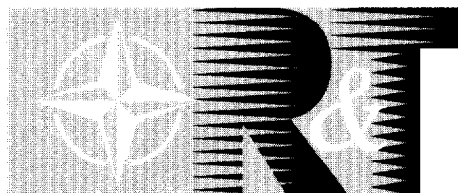


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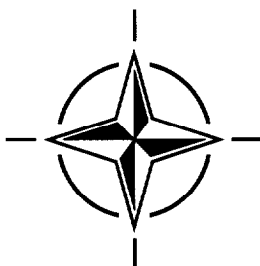
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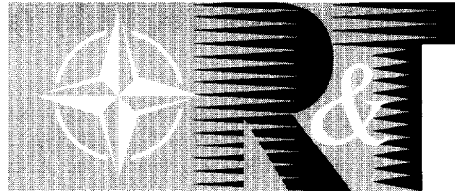
Human Consequences of Agile Aircraft

(Cycle de conférences sur les facteurs humains liés au pilotage des avions de combat très manœuvrants)

The material in this publication was assembled to support a Lecture Series under the sponsorship of the Human Factors and Medicine Panel (HFM) of RTO presented on 20-21 March 2000 in Neubiberg, Germany, on 23-24 March 2000 in Preston, UK and on 19-20 October 2000 at WPAFB Ohio, USA.



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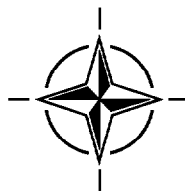
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Human Consequences of Agile Aircraft

(RTO EN-12)

Executive Summary

While historically agile flight was first seen as an issue of airframe agility with a consequent emphasis on acceleration issues, there has been an evolution in the understanding of agility. WG 27 adopted WG 19's recommendations that airframe agility is only one aspect of agility which when combined with weapons agility and systems agility results in "operational agility." The experienced pilots that we interviewed saw a real operational need for aircraft agility. They consistently rated both high angle-of-attack/nose pointing and off-boresight missiles/helmet-mounted display/sight systems as very important capabilities. They denied physiological problems related to acceleration or spatial disorientation, although their sorties to date have been with a clear sky, in active control. Also, experts predict an increase in spatial disorientation mishaps in super-maneuvrable aircraft. In particular, there are significant gaps in our understanding of the effects of multi-axis accelerations.

With minimal constraints on angle-of-attack and expanded weapon launch envelopes, novel displays will be required that enable pilots to fly with references well beyond conventional fields-of-view. Decision aids, intelligent interfaces, and automated subsystems will be required to help pilots cope with the dramatic increase in the tempo of the tactical situation, while also maintaining situational awareness. Efficient controls are also needed to enable pilots to command and operate equipment quickly and accurately. The thrust-vectoring and post-stall operations should be fully integrated into the flight control system. Pilots still prefer controlling aircraft functions via HOTAS (hands-on-throttle-and-stick) although alternative controllers (e.g., voice and gaze-based control) may be worthwhile in the future. Current pilot protection systems will be inadequate in an unconstrained flight envelope and during ejection. The seat position relative to the aircraft's center of gravity will also impact the acceleration effects experienced by pilots.

The main aim of this Lecture Series is to provide a review of the physiological and psychological consequences of agile flight, as well as address considerations for the pilot vehicle interface design, pilot selection, training and simulation. These lectures are especially appropriate for scientific researchers and engineers involved in human-machine interaction and the design of crew stations for future aeronautical applications.

The material in this publication was assembled to support a Lecture Series under the sponsorship of the Human Factors and Medicine Panel (HFM) and the Consultant and Exchange Programme of RTO presented on 20-21 March 2000 in Neubiberg, Germany, on 23-24 March 2000 in Preston, UK and on 19-20 October, 2000 at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio in USA.

Cycle de conférences sur les facteurs humains liés au pilotage des avions de combat très manoeuvrants

(RTO EN-12)

Synthèse

Au départ, la manoeuvrabilité des systèmes aériens militaires n'a été étudiée que sous l'aspect de la souplesse de la cellule, avec, par conséquent, un accent mis plus particulièrement sur les problèmes d'accélération. L'approche du problème a maintenant considérablement évolué. Le groupe de travail WG 27 a adopté les recommandations du WG 19, à savoir qu'il y a lieu de prendre en compte également la manoeuvrabilité des armements et des systèmes et de parler d'agilité opérationnelle. Interrogés sur la manoeuvrabilité, des pilotes militaires expérimentés en ont confirmé la nécessité opérationnelle. Ils ont systématiquement accordé une grande importance aux caractéristiques d'angles d'incidence élevés/pointage du nez et de missiles dépointés/viseurs montés sur casque. Pour eux, rien ne laisse présager que les accélérations et la désorientation spatiale puissent entraîner des problèmes physiologiques majeurs, même s'il faut noter que la plupart de leurs missions avec des taux élevés de manoeuvrabilité ont été effectuées en ciel clair, le pilote disposant de tous les repères visuels habituels. Pourtant, les spécialistes du domaine prévoient une augmentation des incidents de désorientation spatiale en vol lors du pilotage des avions de combat à très grande manoeuvrabilité. En particulier il existe des lacunes considérables dans nos connaissances des effets des accélérations multiaxiales.

L'augmentation des domaines de tir des armements et la diminution des contraintes liées aux fortes incidences, rendra nécessaire l'emploi de nouveaux visuels, permettant aux équipages de piloter à l'aide de références se trouvant largement en dehors des champs de vision classiques. Des aides à la décision, ainsi que des interfaces élaborés et des sous-systèmes automatisés seront nécessaires pour permettre aux pilotes de faire face à l'évolution rapide de la situation tactique, tout en gardant pleinement conscience de la situation globale. Des contrôles efficaces sont également demandés pour s'assurer de la commande et de l'exploitation rapides et efficaces des équipements par les pilotes. Les opérations d'orientation de la poussée et de post-décrochage devraient être entièrement intégrées au système de pilotage. A l'heure actuelle, les pilotes privilégient le contrôle HOTAS (commande manuelle), mais admettent que les nouvelles technologies (vocales et visuelles) pourraient être intéressantes à l'avenir. De plus, il faudra tenir compte de l'inadaptation de certains systèmes actuels de protection des équipages dans des domaines de vol aussi étendus ou lors d'une éjection. La position du siège par rapport au centre de gravité de l'avion est un aspect important de la conception, qui aura une incidence directe sur les accélérations subies par le pilote.

Ce cycle de conférences a pour objectif principal de faire le point des effets physiologiques et psychologiques des vols avec des taux de manoeuvrabilité élevés, ainsi que des problèmes en matière de conception des interfaces homme-machine, de sélection et d'entraînement des équipages, y compris les moyens de simulation. Les présentations sont plus particulièrement destinées aux chercheurs et aux ingénieurs impliqués dans les interfaces homme-machine et dans la conception des postes de pilotage des futurs systèmes aériens.

Cette publication a été rédigée pour servir de support de cours pour le Cycle de conférences 220, organisé par la Commission des Facteurs Humains et Médecine (HFM) dans le cadre du programme des consultants et des échanges de la RTO du 20 au 21 mars 2000, à Neubiberg, Allemagne, du 23 au 24 mars 2000 à Preston, Royaume Uni et 19 au 20 octobre 2000 à Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, (Etats-Unis).

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Preface/Forward

Working Group #27 was formed under the former Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) in January 1997 to study the human factors implications of agile flight. As the Group was formed, it was believed that its focus would be aircraft maneuverability with a consequent emphasis on human physiologic issues related to the acceleration environment. Initially group members were chosen from the acceleration and vestibular research communities. Representatives from each of the nations with new fighter aircraft being developed were included as well as military pilot-physicians and acrobatic pilots. It was also planned to invite aeromedical input from Russian experts.

It soon became evident that the issue was much broader in scope. Among experts in the FMP Working Group #19 of AGARD, the definition of agility had evolved from one involving primarily aircraft maneuverability, to one including weapons and systems agility as well. It became evident that cognitive, control, and display issues also needed to be addressed. So additional representation from the human factors and psychology disciplines were added to the group. Also Mr. Patrick LeBlaye was included as a technical liaison to the engineering community.

Meeting sites were chosen to facilitate communication between the Working Group and aircraft designers, test pilots, and operational pilots. Because we wanted to base our work on real operational needs and realities, we had extensive interactions with NATO pilots from several nations. We interviewed pilots at our formal meetings; we asked them to fill our questionnaires; we were formally briefed by pilots on their concept of agility; we visited operational and test squadrons; we asked them to critique our briefings; and throughout the two and one-half years we consulted with pilots extensively. These pilots from France, the United States (USAF & NASA), Sweden, Germany, and the United Kingdom were indispensable contributors to the Working Group.

Conference Organization: During the first morning, both the pilot's and the engineer's views of agility will be discussed. Basic concepts of agility as well as history and definitions will be covered. During the afternoon of the first day potential physiological and psychological consequences of agility will be presented. Gaps in our scientific knowledge of agility and multi-axis accelerations will be highlighted. The second day will outline potential areas for intervention in the design of future aircraft and pilot-vehicle interface. Design considerations for displays and controls will be emphasised. During the last afternoon aircraft ejection, aircrew selection, and training considerations will be discussed. Finally we would like to discuss recommendations for design of agile aircraft and identify requirements for further research.

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For sharing their expertise and technical consultation we would like to thank Dr. Michael Haas and Dr. Grant MacMillan for their contributions in the areas of displays and controls. For tireless typing and administrative support we would like to thank Mrs Rosey Rodriguez from Brooks Air Base.

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14. Abstract																			
<p>This Lecture Series evaluates the human factors implications for pilots of "superagile flight", specifically with regard to agile airframes, agile weapons, and rapidly configurable systems. During interviews, experienced pilots have confirmed the operational need for military aircraft agility. Although pilots have noted that their experiences to date have not caused them any major concerns regarding the potential for physiological problems, significant gaps remain in our understanding of the effects of multi-axis accelerations. Human consequences are also anticipated in the area of situational awareness. Presentation of aircraft attitude and energy state in a helmet mounted display will be a design challenge. The minimal constraints on aircraft incidence angles and the expanded weapon launch envelopes anticipated with the forthcoming and next generations of air systems requires the provision of novel displays to enable pilots to effectively operate such air systems. Decision aids, intelligent interfaces and automated subsystems are required to enable pilots to maintain situational awareness whilst coping with dramatic increases in the tempo of the tactical situation and the 'data deluge'. Moreover, many of the current pilot protection systems will be inadequate for everyday use in such an unconstrained flight envelope and during ejection. Additional challenges in selection, simulation, and training are also anticipated.</p>																			



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