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## THE “GRAY EAGLES” YOUNG EAGLES FOR GROWNUPS TO LAUNCH NEXT YEAR

During Oshkosh 2011, EAA released more details about their plans to develop a new first-flight program for adults, similar to Young Eagles. The program will launch in January, will provide the same insurance protections as Young Eagles, and will be driven by the organization's local chapters, EAA said. "The new program will have a lot of the same trappings as Young Eagles,"



Charlie Becker, EAA director of member programs, told AVweb. "It will preserve the rally format. We really want it to be a one-on-one flight experience." That is, it's important that every adult participant gets to ride up front and handle the controls, Becker said. "They'll get to experience being at the yoke and trying out some maneuvers," he said. The new project was announced by EAA CEO Rod Hightower at AirVenture, 2011.

EAA President/CEO Rod Hightower said that Young Eagles for adults has been something that EAA members have been recommending for years. The program will focus on the “one-on-one” flight experience, will be driven by chapters, and will provide the same insurance protections as Young Eagles. Hightower said “We

have the opportunity to engage, inspire, and motivate new aviators at a point in their lives when they have time, income, and other resources to participate fully in the aviation lifestyle. It’s part of EAA’s strategic plan to grow participation in aviation.” (Information adapted from AVwebFLASH August 25, 2011, and EAA e-HOTLINE August 15, 2011)

***Comment from Editor Al Patton: “They’d better not be 300 pound oldsters – light planes, even certified Cessna 172s, can’t handle that weight!”***



## DON'T FALSIFY YOUR LOGBOOK! PILOT WHO FALSIFIED FLIGHT LOGS GETS PRISON TIME

A pilot for Platinum Jet, the now-defunct charter company whose illegal practices came to light after a crash at Teterboro Airport in 2005, has been sentenced to six months in prison. Francis Vieira, 61, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida., pleaded guilty to fraud. In addition to the prison term, he will serve six months of home confinement and three years of supervised release.

He was convicted for his role in fraudulent activity that led up to the crash of a Challenger 600 charter jet in 2005, which veered off the runway after a failed takeoff attempt from Teterboro Airport. Vieira, who was not on board for the accident flight, admitted in court last September that on various occasions he had changed weight and balance calculations and knew that a captain was not fit to fly and said nothing. Also, From November 2002 through November 2003, Platinum Jet did not have an FAA-issued certificate, otherwise known as a “Part 135 certificate,” permitting it to fly commercial charter flights. Despite not having the appropriate certificate, Vieira and his co-conspirators agreed to operate Platinum Jet as a commercial jet charter company and flew several dozen illegal charter flights. Vieira was required to prepare a flight weight-and-balance (W&B) graph calculating the weight and center of gravity (COG) for Platinum Jet’s aircraft prior to takeoff. On more than two dozen occasions, Vieira altered the W&B graphs for the jet that crashed at Teterboro by changing the weight and COG printed on those graphs. Vieira and his co-conspirators altered the W&B graphs in order to conceal a fuel tankering scheme, whereby pilots would top off the aircrafts’ fuel tanks with discounted fuel in order to save money, causing aircraft to exceed the maximum forward COG limits.



(Information adapted from www.justice.gov/usao/nj , AVwebFLASH August 25, 2011, and *Flying Magazine*, August 26, 2011)

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