the spinning stops to avoid entering a spin in the opposite direction. Once the aircraft is stabilized in a dive, quickly apply aft elevator to return to level flight. It is important not to overstress the aircraft if, at this point, the airspeed exceeds $V_A$ (maneuvering speed).

It is essential that the pilot learn to recognize the cues of an impending stall and apply immediate corrective action to prevent the aircraft from entering into an unintentional stall or spin. The senses of sight, hearing, and feeling are the means by which a pilot is made aware of an impending stall. The major cause of an inadvertent stall is the pilot becoming distracted from sensing these normal cues. Anything that takes the pilot's attention away from his primary responsibility of flying the aircraft may lead to trouble.

**4.) Wake Turbulence:**

Every airplane generates a wake while in flight. Part of this wake is caused by propwash or jetblast but the majority of the turbulence is caused by a pair of counter-rotating vortices trailing from the airplanes wingtips. The strength of these wingtip vortices is determined by the weight, speed, and wing configuration of the airplane. The most severe wake turbulence is produced by large and heavy commercial and military aircraft flying slowly while in a takeoff or landing configuration. Wake turbulence produced by large aircraft can pose a problem for smaller aircraft and can be extremely hazardous when encountered at low altitude.

Wingtip vortices trail behind and below an aircraft and are only produced when the wing is generating lift. For this reason, prior to takeoff or landing pilot's of General Aviation aircraft should always note the rotation or touchdown point of preceding large aircraft when operating into and out of major airports.

The following recommendations are made to avoid wake turbulence caused by large aircraft at or near an airport:

**A.)** When landing, touchdown prior to the rotation point of a departing large aircraft.

**B.)** When departing, become airborne before a preceding large aircraft's rotation point and climb above its flight path.

**C.)** When landing, remain above the approach path of a large aircraft and land beyond its touchdown point.

**D.)** When departing, lift off before the touchdown point of a large aircraft that is landing.

Airport Traffic Controllers will apply procedures under certain circumstances to separate small General Aviation aircraft from large, heavy commercial airliners. ATC may also issue wake turbulence warnings. Regardless of whether a warning has been given, the pilot of a small airplane is expected to adjust his flight path to avoid wake turbulence encounters.

**5.) Night Flying:**

Proficiency in night flying not only increases utilization of the aircraft, but it can prove to be important in the event an intended day flight inadvertently extends into darkness. Flying at night requires that pilots have a complete realization of their abilities and limitations, and observe more caution than during day operations.

Good night vision depends on the pilots physical condition. Fatigue, illness, alcohol, smoking, and medication can impair the pilot's ability to see well at night. Once adjusted to the darkness, the human eye becomes thousands of times more sensitive to light. Because of this, temporary blindness can be caused by any bright light and may result in illusions or "after images" during the time the eyes are recovering. Other illusions that the brain can create result in misjudging or incorrectly identifying objects. A primary example of this is mistaking slanted clouds for the horizon. Vertigo experienced at night can create or increase illusions. The illusions seem very real and pilots with ***any*** level of experience and skill can be affected. Recognizing that the brain and eyes can play tricks in this manner is the best protection for the pilot flying at night.

A flashlight should always be carried when flying at night. This flashlight should have a means to switch between white and red light, because red light is non-glaring and will not impair night vision. It is important to note, however, that if red light is used to read an aeronautical chart, red features on the chart will disappear.

Preparation for night flight should include a thorough study of the available weather reports and forecasts with particular attention given to the temperature/dewpoint spread because of the possibility of the formation of ground fog at night. Also, emphasis should be placed on awareness of wind direction and speed, since drifting cannot be detected as readily at night as in the day. Prominently lighted checkpoints along the intended route should be noted. Rotating beacons at airports, lighted obstructions, lights of cities or towns, and lights from major highway traffic routes all provide excellent visual checkpoints. The use of radio navigation aids and communication facilities also add significantly to the safety and efficiency of flight at night.

Pilots should be aware of the importance of being alert and looking for other aircraft while on night flights. All pilot's should be able to recognize another airplane's position and direction of travel by the color pattern of the other aircraft's position lights.

Generally, at night it is difficult to see clouds and other restrictions to visibility, particularly on moonless nights or under an overcast. The pilot flying under Visual Flight Rules must exercise caution to avoid flying into clouds or a layer of fog. Usually, the first indication of flying into restricted visibility conditions is the gradual disappearance of lights on the ground. Under no circumstance should VFR flight be made at night during poor or marginal weather conditions.

Crossing large bodies of water on night flights could be potentially hazardous, not only from the standpoint of ditching in the water should it become necessary, but also because the horizon may blend in with the water, in which case, control of the airplane may become difficult. During haze conditions over open water the horizon may become obscure, and this may result in the loss of spatial orientation. Even on clear nights the stars may reflect on the water's surface, giving the appearance of a continuous array of lights, thus making the horizon difficult to identify.

The pilot's ability to properly judge distance at night is limited by the poor lighting, lack of intervening references on the ground, and the inability to compare the size and location of different ground objects. This also applies to the ability to estimate altitude and speed. Consequently, more dependence must be placed on flight instruments, particularly the altimeter and airspeed indicator.

Adverse weather and poor pilot judgment account for many nighttime accidents, but one of the major concerns about flying a single-engine airplane at night is complete engine failure. If the engine fails at night, the first action the pilot should take is to maintain control of the airplane. Do not allow a stall to occur. A normal glide should be established and maintained, and the airplane turned toward an airport or away from congested areas. Wind direction should be determined to avoid a downwind landing. A checklist should be used to determine the cause of the engine failure. It is possible that the cause of the malfunction can be corrected and the engine restarted. The landing lights should be checked at altitude and turned on in sufficient time to illuminate the terrain or obstacles along the glidepath. If the landing lights are not usable and outside visual references are not available, the airplane should be held in a level landing attitude until the ground is contacted.

The FAA has initiated a voluntary pilot safety program called: "Operation Lights On" to enhance the see-and-be-seen concept of averting collisions both in the air and on the ground, and to reduce bird strikes. All pilots are encouraged to turn on their landing lights when operating within 10 miles of an airport (day and night), in conditions of reduced visibility, and in areas where flocks of birds may be expected.

**6.) Mountain Flying:**

A pilot's first experience flying over mountainous terrain can develop into a nightmare event if he is not aware of the potential hazards involved. Among the hazards that can be encountered are: abrupt changes in wind direction and velocity, common and severe updrafts and downdrafts particularly near cliffs, and a distinct lack of areas suitable to make a forced landing in the event of an emergency.

Mountain flying need not be hazardous if the pilot follows these few recommendations.

**A.)** Obtain dual instruction from a qualified CFI to become familiar with conditions which may be encountered when flying in mountainous terrain.

**B.)** File a flight plan. Plan the route to avoid topography which would prevent a safe forced landing. The route should be over populated areas and well-known mountain passes. Sufficient altitude should be maintained to permit maximum gliding range should the engine fail.

**C.)** Do not fly a light aircraft over mountainous terrain when the winds aloft at the proposed cruising altitude exceed 35 mph. Approach mountain passes with as much altitude as possible. Downdrafts of as much as 1,500 to 2,000 fpm are routinely found on the leeward side of a mountain ridge.

**D.)** Do not fly near or above abrupt changes in terrain. Severe turbulence can be expected, especially in high wind conditions.

**E.)** Some canyons run into a dead end. Never fly down the middle of a canyon. Fly on the updraft side and allow enough room to make a 180 degree turn to avoid becoming trapped.

**F.)** Plan your flight for early morning or late afternoon. As a rule, the wind begins to pick up by 10:00 a.m. and builds steadily until about 4:00 p.m. then gradually decreases until dark. Avoid flying in mountainous terrain after dark.

**G.)** It is important to factor in the effects of density altitude when flying in mountainous terrain, especially in the summer months. Indicated airspeed should be used when landing at a high-altitude airfield the same as a field at sea level. Because the air at altitude is less dense, however, the same indicated airspeed results in a higher true airspeed. This results in a higher landing speed and longer landing distance. At high density altitudes an aircraft's engine will obtain only a percentage of its sea-level horsepower, and the propeller is less efficient as well. The combination of a high-altitude airport and a hot summer day might well result in the need for 2 to 3 times the amount of runway required at sea level before the plane will become airborne on takeoff. The aircraft's climb rate will also be reduced by these conditions. It is recommended that you consult the Pilot's Operating Handbook to determine the performance characteristics of the airplane under these conditions. If it is determined that there is not a reasonable margin of error, the pilot should consider decreasing the airplane's load or waiting for a cooler day.

**H.)** Mountain waves occur when the air is being blown approximately perpendicular to a mountain ridge. The turbulence associated with a mountain wave is expected with high winds, but can occur when the wind's velocity is as little as 15 knots and the angle of intersection is greater than 30 degrees. Turbulence can extend for over 100 miles on the leeward side of a mountain range. The presence of standing lenticular clouds and "roll clouds" is indicative of a mountain wave, but this telltale sign can not be relied upon because there is not always enough moisture in the air for clouds to exist. Since the downdraft of a mountain wave can exceed the climb capability of a small aircraft, pilots are cautioned to avoid areas where mountain waves might form. If excessive turbulence is encountered, reduce airspeed to $V_A$ (maneuvering speed) and fly away from the area.

**7.) Inflight Collision Avoidance:**

Scanning the sky for other aircraft is a key factor in collision avoidance. Scanning should be used continuously by the pilot and copilot (or right seat passenger) to cover all areas of the sky visible from the cockpit. The probability of spotting a potential collision threat increases with the time spent looking ***outside*** the cockpit. Therefore, the pilot must use timesharing techniques to effectively scan the surrounding airspace while monitoring the aircraft's instruments.

While the eyes can observe an approximate 200 degree arc of the horizon at one glance, only a very small center area is capable of producing sharply focused images. Because the eyes can focus sharply on only a narrow viewing area, effective scanning is accomplished with a series of short, regularly spaced eye movements that bring successive areas of the sky into the central visual field. Each movement should not exceed 10 to 15 degrees and each area should be observed for at least 1 to 2 seconds to allow detection of anything relevant. Since the brain of most people is already trained to process sight information from left to right, most pilots find it easier to start scanning in the same way. Scan an area of the sky approximately 60 degrees to the left and right of the aircraft's centerline. After finishing the scan outside the aircraft, a quick scan of the instruments can be made before returning attention to the outside again.

Familiarity with the following information will reduce the possibility of a mid-air collision.

**A.) Determine Relative Altitude** -- Use the horizon as a reference point. If the other aircraft is above the horizon, it is probably on a higher flight path. Likewise, if the aircraft appears to be below the horizon, it is probably flying at a lower altitude.

**B.) Take Appropriate Action** -- Pilots should be familiar with the rules of right-of-way in order to take appropriate immediate evasive action if it is determined that the aircraft is on a collision course.

**C.) Recognize Collision Course Targets** -- Any aircraft that appears to have no relative motion, but increases in size, is on a collision course. Take evasive action. The decision to climb, descend, or turn is a matter of personal judgment. Watch the other aircraft during the evasive maneuver, and immediately begin scanning for other aircraft in the area.

**D.) Be Alert in High Hazard Areas** -- Airways, especially near VORs and around airports are places where aircraft tend to cluster. Remember, most mid-air collisions occur during the day when the weather is good.

**E.) Practice Cockpit Management** -- Reduce the amount of time devoted to studying maps, checklists, and manuals during flight by accomplishing as much of this work as possible during preflight planning. This will permit more time for scanning. Also, the pilot needs to move his head to see around fixed aircraft structures such as door posts, wings, etc.

**F.) Keep The Windshield Clean** -- Dirty or bug-smeared windshields can greatly reduce the pilot's ability to see other aircraft.

**G.) Be Alert in Low Visibility Conditions** -- Smoke, haze, dust, rain, and flying into the sun can all greatly reduce the ability of the pilot to detect other aircraft.

**H.) Fly With Lights On** -- Day or night, use of exterior lights can greatly increase the ability of any aircraft to be seen. Keep interior lights low at night.

**I.) Utilize Air Traffic Control Support** -- Flight through Class C and Class D airspace requires communication with ATC, but ATC facilities will provide radar traffic advisories outside positive control areas on a workload-permitting basis. Use this support whenever possible or when required.

**8.) Multi-Engine Airplane (Single-Engine Procedures):**

Engine failure of a multi-engine aircraft can be a serious situation. Loss of an engine on a light twin results in the loss of 80% or more of the performance capabilities of the airplane. The pilot's knowledge and proficiency are the most important factors for handling an engine-out emergency safely. The following information is intended to be general in nature and applicable to a typical reciprocating-engine, propeller-driven, light twin airplane. Refer to the Pilot's Operating Handbook for specific emergency procedures on any particular airplane.

### A.) Single Engine Cruise

Engine failure in cruise flight is the least critical of single-engine emergencies. The primary concern is to maintain directional control. Beyond this, the pilot will want to determine the cause of the problem and correct it if possible. Securing the dead engine is accomplished by the following procedure.

1.) **Identify** -- The airplane will yaw in the direction of the dead engine. Rudder pressure required to maintain directional control will be on the side of the good engine. The most common memory aid for identifying the failed engine is: dead foot, dead engine.

2.) **Verify** -- Manifold pressure gauges and tachometers will indicate near-normal readings, and should not be used to determine an inoperative engine. Partially retard the throttle on the engine that is believed to be inoperative. There should be no change in control pressures or engine sound if the correct throttle has been selected.

3.) **Feather** -- Feathering procedure varies among airplanes, but generally it is accomplished by reducing the throttle to idle, reducing the mixture to idle cut-off, and placing the prop control in the feather detent.

If both engines on a twin have propellers that rotate clockwise (as viewed from the cockpit) as they do on most aircraft manufactured in the United States, then the left engine is termed the "critical engine". This terminology becomes important since $V_{MCA}$ is determined with the critical engine inoperative. Failure of the left engine is significant because the clockwise-rotating right engine will produce greater yaw and roll moments due to propeller P-factor. If the two engines have counter-rotating propellers, the yaw and roll moments are equal and opposite one another, and neither engine is the critical engine.

Due to asymmetrical thrust, when one engine fails the airplane will yaw and roll toward the dead engine. Maintaining wings level and holding the ball of the turn-and-bank indicator in the center can increase $V_{MCA}$ as much as 20 knots.

In addition, the high drag caused by the wings-level, ball-centered configuration can reduce single-engine climb performance by as much as 300 feet per minute. To overcome the yaw and roll moments induced by an engine failure, bank approximately 5 degrees into the operating engine, and displace the ball of the turn-and-bank indicator approximately 1/2 ball width toward the operating engine.

Monitor the gauges (especially cylinder head temperature) on the operating engine frequently. If for any reason it becomes necessary to fly for any distance on one engine, fuel management in the form of crossfeed will become necessary. If crossfeed of fuel is required, the fuel supply should be taken off crossfeed before landing.

### B.) Engine Failure On Takeoff

The takeoff run is the most critical time for the pilot of a light twin. The pilot should plan the takeoff in sufficient detail to be prepared to take immediate action if an engine fails during the takeoff process. Many factors influence the decision to abort or continue a takeoff in a light twin when an engine fails. The major factors include: runway length, aircraft weight, headwind component, terrain or obstructions, and the single-engine climb capability of the airplane as determined by performance graphs in the Pilot's Operating Handbook. The takeoff is divided into three phases. They are:

**1.)** If an engine fails prior to reaching lift-off speed, or below $V_{MCA}$ close both throttles and abort the takeoff. If an engine fails just after lift-off, the takeoff should still be aborted because continued flight may be marginal or impossible. This procedure is only applicable if the landing gear has not been retracted, and there is enough runway remaining for touchdown and landing roll. The pilot should have determined the accelerate-stop distance requirements of the airplane during preflight preparation.

**2.)** Once $V_{MCA}$ is attained and before $V_{YSE}$ has been reached, a decision must be made whether to abort or continue the takeoff. If the decision is made to continue the takeoff, the pilot must immediately retract the landing gear and achieve $V_{YSE}$ if no obstacles are involved and $V_{XSE}$ if obstacles are a factor.

**3.)** Once the aircraft has attained $V_{YSE}$ the landing gear should be retracted, and the takeoff continued. Once the aircraft is stabilized, the dead engine can then be identified, verified, and feathered.

### C.) Single Engine Approach and Landing

In most light twins a single-engine approach can be accomplished with a flight path and procedure almost identical to a normal approach and landing. The final approach speed should not be less than $V_{YSE}$ and the landing gear should not be extended until the landing is assured. It is recommended that the approach be made with less than full flaps in case a go-around becomes necessary. The pilot should be careful to complete the landing checklist, because it is not unusual for a pilot to forget important items (such as putting the landing gear down) due to the distraction caused by the engine-out emergency. Once the landing is assured, the airspeed should be appropriate for the selected flap position until the landing roundout is begun.

It is not desirable to execute a single-engine go-around. Every effort should be made to avoid this procedure because it is difficult at best and may not even be possible. The sudden application of full power can present control problems due to asymmetrical thrust. If a single-engine go-around can not be avoided, the gear and flaps should be retracted as soon as possible. Attain $V_{YSE}$ and then attempt to gain altitude.

# WEATHER

## 1.) The Weather Briefing:

Flight Service Stations (FSS) are the primary source for obtaining a preflight briefing and inflight weather information. Flight Service Specialists are qualified and certified by the National Weather Service as Pilot Weather Briefers. They are authorized to translate and interpret available forecasts and reports directly into terms describing the weather conditions which the pilot can expect along the route of flight and at the destination airport. Three basic types of preflight briefings are available. They are: Standard Briefing, Abbreviated Briefing, and Outlook Briefing.

A pilot should request a Standard Briefing when he has not received a previous briefing or has not received preliminary information through mass dissemination media. The data provided by the briefer will include information on any adverse conditions, whether VFR flight is recommended, a synopsis, current conditions, en route forecast, destination forecast, winds aloft, any Notices To Airmen (NOTAMS), and any ATC delays.

An Abbreviated Briefing should be requested to update a previous briefing, when only 1 or 2 items of information are needed, or to supplement mass dissemination data. The pilot requesting an Abbreviated Briefing should provide the briefer with appropriate background information, the time the information was received, and/or the specific items needed. The briefer will supply any needed data and/or appreciable changes in weather conditions since the pilot's last briefing.

An Outlook Briefing should be requested whenever the flights proposed time of departure is 6 or more hours from the time of the briefing. The briefer will provide available forecast data applicable to the proposed flight. This type of briefing is provided for flight planning purposes only. The pilot should obtain a Standard or Abbreviated Briefing prior to departure.

Pilots are encouraged to obtain an Inflight Briefing whenever conditions along the route of flight indicate that it would be appropriate to do so. Once communications are established, the pilot will advise the briefer of the type of information required and any applicable background information. Enroute Flight Advisory Service (EFAS) is intended to provide aircraft in flight with timely and meaningful weather advisories. This service is normally available to aircraft flying at 5,000 feet AGL throughout the contiguous United States between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. All communications are conducted on the designated EFAS frequency of 122.0 MHz.

Numerous other weather advisory services are available to pilots. They include: the Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS), Pilots Automatic Telephone Weather Answering Service (PATWAS), Transcribed Weather Broadcast (TWEB), Hazardous Inflight Weather Advisory Service (HIWAS), and Weather Radar Services. Pilots are encouraged to become familiar with all of these services and avail themselves of them as often as necessary.

**2.) Wind Shear:**

Wind shear is caused when air masses with differing speed and direction adjoin each other causing abrupt changes in the velocity and/or direction of the wind. Wind shear can occur horizontally or vertically and is most often associated with frontal activity, thunderstorms, strong temperature inversions that trap stable air beneath unstable air, and surface obstructions. Wind shear can occur at high or low altitude but it is the low-level wind shear that is of concern to pilots, especially during final approach. Wind shear can induce significant loss in airspeed and full power may not be able to be gained in enough time to prevent a crash.

The most dangerous component of wind shear is the downdraft or microburst which can force an aircraft to the ground. Microbursts are associated with the mature and dying stages of a thunderstorm and are small-scale intense downdrafts which on reaching the surface, spread outward in all directions. Microbursts are not easily detectable by conventional weather radar due to their small size, and short life-span. The microburst is typically less than 1 mile in diameter and can create a severe hazard for aircraft within 1,000 feet of the ground. Because the velocity of the downdraft in a microburst can exceed the climb capabilities of an aircraft, flight in the vicinity of suspected or reported microburst activity should always be avoided.

The pilot should be aware of the conditions that produce low-level wind shear and be prepared to execute a go-around maneuver at the first indication that wind shear has been encountered. Any pilot that encounters wind shear should file a Pilot Weather Report (PIREP) at once.

**3.) Thunderstorm Avoidance:**

The thunderstorm often encompasses some of the worst weather hazards known to flight. The General Aviation pilot must contend with thunderstorms of varying intensities in virtually all parts of the world.

The initial stage of a thunderstorm is always a cumulous cloud. When a predominate updraft caused by an abundance of heat occurs in conjunction with a cumulous cloud it causes the cloud to begin to build. If this building continues, rain droplets will begin to form. When rain appears at the surface, the thunderstorm is said to have reached the mature stage. In a limited state thunderstorm the precipitation will tend to cool the lower portion of the cloud and thereby cut-off the storm's fuel supply. The cell loses its energy and the storm dissipates. In a steady-state thunderstorm the updrafts and downdrafts tend to balance one another creating excellent conditions for extreme turbulence, damaging lightning, icing, and large hail. Thunderstorms often form rapidly especially during the summer months, and severe storms can last as long as 24 hours and travel as far as 1,000 miles.

The following list should be considered the minimum of items to observe regarding thunderstorms.

**A.)** Don't takeoff or land in the face of an approaching thunderstorm. A sudden wind shift or low-level turbulence could result in loss of control of the aircraft.

**B.)** Don't attempt to fly under a thunderstorm even if you can see through to the other side. Turbulence under the storm could cause disaster.

**C.)** Don't fly into a cloud mass containing embedded thunderstorms without the aid of airborne radar. Scattered thunderstorms that are not embedded in a cloud mass can usually be circumnavigated.

**D.)** Don't trust the visual appearance of a cloud to be a reliable indicator of the turbulence inside a thunderstorm.

**E.)** Do avoid, by at least 20 miles, any thunderstorm identified as severe. This is especially true under the anvil of a large cumulonimbus cloud.

**F.)** Do circumnavigate an entire area if the area has 6/10 storm coverage as observed visually or by airborne radar.

**G.)** Do remember that vivid and frequent lightning indicates the probability of a severe thunderstorm.

**H.)** Do regard any thunderstorm with tops of 35,000 feet or higher as extremely hazardous.

**I.)** Do check for convective activity during your preflight weather briefing and monitor the Flight Watch frequency (122.0 MHz) while in flight to learn current weather conditions.

If penetration of a thunderstorm cannot be avoided, the following items are suggested before entering the storm.

**A.)** Tighten your safety belt, put on your shoulder harness if you have one, and secure all loose objects.

**B.)** Plan your course to take you through the storm in a minimum of time, and hold to it.

**C.)** Establish a penetration altitude below the freezing level or above the level of -15 degrees Celsius to avoid the most critical icing.

**D.)** Verify that the pitot heat is on and turn on the carburetor heat. Icing can be rapid at any altitude and cause almost instantaneous power failure and/or loss of airspeed indication.

**E.)** Establish power settings for $V_A$ (turbulent air penetration speed) recommended in the Pilot's Operating Handbook. Reduced airspeed decreases the structural stresses on the aircraft.

**F.)** Turn up cockpit lights to the level of highest intensity to counteract the temporary blindness caused by lightning.

**G.)** Disengage altitude hold and speed hold mode if using an autopilot. The automatic altitude and speed controls will increase maneuvering of the aircraft, thus increasing structural stresses.

**H.)** If using airborne radar, tilt the antenna up and down occasionally. This will permit the detection of other storm-cell activity at altitudes other than the one being flown.

If penetration of a thunderstorm has occurred either intentionally or accidentally, the following items are suggested.

**A.)** Do keep your eyes on the instruments. Looking outside the cockpit can increase the possibility of temporary blindness from lightning.

**B.)** Don't change power settings. Maintain setting for $V_A$ (turbulent air penetration speed).

**C.)** Do maintain a constant attitude. Maneuvers made in trying to maintain a constant altitude increase stresses on the airframe. It is best to let the aircraft ride with the turbulence.

**D.)** Don't turn back once you are in the thunderstorm. A straight course through the thunderstorm will most likely get you out of the hazards sooner than changing direction.

All thunderstorms are dangerous regardless of their level of intensity. Avoiding all thunderstorms is the recommended policy.

### 4.) Icing:

Aircraft icing is one of the major weather hazards to aviation, and is experienced most often in IFR flight. Icing is a cumulative hazard because it reduces the aircraft's efficiency by increasing weight, reducing lift, decreasing thrust, and increasing drag. Other icing effects include: impaired engine performance, false indications of flight instruments, loss of radio communication, and loss of operation of control surfaces, brakes, and landing gear.

Two conditions are necessary for structural icing to occur in flight. First, the aircraft must be flying through visible moisture such as rain or cloud droplets, and second, the temperature at the point where the moisture strikes the aircraft must be close to zero degrees Celsius. The most rapid accumulation of icing occurs when supercooled water droplets (liquid below freezing temperature) increase the rate of icing. The types of structural icing are: clear ice, rime ice, and a mixture of the two. Each has its identifying features.

Clear ice is transparent and usually deposited in smooth layers. This type forms when droplets are large as in rain or as are found in cumuliform clouds. Rime ice is opaque and usually a rough deposit. This type forms when droplets are small such as those found in stratified clouds or light drizzle. Rime ice is lighter in weight than clear ice, but its weight is of little significance because its irregular shape and rough surface make it very effective in increasing drag. A mixture of clear and rime ice forms when liquid droplets are combined with snow or ice particles. Ice particles become imbedded in clear ice causing a rapid buildup that is very rough.

The FAA, in cooperation with other organizations, has established a standard for reporting icing intensity and accumulation. Pilots should be familiar with this standard and use it in reporting icing conditions.

**A.) Trace** -- Ice becomes perceptible. The rate of accumulation is slightly greater than the rate of sublimation. It is not hazardous even though de-icing/anti-icing equipment is not utilized, unless encountered for an extended period of time (over 1 hour).

**B.) Light** -- The rate of accumulation may create a problem if flight is prolonged in this environment (over 1 hour). Occasional use of de-icing/anti-icing equipment removes/prevents accumulation. It does not present a problem if the de-icing/anti-icing equipment is used.

**C.) Moderate** -- The rate of accumulation is such that even short encounters become potentially hazardous and use of de-icing/anti-icing equipment and/or diversion of the flight is necessary.

**D.) Severe** -- The rate of accumulation is such that de-icing/anti-icing equipment fails to reduce or control the hazard. Immediate flight diversion is necessary.

Forecasters can identify regions where icing is possible, but they cannot define the precise pockets in which it will occur. The pilot should plan the flight to avoid those areas where icing is possible, and must be prepared to escape this hazard when en route.

The following is provided as a general guide and is considered to be the minimum items for the pilot to consider before and during flight in winter weather.

**A.) Preflight Checks**

**1.)** Prior to flying in weather that is favorable to icing, obtain a complete weather briefing including any Pilot Weather Reports (PIREPS) for the planned route.

**2.)** If the aircraft is equipped with deice boots, perform a thorough preflight check of the pneumatic system including an inspection of the boots for damage and proper inflation.

**3.)** Check electrically powered anti-ice equipment such as pitot-static heat and windshield panels. Also check engine carburetor/induction heat for proper operation.

**4.)** Remove any ice, frost, or snow from all fuselage surfaces, airfoil surfaces, control surfaces, and the propeller.

**5.)** In cold weather, avoid taxiing or taking off through water, mud, or slush to prevent accumulations that can freeze landing gear and/or control surfaces.

**B.) Inflight Checks**

**1.)** Avoid clouds and visible precipitation when outside air temperatures are between zero degrees Celsius and -15 degrees Celsius.

**2.)** Turn on anti-icing equipment before entering possible icing conditions.

**3.)** If the aircraft is not equipped with pitot-static anti-ice, be alert to erroneous readings from the airspeed indicator, rate-of-climb indicator, and altimeter.

**4.)** If ice accumulates when flying in clouds or precipitation, change altitude immediately. Fly at an altitude free of clouds or where temperatures are above zero degrees Celsius and below -15 degrees Celsius.

**5.)** When climbing through an icing layer, climb at a higher than normal airspeed to minimize ice accumulation and provide a margin of protection for stall.

**6.)** Avoid cumuliform clouds. Clear ice may be encountered anywhere in these clouds above the freezing level.

**7.)** Avoid abrupt maneuvers if the aircraft is coated with ice, and fly the landing approach with power.

Carburetor icing has always been a problem for any aircraft equipped with a float-type carburetor. Rapid cooling occurs in a float-type carburetor because of fuel vaporization and low pressure developed in the venturi tube(s). It is possible for ice to form in the carburetor when the relative humidity is above 50% and the air temperature is between 20 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Ice forming in the carburetor can result in partial or complete engine power loss. If carburetor icing develops or is even suspected, application of full carburetor heat is the standard remedy.

The fuel injected engine does not have the threat of venturi ice, but other parts of the induction system are subject to icing. Induction system icing can happen to any reciprocating engine aircraft and will usually occur in IFR conditions due to slush, snow, and impact ice blocking the engine's air filter. This form if icing will also result in partial or complete engine power loss. The restricted air flow resulting from induction system icing can be dealt with by opening the alternate-air door.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The pilot who desires a greater understanding of, or additional information on, the various subjects covered in this section is referred to the General Aviation Accident Prevention Program sponsored by the FAA. Numerous pamphlets are published for this program that are a very good source of information and highly recommended for ongoing pilot safety training.

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