FOQA Programs, FAA Oversight, and SAFO Process
Operations presentation
FOQA - General

- Voluntary safety program that uses recorded flight data to identify risks and take corrective action
- Safety Recommendation A-07-11
  - Assist regional air carriers in implementing FOQA programs
FOQA at Colgan

- Colgan’s FOQA program approved by FAA in Oct. 2008
- Program not implemented at time of accident
- Colgan now implementing FOQA for Q400s
FOQA and Stall Warnings

• Mismatch between ref speeds switch and programmed airspeeds may be common
• FOQA data would help
• Two other U.S. regional airlines operate Q400s but have no FOQA program
FOQA Expansion

- FOQA well established at major air carriers
- FAA had not determined whether newer or smaller airlines or newer airplanes had FOQA
- FAA had not surveyed Part 121 carriers to determine how many airplanes were QAR capable
FAA Action

- Oct. 2009: 43 percent of airline aircraft covered by FOQA
- Dec. 2009: FAA Administrator asked operators without FOQA to implement program
- Jan. 2010: 35 of 100 air carriers covered by FOQA
  - Represents 94 percent of airline aircraft
FAA Oversight

• FAA records showed no deficiencies related directly to accident
• Significant growth requires “surveillance retargeting” by FAA
• 15 new Q400s and new Q400 pilots represented 30-percent increase in company size
FAA Oversight

• POI and APM trained on Q400 concurrent with Colgan line pilots
• Inspectors did oversight as they were learning airplane
• POI did not recommend remedial or supplemental training programs
FAA Oversight

• Most company check airmen interviewed did not have Part 121 experience other than at Colgan

• Q400-qualified FAA inspectors could have augmented certificate’s inspectors
Audits and IEP

• POI did not get copies of DOD and IATA audits
• Audits found Colgan’s IEP deficient
• Sound IEP would have found training record errors
SAFOs

• SAFOs “contain important safety information that is often critical”
• SAFOs are not included in inspectors’ work programs
• FAA does not routinely track SAFO adoption