



EASA Safety Week



Session 4 - ATOs

Wednesday 23 June - 1000 to 1130

Find out how ATOs are tackling the challenge of skills and knowledge degradation for the pilot community.



FINNISH AVIATION ACADEMY

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Founded 2002

- Formerly Finnair Aviation Academy
- 45 full time employees

Located in Pori on the west coast of Finland

Owned by

- The government of Finland 49.5%
- Finnair 49.5%
- The city of Pori 1%

The main mission is to train pilots for the main airlines operating in Finland.

- Aeroplanes and helicopters
 - Ab Initio training
 - 40-50 graduates annually
 - type rating training
 - Embraer EMB500 (Phenom 100)
 - King Air BE300
 - UPRT- and AUPRT-training

Simulator dry lease services and business flights.

Maintenance of own aircraft

- EASA PART-145 and PART-M





AS THE PANDEMIC STARTS

In the beginning there was...

- Questions
 - What now?
 - How long will this last?
 - When can we continue training?
 - Will this delay my graduation?
 - Do I still have a job?
 - ...and many more
- Meetings and briefings
 - How to facilitate theoretical training?
 - Substitutive assignments for instructors
 - Contingency plan for existing courses
 - ...and many more
- Communication
 - Updated daily info to students and staff
 - Instructions from the authorities





ACTIONS AS THE PANDEMIC STARTS

Theoretical training

- Instructions to students
- New schedules for all courses
- Action plan how to start virtual classroom
- New training material and updates for training courses

Flying training

- Cancellation of FSTD and aircraft exercises
 - New schedules based on available information

Staff

- Refresher training
- Harmonisation training
- AUPRT and AUPRT instructor courses
- CRI/IRI courses
- Type rating courses
- Developing new and improving existing training materials and programs
- Updating training manuals to facilitate virtual class room
- Teaching instructors and students to use Teams
- Short layoff (2 weeks)

THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE INSTRUCTION

Health and Safety



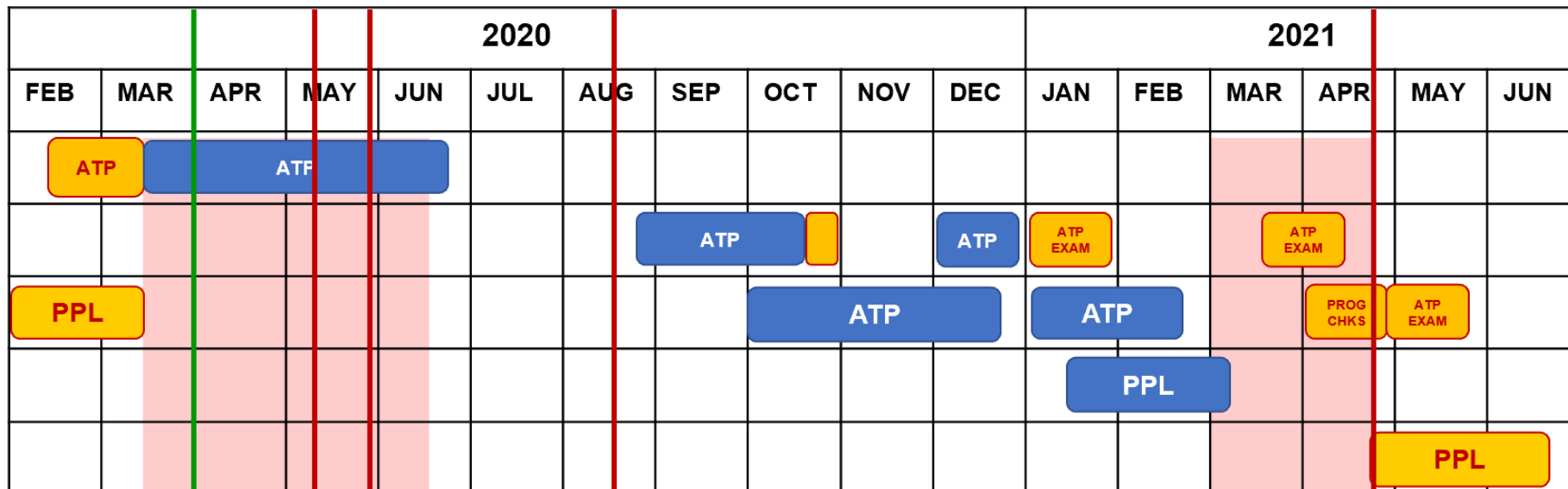
Social distancing in both classrooms and in the test facility; only the computers without the orange plate are in use



Cleaning kits and personal face masks were available in every classroom from the first days of the crisis

THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE INSTRUCTION

Timeline and some statistics



Virtual Classroom Instruction, ca. 1400 h

State of Emergency

Normal classroom work, ca. 500 h

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1.4. | First Virtual Class Room lectures given at FINAA |
| 7.5. | IATA "White Paper" about quality assurance of <i>Virtual Classroom</i> instruction |
| 29.5. | EASA guidance leaflet about health precautions in pilot training |
| 18.8. | EASA guidance leaflet for NAs about accepting <i>Virtual Classroom</i> Instruction |
| 27.4. | Returned to classroom work |

THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE INSTRUCTION

Progress Test and Final Exams



- All *Progress Tests* and *Final Exams* were conducted in a classroom following strict rules for both hygiene and safety
- The students were encouraged to clean all surfaces and wear a protective mask during the sittings
- Only six students were present at any one time
- No student was infected during the test sessions



FLYING TRAINING

- No student activity between early March and May
- Gradual start from June
 - Small groups with timed intervals
 - Sanitation routines
 - Face mask instructions
 - Daily and weekly information bulletins and instructions
- Customers from abroad
 - Covid testis prior to entry to Finland
 - Another test prior to entering school premises

REGIONAL IMPACT AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- Finland
- City of Pori
- No students nor instructors were infected during flying training sessions





ISSUES AND CHALLENGES RELATED TO STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS

- Motivation and engagement
 - Issues due to delays
 - Concerns about current and future jobs
- Dormitory and social contacts
 - Virtual Classroom challenges (more on next slide)
 - Less tactic/implicit (informal) knowledge within students
 - Less group studying
- Recency in flying training
 - Students
 - Refresher flights before progress checks and solo flight
 - Self training in an FSTD
 - Instructors
 - Instructors flying with each other and the CFI for harmonising
 - Extension periods for ratings and mandatory refresher trainings
- Quarantines and vaccinations

THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE INSTRUCTION

Feedback

- Students preferred Virtual Classroom Instruction over individual assignments that were used during the early weeks of the pandemic
- Most students thought that Virtual Classroom Instruction was at least as nice as normal classroom lectures
- Some students stated that Virtual Classroom Instruction required more vigilance and was therefore more exhausting
- Teachers noticed that the students were pretty active at the beginning of Virtual Classroom Instruction and passive during the last weeks
- Both the students and teachers missed the personal contact and interaction to some extent
- Exam results were clearly better thanks to the slower pace and longer periods reserved for self-study and exam preparation
- Most teachers were already familiar with tools like MS Teams or Skype, but some training was also required
- Most of the criticism was pointed against the uncertainties in weekly planning



FURTHER THOUGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Theoretical Knowledge Instruction

- There's no going back to "Good old times"; Virtual Classroom Instruction proved its worth and will be used for some parts of the future training courses
- People are concerned about environmental issues and Virtual Classroom Instruction is one way to reduce CO₂ emission
- Longer periods of self study and exam preparation seem to reduce the student's stress and give better results in the final exams
- Some 90 students participated in Virtual Classroom Instruction and gave us feedback; the numbers are still quite low to make radical changes based solely on the student feedback
- Area 100 KSA assessments would be challenging to conduct in Virtual Classroom environment.





FURTHER THOUGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Flying training

- Training can be arranged in small groups with strict hygiene procedures
- Face masks during flights were optional based on feedback and risk assessment
- Sanitation procedures of FSTDs and aircraft are here to stay
- Training flight to many "regular" airports are reduced due to restricted opening hours during the pandemic
- Spare parts and cargo in general has been delayed due to the pandemic, so the planning plays even greater role at the moment
- An ATO should continuously be prepared for a close down and have a contingency plan for those times





THANK YOU!

