

FAASTeam presents:

**ONLINE VIEWING ONLY American Flight 587 The Importance of
VA**

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San Carlos Flight Center is temporarily moving its seminars from in-person attendance to online viewing due to the public health risk from the Coronavirus. As a courtesy the center is making this streaming service free to the public at <https://sancarlosflight.com/covid-19/seminars> Sometimes we think certain things would never happen, until they do. For the majority of us pilots, we try to always prepare for the worst, but hope for the best.

San Carlos Flight Center invites Advanced Ground Instructor Michel Vidal-Naquet to talk about the investigation of American Airlines Flight 587 that crashed into a suburban neighborhood in New York in 2001. The NTSB determined that after encountering the wake turbulence of a preceding 747, the first officer applied a series of full alternating rudder inputs that led to structural failure and the separation of the vertical stabilizer. The aircraft was traveling at approximately 250 knots, that is 20 knots below VA for the Airbus A300 “What? But I thought flying below VA protected against structural damage?” This accident started to reveal a general misconception of the term VA within the pilot community. Is flying at or below VA always “guarantee” protection?

Event Details

Sat, Apr 4, 2020 - 12:00 PDT

San Carlos Flight Center

655 Skyway Road

215

San Carlos, CA 94070



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In this presentation, we will go over the accident and describe different contributing factors to the crash, as identified by the NTSB. We will then examine the concept of maneuvering speed and take a look at how VA is intricately defined by the regulations. Finally, we will review implications for GA pilots. We recommend all pilots to attend as we learn from this seminar and improve our safety in flight in the future.

Michel Vidal-Naquetis an advanced ground instructor and an instrument rated private pilot with about 680 flight hours. He started flying in 2013 after settling in the Bay area to work as a computer scientist and engineer. His passion for aviation began during his early childhood when his family first took him on international flights. He brings a scientific point of view to his flying, and is always learning.

Directions: Pilots who fly in should park in transient parking on the opposite side of the field and expect to walk about 10 minutes (.5 mile) to the Flight Center. Suite 215 is upstairs in the northwest corner. On occasion, rides may be prearranged through San Carlos Aviation and Supply.

A message from the National FAASafety Team Manager

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