

# THE HOLD SHORT

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## PRIORITIZING SAFETY: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IMSAFE CHECKLIST IN FLIGHT TRAINING

As aviators, safety is always our top priority – both in the air and on the ground. One essential tool in ensuring safe flight operations is the IMSAFE checklist, a simple yet effective method for assessing one's fitness for flight before taking to the skies. We are certain you have seen it and follow it, but a review of the acronym is always a good reminder.

The IMSAFE checklist serves as a comprehensive self-assessment tool, covering key factors that can affect a pilot's ability to fly safely:

**I – Illness:** Assessing your physical health is crucial before flying. Any symptoms of illness, such as fatigue, fever, or respiratory issues, can impair cognitive function and decision-making in the cockpit.

**M – Medication:** You must carefully consider any medications they are taking and their potential side effects. Certain medications can cause drowsiness, dizziness, or other impairments that can compromise flight safety.

**S – Stress:** Mental and emotional well-being play a significant role in flight safety. You should evaluate their stress levels and emotional state before flying, as stress can impair judgment and cognitive function.

**A – Alcohol:** It goes without saying that alcohol and flying don't mix.

**F – Fatigue:** Fatigue is a silent but significant threat to flight safety. You should be well-rested and alert before flying, as fatigue can impair cognitive function, reaction times, and decision-making abilities.

**E – External Factors:** Lastly, consider external factors such as environmental conditions, weather forecasts, and personal circumstances that may impact their ability to fly safely.

By diligently following the IMSAFE checklist before each flight, you can identify and mitigate potential risks, ensuring that they are in optimal condition to operate an aircraft safely. Prioritizing safety through tools like the IMSAFE checklist is essential for fostering a culture of safety in flight training and aviation as a whole.

## REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- Temps are going to dip a bit. Watch for wing covers and engine heat. No start ups in the 20's unless the engine has been warmed by an external heater.
- These storms have been temperamental Make sure you are doing a thorough weather brief and even calling your local FSS. Always good to talk out your flight plans with someone.



**COLIN POWELL –  
INSTRUMENT**

Let's raise a glass (shaken, not stirred) to Colin Powell, who just earned his Instrument Rating and proved that hard work truly pays off – even when the skies are as cloudy as a shaken martini! Despite facing some turbulent weather along the way, Colin, our master mixologist by night and aviator by day, stayed positive and focused on his goal, and the result is nothing short of impressive! From crafting the perfect cocktail to mastering precision approaches, Colin's dedication and precision behind the bar have translated seamlessly into the cockpit. And let's not forget to tip our hats to his CFI, Ryan Mill, for shaking up the perfect blend of guidance and support throughout this high-flying journey! Great job Colin!! May your skies be clear, your horizons limitless, and your drinks always served with a twist of success! Cheers to your next adventure!

Congratulations to Scott Dunning, the newest member of the "IT" crowd in the skies! Scott just completed his first solo flight in N37JA at KRTS, runway 08! As a world traveler with visits to 48 states and stamps from 23 countries (not all in a C172, mind you), Scott is no stranger to the skies. And now, he's officially earned his wings to start logging his own frequent flyer miles – talk about upgrading to first class! When he's not debugging code or troubleshooting networks, Scott is busy building a life for his family and enjoying the great outdoors. As a network and IT guy, he's always on top of his game, ensuring smooth operations on the ground and now in the air. Scott's solo flight is not just a milestone; it's a reboot of his aviation journey, with upgraded privileges and access to new horizons. Awesome job Scott! May your future flights be as seamless as a well-written script, your adventures as bug-free as a perfectly coded program, and your love for the skies never-ending. A massive congratulations as well to Scott's CFI, Grant Muzzio, for guiding him through this monumental achievement! Your expertise and support have paved the way for Scott's success.



**SCOTT DUNNING–  
SOLO**

Attention all aviation enthusiasts! Let's give a massive shoutout to Kevin Stodick, who just earned his wings and officially became a private pilot today! Despite the looming "storm of the century" threatening to hit us here in Reno, Kevin managed to squeeze in his checkride just in the nick of time. A true embodiment of hard work and dedication, Kevin juggles his time between school, work, and serving in the Nevada Air National Guard – and yet, he still found the time to pursue his passion for aviation. From navigating the skies to serving our country, Kevin does it all with unwavering determination and a love for all things aviation. And hey, Kevin, we've got to ask – how important is it to make sure you have an aircraft booked when you schedule a checkride? 😊 Lesson learned, right? But hey, all's well that ends well – you're officially a licensed pilot now, so let's celebrate your incredible achievement! A huge congratulations as well to Kevin's CFI, Ryan Mill, for guiding him through this monumental milestone. Your expertise and support have played a crucial role in Kevin's success! Next up, instrument!

**KEVIN STODICK – PRIVATE****ELLIOT CANADAY –  
PILOT OF THE MONTH**

Elliott Canaday is GBA's February pilot of the month! As much as we like to give our favorite monotone, smiley student a hard time, he truly has been working incredibly hard to finish up his training and it's been a joy watching him pursue and work diligently towards his private pilot license. When he's not enduring the heat he gets in the office like a champ, you can find Elliott devoting his time and attention to his training, his full-time job at the Nevada Air National Guard, and to his lovely wife and daughter who have both been supporting him throughout the entirety of his training... they need to get those flight benefits somehow (just kidding). Huge congratulations to Elliott, keep up the amazing work!! You've got the finish line in sight!