

THE FAMILIARITY TRAP MODEL

Control the Control: Your Decisions, Your Timing

EXPECT LESS

Reset Assumptions



Familiar ≠ Predictable
Every flight is different.
Don't trust memory.



Expect the Unexpected
Traffic, timing, and sequence
can change.



Assumptions Are Not Information
Assumptions fill gaps—
they do not confirm safety.

OBSERVE MORE

Seek and Verify



Scan for Mismatch
Look for anything that
doesn't fit the picture.



Detect Missing Information
Expected call not heard?
Traffic not seen?
That's information.



Cross-Check Actively
Compare what you hear,
see, and expect.
Close the gaps.

INTERRUPT EARLY

Act on Uncertainty



Break the Flow
Do not continue a plan
that no longer fits.



Query and Communicate
Ask. Clarify. Confirm.
Use the radio—early.



Reposition or Slow
Change altitude, heading,
or speed to create safety
and time.

REMEMBER

**EXPECT LESS
OBSERVE MORE
INTERRUPT EARLY**

APPLY IT HERE



F11 / Orlando
is dynamic.



High density
increases assumption
and expectation.



You control your
decisions and
your timing.



Interruption is a
strength—not a
weakness.



Safe outcomes
start with early
decisions.

INTERRUPTION TRIGGERS



MISSING CUE
Expected call not heard
Traffic not seen
Sequence incomplete



OUT-OF-SEQUENCE
Timing mismatch
Aircraft not where
expected
Flow inconsistency



CUE CONFLICT
What you see vs.
what you hear
Geometry doesn't fit



"FEELS ROUTINE"
Reduced vigilance
Low workload
Autopilot thinking



UNCERTAINTY EXISTS
If you're not sure—
that's the trigger.
Act early.

THE GOAL: NEVER CONTINUE INTO DOUBT

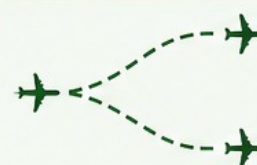
CONTINUATION (No Interruption)



- Expectations go unchallenged
- Conflicts are minimized
- Late recognition
- Fewer options
- Higher risk

**YOUR
DECISION**

EARLY INTERRUPTION



- Expectations challenged
- Mismatches detected
- More time
- More options
- Lower risk

CONTROL THE CONTROL: EXPECT LESS. OBSERVE MORE. INTERRUPT EARLY.



Federal Aviation Administration
SAFETY BRIEFING