

From: Justin-Ley Crisp <email address withheld>
To: The Captain with Flare <address withheld>
Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2001 12:11 PM
Subject: Well, what can I say...?

Attention to The Captain with Flare...

David,

Firstly – just to refresh;

We met on a flight from Brisbane to Melbourne approximately two weeks ago. I had requested permission to sit “jump” for take-off – and if possible the landing at Melbourne. To my surprise, I found myself on the flight deck prior to push-back right through to “last man off” in Melbourne.

I write to you now to express my gratitude for such a memorable experience.

However, I need to immediately state it’s important to me – that you understand what I need to say to you, is taken in the correct sense. What I mean by this, is that the following expression of thanks is both objective and well deserved and NOT motivated by a hidden “alternate” career based foot-in-the-door agenda. That aside, I’m hoping that what I’m about to share with you, allows you to fully appreciate the impact of your recent actions.

I fly with QANTAS reasonably often – and on each occasion, I’ll push my luck and try and get on the flight deck as often as I can. More often than not, I’ve found that my enthusiasm for wanting to be there isn’t necessarily shared with the pilots aboard. Each time, I’ve accepted this as quite fair and reasonable, after all – everyone’s different; everyone’ll get along with some personalities better than others – not to mention that a person’s moods and feelings differ from day to day. However, my still strong impression from our flight was just as marked as the impact you had on me at the CASA safety forum – all those years ago. I had never enjoyed myself so much as I did on your flight deck that day.

I’m convinced that this was not only due to your magic ability and passion for “precision flying”, but more importantly – your passion for sharing. This became clear to me, as you made yourself distinctly different from all the other Captains I’ve met on the flight deck – by not showing me, but INVOLVING me. Upon reflection, (it’s taken me a little while to “calm down” enough to do this!), I’m convinced that what made such an experience so memorable was your desire to SHARE wisdom – and more so, I noted your high comes from “seeing” others benefit from this. It’s this actual trait that I think is most important for you, no matter what, to retain at any expense. I feel the reason for this speaks volumes for itself, as I keep coming across an almost underground growing movement of young pilots and flight instructors that have also been lucky enough to experience your passion for sharing.

As I mentioned, your appearance at that CASA forum motivated me to get all of your presentation from CASA on VHS. Once they had done this, they found themselves annoyed by the fact that they were having to then supply more tapes to others, after others had seen mine. Since that forum, CASA now tape ALL speakers and encourage everybody to request tapes for any of the discussed topics....

I'm not too sure if what I've said so far, fully expresses exactly what I'm trying to say. So instead, consider this; if I had a choice of allowing my enthusiasm for your time motivating you to open potential doors for MY career – vs. –allowing my enthusiasm for your time motivating you to share your time with others even more, I don't know which I would choose.

I noted in the “Dedication” section of your latest revision of “The Jacobson Flare” you gave me, that your wife is a Psychologist. If you are not quite sure what I mean by the above statement, give it to her to read – as I'm certain she'll thoroughly understand, (and appreciate) the intended context.

Once again I express a great amount of thanks for your time recently. It was an absolute pleasure to actually meet you once again. (Although this time more personally – not to mention the pure fluke of it all...) I can only hope that others, who make the mistake of venturing onto your flight deck, get the same passionate man that I was most fortunate to spend two and a half hours with.

I will most certainly give you a call later in the year as you suggested, and in the mean time – (as a flying-school-“gypsy”), I look forward to starting many a new argument/discussion with any instructors yet to see the light...

Regards,

Justin-Ley CRISP

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