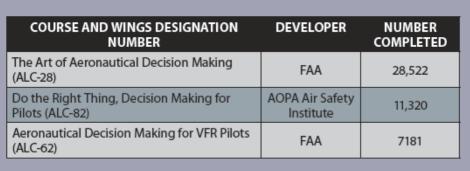## WHO USES THE WINGS PROGRAM?

The FAA tells us there are over 100,000 users of the Web site supporting the WINGS program, www.faasafety.gov. According to the agency, as of November 2012, more than 15,000 pilots had actually achieved at least the program's Basic phase level. That figure is about 2.5 percent of the active U.S. pilot population of about 600,000.

If you exclude about 100,000 pilots who are employed by airlines, air taxis, corporate operators and others who are required to take regular recurrent training, we might presume that 15,000 of the 500,000 GA pilots—about three percent—have completed one phase of the WINGS program. Of course, an additional number of pilots have completed at least some credits under the WINGS program. The FAA data for 2011 includes nearly 80,000 users who received some kind of WINGS credit. This is roughly one pilot out of every six who are not covered by mandatory recurrent training other than the flight review.

Regarding the training delivery method, more than 92,000 credits were obtained at live seminars while more than 95,000 credits were obtained through completion of online courses. The live seminars are still clearly popular but the percentage of online courses taken is steadily increasing.

Regarding the new requirement for risk management training in the Basic program, the data I obtained from the FAASTeam shows the following completion figures for the three courses from which participants can select to complete this requirement:

COURSE AND WINGS DESIGNATION NUMBER	DEVELOPER	NUMBER COMPLETED
The Art of Aeronautical Decision Making (ALC-28)	FAA	28,522
Do the Right Thing, Decision Making for Pilots (ALC-82)	AOPA Air Safety Institute	11,320
Aeronautical Decision Making for VFR Pilots (ALC-62)	FAA	7181

The above courses are all free and can be accessed at www.faasafety.gov. In addition, there are courses available for purchase that can also be accessed from the site.