In keeping with the theme of the Fall 2006 Wendt release (honesty), I have focused my bibliography on the concept of honesty as it appears in aviation professional publications. This would include books, published articles, and publications sponsored by the United States government or available in government sponsored databases.

I searched for publications that mentioned honest, honesty or honestly in their discussions. Professional programs, such as aviation, have plenty of contexts where character, ethics, and other virtuous traits are emphasized. I would not expect, nor have I found, an entire text devoted to the subject of honesty in aviation.


A review of the NASA database reveals 231 air incident reports that address honesty. What is amazing is the context. Five of the 231 incidents reports are listed above as recent examples. Aircraft crew members uniformly report they could not honestly remember the error which resulted in the need/desire to make a safety report. This raises the issue of legitimate error (honest mistake) or an ethical lapse where even in a safety reporting system crew members are unwilling to make a truly honest report.


This article explains the process used by airlines to select pilot applicants. It emphasizes a number of considerations of which honesty in the hiring process is essential to both the company and pilot applicant.


Raises ethical issues to include honest reporting by the manufacturer and various governments. Calls for improved oversight by the FAA in the management of the airworthiness program.

Identifies a series of character traits that are key strengths of successful pilots in the airline industry. Honest and tactful are on the list of highlighted traits.


This book identifies the unique role flight instructors play in influencing the professional character of their students. Emphasis is placed on honesty as it applies to errors and personal interactions.


Reviews cases where ethic issues played significant roles in accidents and calls for more honesty in dealing with safety risks. The Aviation examples in this text are generally maintenance related.


This article deals with logging of flight time and how critical honest and accurate reporting plays in the hiring of pilot applicants. It emphasizes that the Aviation industry is small and word will get out if you are not honest and accurate in your reporting and record keeping.


This article demonstrates the good that can come from owning up to your strengths and weaknesses. Being honest with yourself and others allows you the opportunity to improve your personal level of safety through training and risk mitigation.


Acknowledges that pilots can make honest mistakes. The Federal Aviation Administration indicates that if such a mistake was honest and legitimate that no enforcement actions will be pursued against the pilot.
These chapters address professional behavior and the characteristics of an effective critique. Key is the emphasis placed on honest and straightforward conduct. Additionally, one is advised to not attempt to hide some inadequacy by being honest as well as the necessity for honesty in the critique process.

This Advisory Circular addresses the honesty required when involving multiple players within the Aviation community when engaged in event planning and rule making. In notes the necessity to pay more attention to negative comments and feedback rather than positive feedback. Honesty requires rigorous evaluation of negative comments.

This alert advises aviation maintenance providers to establish good reputations by being honest and acting within the regulation. The circular advises that this and other procedures will help establish your reputation as a maintenance professional.

Maintenance Resource Management (MRM) emphasizes that working together is critical to error reduction. A key tenant of MRM is the emphasis on open and honest communication among technicians, managers, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

This section of the Code of Federal Regulations deals with interpretations of the Federal Aviation Regulations found in part 61. In this section, emphasis is placed on the honest reporting on flight hours and the implications for an industry which relies heavily on self-reporting.