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AIRPORT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM

ACRP **REPORT 107**

Development of a Runway Veer-Off Location Distribution Risk Assessment Model and Reporting Template

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> *Subscriber Categories* Aviation • Safety and Human Factors

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TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD

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AIRPORT COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAM

Airports are vital national resources. They serve a key role in transportation of people and goods and in regional, national, and international commerce. They are where the nation's aviation system connects with other modes of transportation and where federal responsibility for managing and regulating air traffic operations intersects with the role of state and local governments that own and operate most airports. Research is necessary to solve common operating problems, to adapt appropriate new technologies from other industries, and to introduce innovations into the airport industry. The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) serves as one of the principal means by which the airport industry can develop innovative near-term solutions to meet demands placed on it.

The need for ACRP was identified in *TRB Special Report 272: Airport Research Needs: Cooperative Solutions* in 2003, based on a study sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The ACRP carries out applied research on problems that are shared by airport operating agencies and are not being adequately addressed by existing federal research programs. It is modeled after the successful National Cooperative Highway Research Program and Transit Cooperative Research Program. The ACRP undertakes research and other technical activities in a variety of airport subject areas, including design, construction, maintenance, operations, safety, security, policy, planning, human resources, and administration. The ACRP provides a forum where airport operators can cooperatively address common operational problems.

The ACRP was authorized in December 2003 as part of the Vision 100-Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act. The primary participants in the ACRP are (1) an independent governing board, the ACRP Oversight Committee (AOC), appointed by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation with representation from airport operating agencies, other stakeholders, and relevant industry organizations such as the Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA), the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), Airlines for America (A4A), and the Airport Consultants Council (ACC) as vital links to the airport community; (2) the TRB as program manager and secretariat for the governing board; and (3) the FAA as program sponsor. In October 2005, the FAA executed a contract with the National Academies formally initiating the program.

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Primary emphasis is placed on disseminating ACRP results to the intended end-users of the research: airport operating agencies, service providers, and suppliers. The ACRP produces a series of research reports for use by airport operators, local agencies, the FAA, and other interested parties, and industry associations may arrange for workshops, training aids, field visits, and other activities to ensure that results are implemented by airport-industry practitioners.

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Dr. Manuel Ayres, Founding Principal at ASMC, was the Principal Investigator and Project Manager; Dr. Regis Carvalho, Principal Engineer at Dynatest, served as Co-Principal Investigator. The other authors of this report are Mr. Hamid Shirazi (ARA) and Mr. Robert David (RED).

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AUTHOR DISCLAIMER

The Lateral Runway Safety Area Risk Analysis (LRSARA) software tool developed as a product of ACRP Project 04-14 is not intended for use in either determining runway safety area (RSA) dimensions or for justifying a modification to FAA design standards. Users are advised to consult the latest version of FAA Advisory Circular 150/5300-13 and to work with the FAA with respect to RSA determinations as appropriate.

The tool should not be used without adequate knowledge of the contents of this report.

Neither ACRP nor ASM Consultants shall be held liable for losses, injuries or damage which may arise from using the LRSARA tool, or be responsible for the accuracy or validity of data generated by the tool.

FOREWORD

By Joseph D. Navarrete Staff Officer Transportation Research Board

ACRP Report 107: Development of a Runway Veer-Off Location Distribution Risk Assessment Model and Reporting Template provides airports and their stakeholders with a method to assess the risk of lateral runway excursions, also known as veer-offs, and suggests ways to improve veer-off incident/accident reporting. The culmination of the research is the development of the Lateral Runway Safety Area Risk Analysis (LRSARA) tool that practitioners can use to determine the probability of runway veer-offs in specific areas at their particular airport.

Design standards for runway safety areas (RSAs) are provided in FAA's Advisory Circular 150/5300, *Airport Design*; however, many airports face financial or environmental constraints that limit their ability to meet these standards. While significant research has been done on aircraft runway overruns and undershoots, limited analysis has been done for veer-offs. Additionally, veer-off incident/accident data are limited and of varying quality. Research was therefore needed to develop risk-based models to assist airports and other stakeholders in assessing the relative risks associated with aircraft veer-offs and for developing guidelines for reporting and collecting runway veer-off incident/accident data.

This research, led by Airport Safety Management Consultants under ACRP Project 04-14, began with the development of a preliminary modeling approach in order to identify data requirements. This was followed by collecting data on runway veer-offs from multiple sources. The models were then developed and validated using information from more than 1,100 veer-off events. This led to a series of suggestions to improve veer-off reporting and future risk-based tools.

This report contains eight chapters. Chapter 1 provides a background for the study. Chapter 2 describes the research approach. Chapters 3 and 4 discuss veer-off reporting and data collection, availability, and limitations. Chapters 5 through 7 outline the approach taken to model veer-off risk and to develop and validate the analysis software. Conclusions and suggestions for improved veer-off reporting are provided in Chapter 8. A series of appendices complement the report and software tool, including a template for veer-off reporting, a summary of the data used in the study, and a user guide for the tool.

The LRSARA tool can be downloaded from the CD included with this report or from the Transportation Research Board website (www.trb.org, search for *ACRP Report 107*). Two types of analyses are possible with the tool: simplified and full. The simplified analysis uses default or user-defined values. The full analysis allows users to perform risk assessments based on runway dimensions, obstacles, fleet mix, weather data, field elevation, air temperature, and runway surface condition.

CONTENTS

Note: Many of the photographs, figures, and tables in this report have been converted from color to grayscale for printing. The electronic version of the report (posted on the Web at www.trb.org) retains the color versions.

SUMMARY

Development of a Runway Veer-Off Location Distribution Risk Assessment Model and Reporting Template

In the past, airport design standards have been established based on limited data and a significant amount of engineering judgment. However, in recent years the aviation industry has been challenged by the increased volume of operations and the need for operation of larger aircraft to accommodate more passengers. Many airports are constrained by natural barriers, such as rivers and topography, or by developments around the airport. Expanding runways and increasing the airfield separations are becoming more and more unfeasible to implement from a cost standpoint.

In recent years some ACRP studies have focused on the development of risk-based methodologies to evaluate runway safety areas (RSAs) and airfield separations. These methodologies may be applied when design standards cannot be met by the airport operator to assess the risk associated with a proposed action (e.g., the operation of larger aircraft).

Similar to previous ACRP studies, the basis of this risk-based methodology is a three-part model: probability of veer-off, location of veer-off, and consequences of the veer-off. Two sets of model were developed, one for landing veer-offs and another set for takeoff veer-offs. Improved location models account for both lateral and longitudinal distances in the RSA and are referenced to the runway edge and to the beginning of the runway, respectively. In addition, a new consequence model for veer-off is introduced. This consequence model was integrated to the frequency models developed in previous ACRP research and the new location models developed in this study. The main outcome of the analysis is a tool for the assessment of nonstandard RSAs and estimation of the probability of veer-off incidents and risk of accidents involving runway veer-offs.

Data for development of veer-off location models involved accidents and incidents that have occurred over the past 30 years. Most events occurred in the U.S.; however, the data also included events that occurred in countries with accident rates similar to the U.S. Some data required for the development of the models were not available in the reports and it was necessary to either obtain from alternative sources, or to infer from the report narratives, when possible.

Software integrating the models and incorporating user-friendly interfaces for inputting data and outputting results has been developed in a Microsoft Windows platform supported by the commonly used Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Access Office applications.

The models and software tool were validated using independent samples, by comparing historical to estimated accident rates, and evaluating the models with probability distributions generated by an independent sample of veer-off events.

Another important outcome of this study was the identification of information required to develop risk models for veer-off events, as well as some deficiencies in reporting this type of event to obtain the required data. As a result, a template indicating the information that should be collected for veer-off events has been developed. The collection of the identified data for future accidents and incidents will allow the development of improved and more accurate models.

CHAPTER 1

Background

Introduction

Accident statistics show that from 1959 to 2011, 53% of the world's fatal commercial jet aircraft accidents occurred during landing and takeoff. These accidents accounted for 47% of all onboard fatalities (Boeing, 2012). Most of the aircraft accidents that occurred on or in the immediate vicinity of the runway were the result of undershoots, overruns, or veer-offs. The worldwide data for accidents and incidents from 1982 to 2008 collected for the *ACRP Report 50: Improved Models for Risk Assessment of Runway Safety Areas* showed that almost 50% of the events that have involved aircraft in RSAs were lateral runway excursions (veer-offs).

Although in many cases the causal factors involve some type of human error, the conditions at the airport may be an important contributing factor that may affect the severity of the accidents.

In an attempt to mitigate the severity of these accidents, the FAA developed standards for RSAs in the 1960s. The RSA is a graded and obstacle-free, rectangular-shaped area surrounding the runway that is "prepared or suitable for reducing the risk of damage to aircraft in the event of an undershoot, overshoot, or excursion from the runway" (FAA - AC 150/5300-13A, 2012).

By reducing the chance of damage to the aircraft, the RSA also reduces the chances of death or injury to the occupants of an aircraft that is involved in a runway undershoot, overrun, or veer-off. RSAs have resulted in many potentially catastrophic accidents becoming minor incidents. The rectangular dimensions of the RSA are dependent on the type and size of aircraft using the runway.

To meet aviation's continuous growth, airlines are operating larger aircraft with greater seating capacity. However, for many airports, airfield configurations were established many years ago and it is impracticable to meet the current RSA standards that have been established for these larger aircraft. The question arises as to what is the risk if these larger aircraft are allowed to operate in these airports with non-standard RSA dimensions. Currently there are no approved methodologies for assessing these risks and each situation is considered separately.

Another issue that has challenged the aviation industry, particularly airport planners, is how much risk is associated with the presence of certain obstacles inside the RSA. Although most navigational aids (NAVAIDs) are mounted on frangible structures, some of those larger structures may cause damage to aircraft, such as glideslope antennas, runway visual range (RVR) masts, or VHF Omnidirectional Range (VOR) structures. A queue of aircraft waiting for takeoff on a parallel taxiway, rough terrain, drainage structures, and other obstacles may also be present in the vicinity of runways and may represent hazards to aircraft that veer off the runway.

A tool to quantitatively estimate the risk of aircraft veering off runways and assess risk of aircraft operations under specific conditions in a uniform manner will be very beneficial to airport operators and governmental agencies.

The proposed approach is based on *ACRP Report 50* and includes the factors that impact the level of risk for airport operations. This approach also provides a rational probabilistic methodology for the analysis of areas contiguous to the sides of the runway. The approach is based on data collected from accidents and incidents for the past 30 years. The analysis also utilizes historical data from the specific airport being evaluated. This allows the user to take into consideration particular operational conditions to which aircraft are subject to at the airport, as well as the actual RSA conditions in terms of dimensions, configuration, type of terrain, and existing obstacles.

Despite the advances achieved with *ACRP Report 50*, the veer-off models developed for that project have some limitations, particularly in addressing the probability distributions of wreckage location for veer-off events over the length of the runway.

This project further enhances the models described in *ACRP Report 50* by considering adjusted (normalized) location data, as well as veer-off location relative to the beginning of the runway. Such factors were not included within the scope of the previous work.

The location models were integrated into the analysis methodology and software with the capability of assessing RSA lateral areas, the areas contiguous to the longitudinal sides of the runway. The analysis was validated and took into consideration the RSA boundaries and existing obstacles within the existing or proposed RSA.

This report summarizes the tasks, results, conclusions, and recommendations for the entire study. In addition, a software tool is included that may be utilized by the industry to assess risk associated with the lateral portions of the RSA.

Project Objectives

This project was aimed at identifying the subareas of the RSA where runway veer-offs are most likely to occur and develop quantitative analysis capability to evaluate the risk

of runway veer-offs. Three goals were set to achieve this objective:

- Identify the probability of an aircraft that veers off the runway traversing various areas that are contiguous to the sides of the runway and determine how obstacles located within these areas may impact risk.
- • Develop quantitative analysis capability and software tool to evaluate the risk of runway veer-offs and the probability distribution of veer-off locations in the vicinity of the runway.
- • Identify deficiencies in data availability to characterize the location distributions and make suggestions for future improvements to the models developed in this study.

CHAPTER 2

Research Approach

The research project included 10 tasks that were divided into two phases, as shown in Figure 1. In Phase 1, the initial task was to develop a preliminary modeling approach to identify which data would be required for developing the location models. Following this initial task, accident and incident reports from various databases were identified as runway veeroffs. Required versus available data was compared. Alternative sources and approaches were used to obtain required data, or to support the inferences made based on report narratives. For many of the veer-off events included in the study, the inferences drawn from the report narratives and supporting data allowed the path of aircraft involved in the veer-off to be determined.

With reports of 1,144 veer-off events that occurred in the U.S. and elsewhere, the available information about the airport, runway used, flight (e.g., type of aircraft involved),

Figure 1. Project tasks.

weather conditions, runway surface conditions, and causes of damage to aircraft was stored in a database designed for this study. Veer-off paths were represented using two linear segments and were also saved in the database.

The runway distance available was divided into ten segments or subareas for each normalization process used and described in ensuing chapters. An algorithm was developed in MS Excel to calculate, for each veer-off event, the lateral distances in each subarea of the runway. The automation was essential to obtain information and build the probability distributions for longitudinal and lateral distances for each normalization process investigated in this study. The process and the algorithm generated the data required for development of veer-off location models.

For the modeling, probability distributions were derived from data generated in the previous step and mathematical models were developed to represent those probability distributions in the longitudinal and lateral directions. One lateral location model was developed for each segment/subarea of the runway.

In Phase 2, a new algorithm was developed with the models and incorporated into analysis software that includes an interface for inputting information, a module incorporating the approach and models for analysis, and an interface for outputting results in report format. The tool was tested under various analysis scenarios.

A series of validation efforts were carried out to ensure the robustness of the new analysis tool and to check if results were rational and consistent with historical evidence of veeroff accidents and incidents. An independent sample of events not used for modeling was used to compare the models with the probability distributions for longitudinal and lateral distances generated with the sample.

Guidance for improving veer-off reporting was then developed from the lessons learned from previous tasks, particularly emphasizing the importance of recording information on the aircraft path during the veer-off.

CHAPTER 3

Veer-Off Reporting and Data Collection

As noted earlier, the basis for developing veer-off location models was information obtained from aircraft accident and incident reports available from several databases in the U.S. and countries with aviation accident rates comparable to those verified in the U.S.

The most important information collected was the characterization of the aircraft path during the runway veer-off. The pathway information was essential to develop the probability distributions associated with the longitudinal and lateral deviations when the plane was off the runway. This chapter presents the sources and type of information collected for the development of risk models.

Data Required for Modeling Veer-Off Distances

Previous mathematical models developed in the U.S. and elsewhere to characterize the probability of an aircraft deviating a certain distance from the runway during the veer-off have used either the final location of the aircraft or the largest deviation during the runway excursion.

The basic approach in this effort was to describe the aircraft veer-off path and use this information to characterize the subareas contiguous to the runway and that were challenged by the veer-off rather than using a single location. The proposed approach is a significant improvement to veer-off modeling. It required an in-depth evaluation of report narratives to obtain the aircraft travel path for as many events as possible. More importantly, this approach also helped to characterize the probability distribution of the subareas over the length of the runway.

The veer-off path of the aircraft and its stopping location depend on several factors that can be divided into the following categories:

- Location where the aircraft departed the runway;
- Speed of aircraft when leaving the runway;
- • Runway surface conditions (e.g., dry, wet, contaminated, etc.);
- RSA surface conditions;
- Presence of obstacles (e.g., NAVAIDs, ditches, uneven terrain, snow banks);
- • Condition of landing gear (e.g., retracted, partially collapsed);
- Aircraft direction during the veer-off (e.g., straight, sideways, ground looped);
- Bearing capacity of RSA terrain during the incident; and
- Pilot role in contributing to the event or in attempting to avoid it.

A combination of factors is usually present in all events making it very difficult to accurately model these events. In particular, human factors are extremely complex to model. For this reason, this study did not focus on the causal factors of the particular veer-off. Rather, the focus was placed on identifying evidence to characterize the chances that an aircraft veering off the runway will travel over certain subareas of the RSA. The data obtained on aircraft veer-off paths from actual veer-off accidents and incidents were used to characterize the probability distribution of the aircraft veer-off path occurring in segments of the RSA.

The aircraft veer-off path usually cannot be completely characterized from the data provided in the accident/incident report. The investigation reports do not always provide specific location references. Some reports may provide the excursion pathway in a diagram or a picture, while others do not. It was necessary to make assumptions and make inferences based on information contained in the narrative of the report when possible. For example, average aircraft deceleration and narrative of the aircraft speed when going off the runway helped identify the subarea in which the plane may have departed the runway.

As expected, the information required to depict the actual wreckage path was rarely available. For this reason, report narratives were reviewed and interpreted. All available references, **6**

including historical satellite pictures, were used to infer the approximate veer-off path of the aircraft.

Location References Used

Longitudinal Distances

Longitudinal distances were measured from the runway threshold for landing and from the beginning of the takeoff roll for takeoff operations. These two points normally coincide except for cases in which the threshold may be displaced. In a few cases the aircraft started its takeoff roll from an existing taxiway intersection other than at the beginning of the runway and in these cases the distance was measured from the taxiway intersection with the runway.

Lateral Distances

The reference for measuring the lateral distances is the side edge of the runway. Justification to use the edge instead of the runway axis is presented below.

Why Aren't Lateral Deviations Measured from the Centerline?

Another reference alternative evaluated for measuring lateral distances was the runway centerline; however, there were no data on aircraft wander that could be used to characterize the probability distribution both on the runway area and in the RSA. Moreover there is another important justification to use the runway edge, rather than the runway centerline.

It is important to note that the runway and the RSA may have very different types of surface and that the transition between the two areas may have a discontinuity in the pavement. Because aircraft control and braking can be significantly different whether the aircraft is moving on the runway paved surface or outside on the unpaved RSA, it is fair to assume that the probability distribution characterizing aircraft wander on the runway should not be extrapolated to outside the paved area.

Therefore, as illustrated in Figure 2, there may be two very different probability distributions for the characterization of lateral distances, one covering the runway paved area, and another covering the RSA. In Figure 2, one of the distributions may be used to characterize aircraft wander during normal operations. The flat curve represents the probability distribution if the aircraft departs the runway paved area. Even if there is a paved shoulder area, it may have a small drop and most importantly, it is the area where runway lights are installed and in many cases struck by aircraft veering off the runway.

In summary, a probability distribution to represent aircraft wander with distances measured from the runway centerline would incorporate an error due to the aircraft response on two different types of surface, on and off the runway. In addition, the purpose of this study is to model veer-offs and it is not necessary to model aircraft deviations in the paved area of the runway. Therefore, the edge of the runway was selected to measure lateral deviations during the lateral runway excursions.

Figure 2. Use of runway edge to measure lateral distances (L = deviation from runway edge).

Distance Available = D

Figure 3. Subsections of the RSA – example for normalization with runway distance available.

In addition, the runway distance available was divided into 20 subsections, 10 on each runway side, as shown in Figure 3. The length of each subsection varied according to the normalization procedure used for measuring longitudinal distances, as explained later in Chapter 5. The procedure was necessary to characterize the lateral probability distributions for each subsection evaluated and obtain the probability distribution for the entire runway.

Aviation Accident and Incident Databases

Veer-off data was collected from several databases in the U.S. and abroad; however, close to 90% of the information was retrieved from U.S. sources, particularly from the databases managed by the NTSB, FAA and NASA. International databases managed by accident investigation bureaus of ten different countries were also sources of information for major incidents and accidents. These countries have aviation accident rates similar to that of the U.S. The following is a list of the databases from which data were collected:

- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)—Aviation Database,
- • Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Accident/Incident Data System (AIDS),
- FAA/NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System (ASRS),
- • Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSBC)—Aviation Investigation Reports,
- Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB)—Aviation Safety Investigations and Reports,
- • France Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation Civile (BEA)—Rapports d'Enquête,
- • UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) Publications and Search Reports,
- New Zealand Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC)—Aviation Occurrence Reports,
- Air Accident Investigation Bureau of Singapore (AAIBS)— Reports Available,
- • Ireland Air Accident Investigation Unit (AAIU)— Investigation Reports,
- • Spain Comisión de Investigación de Accidentes e Incidentes de Aviación Civil (CIAIAC)—Investigación,
- South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)-Accidents and Incidents, and
- • Dutch Safety Board (DSB)—Investigation and Publication.

Additional information about these databases is provided in Chapter 4.

Database Statistics

Veer-off records were identified from various sources and information was collected to develop the location probability models in this study. Records were consolidated, duplicate records were removed and, even during the modeling process, additional data to fill the gaps were collected, when possible.

A summary of data used for modeling is provided below:

- Period: 1982 to 2011;
- A total of 1,144 veer-off records were identified in the databases: 345 veer-off accidents and 799 veer-off incidents;
- • 901 veer-offs occurred during landing and 243 veer-offs during takeoffs;
- There were 1,072 records from U.S. databases (NTSB, AIDS, and ASRS) and 72 records from 10 international databases; and
- There were 577 records with sufficient information to characterize or infer the veer-off path.

1982 to 2011—type of operation.

Figures 4 through 7 provide a summary of veer-off categories for the records identified by the research team. Please note that the total number of records for a certain category depends on whether the information was available for the record. For example, the total number of records with veeroff path information is 577, which represents approximately **Runway Side During Veer-off**

Figure 6. Veer-off records from 1982 to 2011—runway side.

Figure 7. Records with information on veer-off path.

50% of the total number of events identified and included in the accident/incident database.

As seen in Figure 6, most veer-offs occurred on the left side of the runway. A hypothesis test indicated that the difference between left and right is statistically significant.

Availability of Data for Modeling Veer-Off Risk

The ultimate objective of this project was to characterize the risk of aircraft veer-off within segments or subareas of the RSA, and areas outside of, but contiguous to the RSA. To achieve these goals, it was necessary to develop risk models based on information collected from accident and incident reports. One of the main concerns during the planning for this study was the availability of information required for modeling veer-off risk, particularly data related to the characterization of longitudinal and lateral distances relative to the runway.

The analysis of data availability involved a few steps. Initially, it was necessary to develop a general modeling approach to identify what type of data would be required. Following, it was necessary to review accident and incident records screened as veer-offs to identify major gaps in data availability/usability.

With the analysis, alternative sources of information were evaluated to close the gaps by either extracting information from these alternative sources, or using it to support inferences based on each report narrative, particularly to characterize the veer-off pathway. Even using this approach, approximately 50% of the records were not used for modeling lateral and longitudinal distances during the veer-off, both because the information was not presented in the report and the narrative did not allow inferences on the veer-off pathway to be made.

It is recognized that these inferences may have some impact on the accuracy of the models developed; however, the study has resulted in the development of an analysis methodology available to the aviation industry that is a vast improvement over current status. The research has brought to light the identification of key information that is needed to develop the models and, moreover, to identify the deficiencies that exist in reporting key data. Collection of this data for future veer-offs enhances the accuracy of the models developed in this study.

In addition, as part of this project, guidance is provided for improving reporting procedures. This chapter describes the major gaps in data availability and describes additional sources

of information used to characterize or infer the veer-off pathway and other parameters.

U.S. Databases

Three federal databases currently contain information to various degrees on runway veer-offs that have occurred at airports within the United States. Each of these databases is discussed in this section.

NTSB

The NTSB is the federal agency charged with investigating aircraft accidents and determining probable and contributing causes. As such, the NTSB can do an onsite investigation of any aircraft accident or incident it chooses. In reality, budget and staffing limitations result in the NTSB generally choosing to do onsite investigations of accidents/incidents that they believe will have the most impact on improving aviation safety.

If an aircraft veer-off results in an air carrier accident involving substantial damage to the aircraft and/or fatalities/serious injuries to the occupants, the NTSB will normally send a team to the site and conduct a major investigation to determine the probable causes and contributing factors of the accident. An RSA that does not meet the FAA standards may be cited as a contributing factor to the accident. The final resting place of the aircraft relative to the runway will usually be documented, along with any of the non-standard aspects of the safety area that contributed to the accident. The location at which the aircraft left the runway and the path that aircraft traveled off the runway may or may not be documented.

If an event involves an air carrier incident, the NTSB may or may not send an investigator to the site. For an event involving a general aviation aircraft with fatalities, the NTSB will probably send an investigator; however, site visits would likely not occur for non-fatal general aviation accidents and general aviation incidents.

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The data collected onsite by the NTSB or received from other organizations, such as the FAA, is entered into the NTSB database. Although some incidents are reported in this database, most of the records available involve accidents and are used to support the NTSB's determination of probable causes and contributing factors.

FAA AIDS

The FAA is also charged with investigating aircraft accidents in conjunction with the NTSB. However, the FAA does not have the authority to determine probable causes. The FAA will make site visits to any accidents that the NTSB visits; however, the FAA may also make site visits to many of the accidents and incidents the NTSB does not. In these cases, the NTSB will use the information gathered by the FAA in determining probable causes.

The information gathered by the FAA is used to populate the AIDS database, which is primarily collected by FAA personnel having a pilot, airworthiness, or flight procedures background. Most of the information collected by them is related to these areas. The information may also be used by the NTSB to populate its database.

Although the FAA is a larger organization and more geographically dispersed than the NTSB, there are still a large number of accidents/incidents that do not result in an onsite visit from either organization. In these cases, the NTSB and FAA may conduct a desk investigation during which they gather information through telephone calls, e-mail, and written correspondence. This information may be provided by parties such as pilots, controllers, airport officials, state aviation agency employees, and local/state police investigators.

Most of the incidents in the AIDS database do not contain explicit information on veer-offs that would be desirable for this study, particularly the veer-off path. In some cases, it is possible to infer some of the necessary information from the write-up (e.g., aircraft came to a stop about 50 feet from the runway just short of Taxiway Bravo). More explicit information on where the aircraft exited the runway, the aircraft veeroff path, and final resting place would be extremely helpful for the development of risk models.

FAA/NASA ASRS

NASA administers the ASRS, which is funded by the FAA. Although submitted reports primarily come from pilots and controllers, anyone can report an unsafe condition, incident, procedure, practice, or safety concern through the ASRS. The reporter is assured that he or she will remain anonymous. Also, pilots receive immunity if they report an inadvertent violation to the regulations.

The intent of this reporting system is to identify deficiencies and discrepancies that can be corrected before they become accidents. The report narrative is made in a free flowing prose style. The information contained in each report will vary depending upon the reporter. The report represents the reporter's perspective of what occurred. It is not independently validated by anyone, which would be very difficult to do so since the identifying information has been parsed from the report.

International Databases

International databases are obtained from the aviation accident investigation bureau of the country where the accident occurred. The information is particularly comprehensive for major accidents and the availability is similar to that provided by NTSB when the full accident investigation report is available. Data from international databases made up less than 10% of the veer-off records used in this study.

Why Should Data Collection Be Improved?

Over the years, the FAA has reviewed accidents and incidents involving undershoots, veer-offs, and overruns for commercial aircraft and found that approximately 90 percent of them come to rest within the prescribed safety area (FAA, 1990). However, the question has never been addressed as to how much risk is involved if a full safety area cannot be obtained for a runway. For example, if a safety area should extend to 250 feet on either side of the runway centerline but on one side, it is cost prohibitive to obtain more than 200 feet of RSA, what is the risk implication if the safety area is narrowed on one side?

In this situation the 90 percent figure that the FAA cites addresses the entire safety area and here (in the case of the narrower safety area on one side) only one small section is being considered. The models and the analysis approach developed under this ACRP effort allow one to assess the risk for this situation. However, the results and accuracy of the models would improve if additional data were included from actual veer-off events. At some airports, achieving the standard safety area may require the expenditure of large sums of money and may result in very little reduction in risk. Better data would allow one to more confidently assess the risk associated with the modified safety area to determine if the investment to meet the standard is worth the benefit in terms of improved level of safety.

Potential Improvements to Veer-Off Reporting

The intent of this study is not to identify deficiencies or to criticize the procedures used by agencies that manage civil aviation accident and incident databases. However, some conclusions derived from this study have allowed the identification of potential improvements in data collection that may, in the future, enhance the accuracy of veer-off risk models developed in this research.

Most of the improvements that may be achieved are associated with including information to characterize the veer-off path during the runway excursion. The following paragraphs describe each of the three U.S. databases (NTSB, AIDS and ASRS) and the desirable improvements to reporting aircraft veer-off events.

NTSB

As mentioned earlier, characterization of the veer-off path is not available in many investigation reports from NTSB. Pictures and sketches showing the path would certainly help to characterize the veer-off path and support development of risk models. In most cases, when veer-off location information is available, it is descriptive and included in the section describing the wreckage of the accident.

In other cases, an investigator may not visit the site and little information is collected. For such cases, the pilot or the airport operator may be able to help the NTSB investigator by providing a sketch, pictures, and/or a narrative describing the veer-off path and touchdown location, if the veer-off occurred during landing.

With the availability of accident dockets online for events occurring after 1996, sometimes it is possible to find additional information on veer-off path in documents other than the investigation report, particularly for major accidents.

Although comprehensive information on weather conditions is not available for many events involving non-fatal accidents and incidents, it is possible to retrieve METARs when location, date and time are reported.

FAA AIDS

Veer-off reporting in the AIDS database can be significantly improved. Although the reports are very objective, details on the veer-off path through the narrative are seldom provided.

Local time of the incident isn't available in many reports; however, this data is very important because it allows the weather conditions under which the incident took place to be identified through the associated METAR for the airport at the date and time of the event.

Another important parameter that is rarely reported is the approximate touchdown location for landing veer-offs. This information is most likely obtained from the pilots of the aircraft involved in the incident. Moreover, few reports contain information on runway surface conditions, which may be used to estimate the distance required for the operation.

NASA/FAA ASRS

ASRS database reports have information only on the month and year that the event occurred. Moreover, the reports only contain the 6-hour interval when the veer-off took place and it may be difficult to relate weather conditions to the event, if not included in the report.

Another difficulty with ASRS database is that the information on the runway used may not be available. In this case it is not possible to assess the runway distance available for the operation or to associate wind direction and wind components during the operation.

The aircraft veer-off path during the runway excursion is not available for most of the reports; however, it is sometimes possible to infer from the narrative, particularly if it provides information on aircraft speed and location references (e.g., aircraft departed runway 200 ft from Taxiway D intersection).

What Data Needs to Be Collected?

In this section, the data that ideally should be collected are identified. Two categories of data can be characterized according to the need and availability from alternative sources. The first category of information entails data that is essential for developing and improving risk-based approaches and risk models for aircraft veer-off events. The second category involves data that can be helpful to improve models; however, this type of data may be obtained from alternative sources, if necessary.

For example, in some cases weather conditions may not be reported, but this information can be obtained from METARs if the airport, the date, and time of the event are reported. Key information with no alternative sources (e.g., the characterization of the veer-off path) is considered essential data for reporting purposes. Some of this information is already collected as part of the accident investigation (e.g., runway identification) but is not always explicitly included in the accident documentation. Knowing the runway designation allows one to use other databases to find other parameters, such as the runway length and wind components.

A template for reporting veer-offs was created and is included in Appendix A. The purpose of the template is to identify key information for reporting veer-off events and describe the distances that may be used to characterize the aircraft path during the runway excursion. Figures have been included in Appendix A to illustrate the measurements needed to document the travel path of the aircraft from where it leaves the runway to where it stops or reenters the runway.

The measurement of the various distances should be as accurate as possible but by no means is the accuracy obtained by a surveyor expected. If engineering plans of the airport

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layout are available, it may be possible to make the field measurement from a known point and then add or subtract the distance to that point found on the engineering drawing. For example, "aircraft left the runway pavement, 150 feet beyond the north edge of the Taxiway Sierra intersection with the runway." The 150 feet measured in the field would be added to the distance from the beginning of the runway to the north edge of Taxiway Sierra that is measured on the engineering drawing. Although not required, a sketch of the veer-off path is always very helpful.

The purpose is to require the minimum data to avoid, as much as possible, overwhelming the investigator or reporter with inputting information that may be optional. For all veer-offs, it is important from a risk analysis perspective to document the aircraft travel path from where it departs the runway to where it comes to a stop. The figures presented in Appendix A depict the various types of veer-off travel paths.

Essential Data

- • Aircraft model (e.g., B737-400).
- • Airport code (e.g., DVT).
- Date and time of event.
- Runway used (e.g., 27R).
- • Type of operation (landing or takeoff).
- • Runway surface condition: dry, wet, contaminated with water, ice, slush, snow, or other.
- Begin roll location:
	- Longitudinal distance for begin roll (*DBR*):
		- Landing: approximate touchdown location measured from the beginning of the runway.
		- Takeoff: only if different from the beginning of the runway (always measured from beginning of runway).
	- Lateral distance for beginning roll (*LBR*): distance from runway edge, only if touchdown occurred off the runway.
- Veer-off path:
	- Longitudinal distance from the beginning of the runway where the first wheel of the aircraft departed the runway and runway side (*DExit*).
	- Longitudinal distance from the beginning of the runway where maximum veer-off occurred (*DMax*).
	- Lateral distance from runway edge (not pavement edge) where the maximum veer-off occurred (*LMax*).
	- Longitudinal distance from the beginning of the runway where aircraft stopped or reentered the runway after veering off (*DStop*).
	- Lateral distance from runway edge where aircraft stopped (*LStop*). Use zero if aircraft reentered runway.
- • Runway side: right or left relative to direction of operation.
- Cause(s) of aircraft damage, if any.

The distances defined above are applicable to the aircraft path during the veer-off only. If an aircraft crossed the RSA and entered a taxiway, the stop location should be assumed to be the point where the aircraft entered the taxiway before initiating normal taxiing operation. *All distances are measured to the center of the main gears of the aircraft.*

The template in Appendix A contains figures to illustrate the veer-off distances that will ideally be reported. These figures depict four different veer-off scenarios that are shown as either a left or a right veer-off.

Supporting Data

In addition to the essential information described in the previous section, it is always beneficial to include the following data in the report for sake of accuracy:

- • Runway distance available for the operation.
- Runway distance required for the operation.
- • Weather conditions (temperature, ceiling, visibility, wind speed and direction, gusts, type of precipitation), if any.
- Was runway grooved? Yes or No.
- RRSA conditions at time of the veer-off: dry, wet, snow, soft terrain, rough terrain.

Implementation of Veer-Off Data Collection Procedures

One of the main problems with attempting to collect accurate data for future runway veer-offs is that in many cases a representative from the NTSB or the FAA may never do an on-site investigation. This is especially true for veer-off incidents with minor consequences—in these cases, the RSA with its graded slopes and cleared areas have prevented the aircraft from incurring substantial damage and the aircraft occupants have not been seriously injured. From an accident-prevention perspective there is not much to be gained by sending someone to conduct an on-site investigation, especially during times when budgets are limited.

The reason for collecting additional information such as aircraft veer-off path is for the purpose of risk analysis. As mentioned earlier, the FAA is moving toward a risk-based decision-making processes; however, with the exception of funding, some ACRP studies like this one, the available tools for the industry are still very limited.

The prime beneficiary of collecting information on future veer-offs to support risk assessments would be the airport operator who either cannot obtain the full safety area or perhaps needs to modify the current safety area for one reason or another. The airport operator generally has an employee that has access to the airfield after a veer-off occurs, either on duty or subject to call back. Consequently, the cost and time of

traveling to the airport that other parties would incur would be minimized if an airport employee takes the measurements and collects the information described in this report.

A simple self-administered, computer-based training program to explain the data that needs to be collected for the various types of veer-offs and how it will be used may be the tool to implement data collection. Also, a standardized data collection form or the template shown in Appendix A could be used by airport operators. In establishing a program for this type of data collection, it would be essential to coordinate this data collection approach at the national level with NTSB, FAA and NASA, so the data may be saved in their respective accident and incident databases.

The main question with this type of approach would be what happens to the data once it is collected. If NTSB and FAA were agreeable, it could be sent to them for incorporation into their databases. ASRS information may be entered directly in the narrative of the incident by the reporter. Since NTSB's database primarily consists of accidents, they may be reluctant to include so many incidents where the only entries would be information from the airport operator's effort. The FAA would have to either modify the AIDS database to accommodate this data in a uniform fashion or establish a new database, which may represent a major challenge.

Alternative Sources of Information

The explicit data contained in accident and incident reports for veer-offs rarely provided all the information necessary to develop risk models. In many cases it was possible to infer some of the missing information from the report narratives. Often, information on weather conditions during the incident, if not included in the narrative, was obtained from historical MET-ARs for the specific location, date, and closest time of the event.

In ASRS reports, the airport where the event occurred may not be reported and the specific day and time are never reported. If the airport was identified, the mean temperature during the specific month for the time period of the accident was used. The temperature is an important factor needed to adjust the required runway distance for the operation.

Runway distances during an incident are seldom disclosed. Only the total runway length is normally available, even for NTSB reports. Historical satellite pictures from Google Earth can be used to measure the landing distance available (LDA) or the accelerate-stop distance available (ASDA). Although the information is available for existing conditions at websites like Airnav.com, runway extensions or reductions may have changed the available distances at the time of the incident.

In some reports, the narrative describes airfield components and structures such as taxiways, hangars, ditches, markers, etc. Identification of specific taxiways was obtained from airport diagrams available at airnav.com. Satellite images were used to identify the location distances associated with these structures.

In addition to the official websites with access to accident and incident reports, alternative databases were used to help screen relevant records and to check information inferred from the report narratives. The main sources used were:

- • Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Air Safety Institute Accident Database, and
- MITRE Corp. Aviation Accident Database.

In summary, other sources of information to complement missing data are presented in Table 1.

Appendix B of this report presents a summary of veer-off records screened from the listed sources.

Summary of Data Available/Usable

Table 2 summarizes the data available and usable obtained for this research. The first and second columns list the database source and the number of veer-off events screened that are relevant to this study. The following columns contain the number of events that contained some level of information, or none, to characterize the veer-off path of the aircraft during the veer-off.

Assumptions Made

As indicated in Table 1, comprehensive information required to characterize the veer-off path is seldom explicitly available in accident and incident reports, except for major accidents when a full investigation report was prepared.

To overcome this shortcoming, the research team made inferences and assumptions based on the narratives provided and used the additional data sources listed in previous sections. Although some accuracy was lost due to the assumptions made, the information developed in this study will assist the industry in understanding the mechanisms and the relationship between risk, available safety areas, and the presence of obstacles associated with aircraft veer-off accidents and incidents.

The approach will certainly improve knowledge of the relationship between airfield design standards and the risk level involved when standards cannot be met. When necessary, some assumptions were adopted, particularly to estimate the pathway during the runway excursion. In many cases, it was necessary to use the narrative to infer the phase of the roll-out at which the veer-off occurred.

When information required was not available in the report narrative, the procedures presented in Table 3 were used to obtain the data.

In some cases, based on the aircraft speed reported and type of aircraft, the distance from the beginning of the

Table 1. Complementary sources of information for modeling.

runway was inferred based on average acceleration and deceleration under the runway conditions reported. Other information and references available in the narrative, such as runway markers, taxiways, and other structures (e.g., ditches, hangars) were identified in satellite pictures to infer the distances.

In most cases, the runway declared distances are not reported in the accident reports. Current web sources only provide existing declared distances. Historical satellite images were used to measure the declared distance for the operation at the time of the event. Distance measurements when using Google Earth are quite accurate for the purpose of this study.

Table 2. Summary of data available and usable.

Information Available	Temperature	Wind (Speed and Direction)
Airport, date and time	Historical METAR information for time of event	Historical METAR information for time of event
Only date and time (no identification of airport)	No assumption was made	No assumption was made
Airport and date (no time)	Average air temperature at the airport for the date	Wind speed equal to zero if indicated that weather was not a factor
Airport and month, with time range (ASRS reports)	Average monthly temperature for the time range	Assumed zero wind if weather was not a factor. In a few cases, the day of the month was identified based on specific weather conditions reported in narrative (e.g., strong gusts, precipitations, etc.) and time range reported
Airport and month, but no information on runway used	Average monthly temperature for the time range	Assumed zero wind if weather was not a factor

Table 3. Procedures to obtain missing data.

CHAPTER 5

Modeling Veer-Off Risk

General Approach

Enhanced lateral runway excursion risk location models that reflect how RSA configuration and the presence of obstacles or unprepared terrain may impact veer-off risk are presented in this chapter. The enhanced location models are integrated to a three-part modeling approach. Event probability, location probability, and veer-off consequence are shown in Figure 8. This is similar to the approaches used under previous ACRP studies in this area.

The first component is the Event Probability (Frequency Model). The likelihood of an aircraft veer-off incident depends on the operation conditions, including airport characteristics, weather conditions, and aircraft performance. This also includes the interaction between the runway distance required by the aircraft for the given conditions and the runway distance available at the airport.

The probability of an accident is not equal for all locations around the runway. The probability of a veer-off close to the edge of the runway is higher than at larger distances from the runway edge. Also, the probability may be different over the length of the runway. This dependence is represented by the Location Probability Model, which is the second main element of the current methodology. Its development was one of the key goals of this study.

The last component is the Veer-Off Consequence Model. The basic approach uses the location models to assess the probability that an aircraft strikes an obstacle in the vicinity of the runway or departs the RSA leading to an accident.

Each of these three components is discussed in greater detail in the ensuing sections of this chapter.

Event Probability

The annual probability of an aircraft veer-off accident depends on the probability of an accident per aircraft movement and the number of movements (landings and takeoffs)

carried out per year. This probability may be different for each operation at the airport because the conditions may change. To estimate the probability of an accident per movement at any specific airport, a sample of historical data for operations, including aircraft, flight, and weather data is applied to the probability model.

During the landing, after touchdown, or during the takeoff roll, the pilot may lose directional control. Some common causes and contributing factors include low runway friction, snow accumulation on the runway, mechanical failures, adverse weather conditions, and pilot deviations.

The basis of the approach used to model frequency in this study is presented in *ACRP Report 50* and *ACRP Report 51.* The likelihood of an aircraft veer-off incident depends on the operational conditions and human factors. It includes airport characteristics, weather conditions, and the aircraft performance, as well as the relationship between the runway distance required by the aircraft for the given conditions and the runway distance available at the airport.

The basic model structure is:

$$
P\{ \text{Accident_Occurrence} \} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{b_0 + b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2 + b_3 X_3 + \dots}}
$$

where

- • *P*{*Accident_Occurrence*} is the probability (0–100%) of an accident type occurring given certain operational conditions;
- • *Xi* are independent variables (e.g., ceiling, visibility, crosswind, precipitation, aircraft type); and
- \bullet *b_i* are regression coefficients.

One of the parameters is named runway criticality and represents the interaction between the runway distance required by the aircraft and the runway distance available at the airport. The distance required is a function of the aircraft performance under specific conditions. Therefore,

Figure 8. Risk modeling approach (adapted from **ACRP Report 50***).*

every distance required under International Organization for Standardization (ISO) conditions (sea level, 15 degrees centigrade) is converted to actual conditions for operations. Moreover, the distances are adjusted for the runway surface condition (wet, snow, slush, or ice) and for the level of head/tailwind. The adjustment factors for runway surface

condition are those recommended by the Flight Safety Foundation (FSF, 2009). Table 4 presents the factors applied to the distance required by the aircraft.

Parameters *Xi* are defined in Table 5, which summarizes the model coefficients obtained for each veer-off frequency model.

Local Factor	Unit	Reference	Adjustment
Elevation (E)'	1000 ft	$E = 0$ ft	$F_F = 0.07 \times E + 1$
		(sea level)	
Temperature (T)'	deg C	$T = 15$ deg C	$F_T = 0.01 \times (T - (15 - 1.981 E) + 1)$
Tailwind for	knot	$TWLDJ = 0$ knot	$F_{TWI} = (RD + 22 \times TWLDJ)/RD''$
Jets(TWLDJ)iii			
Tailwind for	knot	$TWLDT = 0$ knot	$F_{TWI} = (RD + 30 \times TWLDT)/RD$
Turboprops(TWLDT) ⁱⁱⁱ			
Headwind for	knot		$HWTOJ = 0$ knot $F_{TWJ} = (RD + 6 \times HWTOJ)/RD$
Jets(HWTOJ)"			
Headwind (HWTOT) for	knot	$HWTOT = 0$	$F_{TWI} = (RD + 6 \times HWTOT)/RD$
Turbopropsiii		knot	
Runway Surface	Yes/No	Dry	$F_W = 1.4$
Condition-Wet (W) ^{1V}			
Runway Surface	Yes/No	Dry	$F_s = 1.6$
Condition-Snow (S) ^{1V}			
Runway Surface	Yes/No	Dry	$F_{SI} = 2.0$
Condition-Slush (SL) ^{iv}			
Runway Surface	Yes/No	Dry	$F_1 = 3.5$
Condition-Ice (I) ^{iv}			

Table 4. Correction factors applied to runway distance required.

Temperature and elevation corrections used for runway design.

ⁱⁱRD is the runway distance required.

"Correction for wind are average values for aircraft type (jet or turboprop).

ivRunway contamination factors are those suggested by FSF.

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where

Notes:

Ref: indicates the reference category against which the odds ratios should be interpreted. Non-hub airport: airport having less than 0.05% of annual passenger boardings.

These event probability models require the use of historical information on operations and weather for the specific airport. The necessary information on operations includes the time of the flight, runway used, type of aircraft, type of flight, and if the operation was an arrival or departure. In addition, it is necessary to collect the weather information for the same period that operational data are available, usually for one year.

Weather information for U.S. airports can be acquired directly from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) database for the weather station located at

the airport. However, the information on operations, particularly for non-towered airports, may be harder to obtain, particularly the identification of the runway used. For towered airports operational data can be requested from the FAA. Another challenge is to run the analysis because computations can be made only with the help of a computer and specific software that incorporates these models.

To facilitate the analysis, average veer-off rates in the U.S. presented in *ACRP Report 51* may be used to simplify the application of the proposed approach. The rates are presented

Table 5. Independent variables for veer-off frequency models.

Note: LDVO = landing veer-off, TOVO = takeoff veer-off, $SM =$ statute miles, $kt =$ knot, $OD =$ origin/destination.

in Table 6. The average incident rates are based on the number of accidents and incidents, and the total traffic of relevant operations from 1982 to 2009.

From Table 6, LDVOs are approximately 4 times more likely to occur than TOVOs.

Location Probability Models

There are two location probabilities that are modeled to incorporate in the analysis methodology:

• Longitudinal location: The probability that the veer-off occurs within a certain distance from the beginning of the

Table 6. Average veer-off incident rates (ACRP Report 51)

runway, where *DExit* is the distance from the beginning of the runway to where the plane exited the runway, and *DStop* is the distance from the beginning of the runway to where the plane stopped or returned to the runway paved area. The "*D*" distances are measured parallel to the runway centerline; and

• Lateral location: The probability that the aircraft may travel beyond a certain distance from the runway edge, where *L* is a given lateral distance from the runway edge. This "*L*" distance is measured perpendicular from the runway edge.

The product of the previous probabilities provides the probability that the aircraft veers off within a certain subarea between *DExit* and *DStop* from the beginning of the runway and travels beyond a certain distance *L* from the runway edge. Such models will support the analysis and evaluation of RSAs of different widths and help estimate the probability that the aircraft strikes an obstacle located near the runway.

Three alternatives were evaluated to normalize the longitudinal distances for modeling. The normalized models use normalized distances, or distances transformed to a reference (e.g., the runway length). Whether or not the normalization of longitudinal distances could improve model accuracy was also investigated. The three normalization alternatives evaluated were as follows:

- Alternative 1—Normalization for the runway distance available (RDA),
- Alternative 2—Use of raw distances without normalization, and
- Alternative 3—Normalization for the runway distance required.

The results achieved from each of these three alternatives were evaluated for accuracy and the most accurate alternative was incorporated into the analysis software developed in this study.

As mentioned earlier, rather than solely using the aircraft stopping location, this study attempts to characterize the veer-off path of the aircraft. It was essential to obtain information on where the aircraft departed the runway and the path followed by the aircraft to help identify the subareas of the RSA affected by the excursion as well as its probability distribution over the runway length.

Main Challenges to Develop Location Models

The main challenge in developing probabilistic models for runway veer-offs was to find information to characterize the aircraft veer-off path, as most accident and incident reports lack this information. The alternative was to review the narrative and identify any clues that could be used to infer

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the pathway. Clue indications in the narrative included such things as:

- Runway lights and signs struck by the aircraft;
- Speed when aircraft departed the runway;
- • Specific airfield components referenced (e.g., crossing of specific taxiways);
- Airfield structures and obstacles (e.g., ditches, hangars); and
- • Phase of flight (e.g., "*upon touchdown the right landing gear collapsed and the aircraft swerved to the right*").

Another important challenge was to identify an approach that could use the veer-off path instead of using only the final location where the aircraft stopped after the veer-off. This feature was deemed critical as some of veer-off accidents and incidents may challenge several subareas of the lateral RSA. The veer-off path was approximated by two linear models and it was necessary to develop a specific code to automatically calculate the lateral deviations for each subarea of the lateral RSA.

Characterization of the Aircraft Veer-Off Path

The aircraft veer-off path is defined as the path of the aircraft from the point where the aircraft departs the edge of the runway to the place the aircraft either comes to a stop or reenters the runway.

The veer-off pathway was required to generate data to develop the location models. The path was referenced by the longitudinal distance from the beginning of the runway and the lateral distance from the runway edge. Usually, the path cannot be completely characterized from the information provided in the accident/incident report. Some reports may provide the veer-off path in a diagram or a picture; others do not. Some assumptions and inferences were made based on information contained in the narrative of the report, when possible.

Figure 9 shows the references used to measure distances to characterize the veer-off path. For takeoffs, the longitudinal distances are measured from the beginning of the takeoff runway, unless it is reported that an intersection takeoff occurred. The veer-off distances for landings are measured from the landing threshold (beginning of the runway for landing). The lateral distance is always measured from the runway side edge.

The following parameters were defined to characterize the veer-off path and are illustrated in Figure 10:

• *DExit* is the longitudinal distance measured from the beginning of the runway to the point where the plane crossed the runway edge and departed the runway;

Figure 9. References to distances used to characterize veer-off path.

- *DStop* is the longitudinal distance measured from the beginning of the runway to the point where the plane stopped or returned to the runway;
- *LStop* is the lateral deviation where the plane stopped, or nil, if it returned to the runway surface;
- *LMax* is the maximum lateral deviation from the runway side edge; and
- *DMax* is the longitudinal distance measured from the beginning of the runway to where the plane had the *LMax.*

Figure 10 illustrates a veer-off for which the pilot tries to return the plane to the runway but stops prior to reaching the paved surface. In this situation, *LMax* is larger than *LStop.*

Implementing these parameters tries to mimic the actual veer-off path with some approximations. Figures 11 through 13

Figure 10. Characterization of

Figure 11. Runway veer-off

Figure 12. Runway veer-off –

Figure 13. Runway veer-off—

show the type of approximation introduced for different types of veer-off path.

In Figure 11, the lateral deviation increases until where the plane stops. In this case, *DStop* is equal to *DMax*, and *LStop* is equal to *LMax.* As shown in the figure, the actual path is normally a curve, which is approximated by a straight line.

As shown in Figure 12, the plane veers off the runway and returns to the runway paved area. The location at which the plane has the maximum lateral deviation is characterized with *LMax* and *DMax.* The final lateral distance *LStop* is equal to zero because the plane returned to the runway. The likely curved veer-off path is again approximated with straight lines.

Another possible veer-off scenario considered in this study is represented in Figure 13. In this case, the lateral deviation occurs prior to the touchdown, which occurs off the runway. In this case, the runway exit distance X_e is assumed to be the touchdown distance X_{td} . In most cases, the aircraft has its veer-off path parallel to the runway, as depicted in the figure.

As mentioned earlier, in addition to the veer-off path, data on weather conditions affecting aircraft performance and on runway distance required, such as air temperature, runway elevation, runway surface condition, effective slope, wind direction, and speed were also important information. Finally, it was necessary to characterize the physical condition of the runway, particularly the distances available for landing or takeoff, depending on the type of incident.

Normalization of Longitudinal Distances

As indicated in earlier sections, the location models developed in this task used a D-L coordinate system where the D-origin was set at the beginning of the runway, and the L-origin was set at the runway edge, as shown in Figure 14, where D1 and L1 coordinates represent the aircraft location off the runway.

Three alternatives to transform, or, in other words, to normalize the longitudinal distances were evaluated in this study. The normalization procedure consisted of the transformation

Figure 14. Reference coordinate System for veer-off location.

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of the longitudinal distances to a reference length, as described below. The runway length was divided into 10 subareas and the location of each subarea is a function of the specific normalization procedure used, as follows:

- Alternative 1: Normalization for RDA:—actual longitudinal distances characterizing the veer-off pathway were divided by the runway distance available for each event. In this case, the beginning of the runway is the origin $(D=0)$ and the runway end is the maximum value $(D = 1)$.
- Alternative 2: Raw Distances: Actual longitudinal distances from the beginning of the runway were used and the runway subareas were divided into 800-ft intervals with the last interval containing any distance greater than 7,200 ft.
- Alternative 3: Normalization for Runway Distance Required (RDR): The runway distance required by the aircraft involved in the event was estimated based on the actual aircraft model, runway elevation, air temperature, and effective runway slope. The subareas were composed of sections with 0.1 RDR in length, with the last interval containing any distance greater than 0.9 RDR.

As an illustration, the subareas used for Alternative 1, the normalization of longitudinal distances for the runway distance available, are shown in Figure 15. The runway distance available is divided into 10 sections of equal length and each section includes both the right and the left side subareas of the lateral runway area. Each subarea comprises 5% of the total lateral RSA.

It is important to note that the lateral distances were not normalized and only the raw distances in feet were used for modeling. The maximum lateral distance from the runway edge for the grid was set to 1,000 ft. The lateral distance for each event was computed for each subarea that includes any part of the veer-off path. The largest value of *L* in each subarea was selected to represent the lateral deviation at the subarea for the specific veer-off event, as illustrated in Figure 16. In this example, the aircraft departed the runway in *subarea 2R* and stopped in *subarea 6R.* S*ubareas 1R, 7R, 8R, 9R*, *10R* and none of the subareas on the left of the runway were challenged by the veer-off event. In subarea $2R$, the corresponding D_2 is the maximum value of the path in the subarea, which is equivalent to the deviation value when the aircraft crossed the interface between *subareas 2R* and *3R.*

An algorithm was developed and implemented in MS Excel to calculate the lateral distances for each event in each subsection, as a function of the normalization procedure used. The algorithm uses the veer-off distances to define the two linear segments representing the veer-off pathway and calculates the maximum lateral distance in each segment challenged by the veer-off. Data generated was used to develop lateral probability models for each subsection of the RSA.

It should be noted that the example presented is quite simple because the veer-off path was approximated with one straight line. For other cases, when the aircraft has a *LMax* that is greater than *LStop* (the plane stopping location), the path is represented by two straight lines and the same principle of using the maximum veer-off deviation in the subarea is applied.

Location Models

The development of a modeling approach for veer-off deviations was one of the key tasks in this study. The basic approach consisted of the following steps for the three normalization alternatives evaluated:

• Define the grid associated with the selected normalization procedure;

Runway Distance Available (RDA)

Figure 15. Normalization for RDA subareas.

Figure 16. Representative deviation for each subarea—example.

- Conduct normalization for longitudinal veer-off distances;
- Identify which subareas were challenged by each event;
- • Estimate the lateral deviation in each subarea challenged by each veer-off event;
- Repeat the process for each veer-off event and count the number of times that each subarea was challenged by all events to calculate the percentage of occurrences in each subarea;
- Using the lateral deviation values estimated for each subarea, develop mathematical models to estimate the probability that an aircraft exceeds a certain lateral deviation during the veer-off event in the specific subarea;
- Based on the probability that aircraft may challenge each subarea, develop cumulative probability curves for longitudinal distances covered during the veer-off event; and
- Develop risk contour curves based on the subarea probabilities and the lateral deviation models for each subarea.

It is important to note that the modeling effort presented in ensuing sections was developed based on the assumption that aircraft has an equal chance to veer off to the right or to the left side of the runway. However, out of 873 records containing information on the veer off side, in 518 events the aircraft departed the left side, in 354 cases the aircraft departed the right side, and in 1 case the aircraft departed one side, crossed the runway and departed the other side.

A Chi-Square statistical test was conducted and results demonstrated a statistically significant trend toward veer-offs to the left side of the runway. Despite this result, the models were still developed considering an equal split to the left and right side, since runways are used in both directions and splitting the data to model both sides would negatively impact model accuracy.

Lateral deviation and longitudinal distance models and risk contour curves were developed for three normalization alternatives described earlier: RDA, raw distances, and RDR; however, only the alternative using the RDA was selected to incorporate in the analysis approach because it was assumed to be the most accurate approach based on the stability of the contour lines generated with the models. High variability in the generated risk contour lines was assumed to be an indication that the models using the specific transformation may not be suitable or may lead to larger errors.

To a certain degree, the distance available is related to the aircraft performance during operations in the runway, including the adjustments for elevation, temperature, slope, wind, and surface conditions. The resulting contour lines using RDA for normalization were more stable and the technique was selected for use in the analysis software.

Only the models using the normalization for RDA will be presented in the body of this report. Results for the other two normalization alternatives are presented in Appendix G.

A set of lateral deviation models for veer-off was developed using the RDA to transform the longitudinal distances of the veer-off path for each event. The transformation is simply the ratio between the veer-off path distance and the RDA; therefore, the path distances are given as percentages of the RDA for landing or takeoff, depending on the type of operation. For example during a landing operation, *DExit* is equal to 0.25, which means that the aircraft exited the runway at 25% of the landing distance available (LDA), measured from the beginning of the runway.

Longitudinal Probability Distribution

Figure 17 illustrates the longitudinal probability distribution for both landing and takeoff veer-offs when distances are normalized with the RDA. Figures 18 and 19 depict the longitudinal probability distributions for LDVO and TOVO, respectively.

Based on the results presented in Figures 17, 18 and 19, the cumulative probability distributions for normalization with

Figure 17. Longitudinal probability distribution—both LDVOs and TOVOs—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure 18. Longitudinal probability distribution—LDVOs only—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure 19. Longitudinal probability distribution—TOVOs only—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure 20. Longitudinal cumulative probability distribution for LDVOs and TOVOs—distances normalized with RDA.

runway distance available were developed. The model integrating both LDVOs and TOVOs is illustrated in Figure 20. A polynomial curve was fit to the cumulative probability points. A high degree polynomial was used to obtain the models representing the probabilities for each subarea with the highest accuracy possible. The models are represented by the following equations. An R^2 of 99.99% was achieved (R^2 is a statistical measure of fit; $R^2 = 100\%$ signifies a perfect fit).

Integrated Model for TOVOs and LDVOs

 $CP = -12.1793D^6 + 36.7712D^5 - 38.3658D^4 + 13.9251D^3$

 $+0.4265D^2 + 0.4225D(R^2 = 99.9\%)$

Model for LDVO

 $CP = -20.4465D^6 + 63.2398D^5 - 69.4061D^4 + 29.2622D^3$

 $-1.8031D^2 + 0.1538D(R^2 = 99.9\%)$

Model for TOVO

 $CP = 13.1509D^6 - 43.3722D^5 + 54.6310D^4 - 32.0242D^3$

 $+ 7.4079D^2 + 1.2068D$

where:

D is the normalized longitudinal distance from the beginning of the runway and

CP is the cumulative probability that a veer-off will occur within *D.*

Lateral Probability Distribution

The lateral deviation models were developed using the following form:

 $P\{L > L_1\} = e^{aL^b}$

where

 $P\{L > L_1\}$ is the probability that the lateral deviation *L* exceeds a given distance L_1 and

a, *b* are model coefficients.

Mathematical models were developed for each subarea using the lateral deviations generated for each LDVO and TOVO event challenging each subarea. Therefore, ten different models were developed for this normalization alternative with respect to the runway distance available. Table 5 summarizes the model coefficients for each subarea. Figures comparing the model estimates with actual data are presented in Appendix C. The last column in Table 7 shows the models' *R*² , which represent the excellent accuracy achieved.

Based on these models, risk contour lines were derived to cover the runway distance available, as shown in Figure 21. It should be noted that the contour lines represent both sides of the runway. Aircraft deviations are referenced to the center point of the aircraft between the main gears. The ISO-risk lines can be used to estimate the probability that an aircraft exceeds the lateral distance in a given subarea. For example, there is a 5% chance that the path of an aircraft veering off the runway and challenging subarea 6 will exceed a lateral deviation of approximately 200 ft.

It should be noted that the risk contour curves presented in Figure 21 are applied to individual subareas. It is not possible to calculate the risk of an accident for a given scenario in which the safety area may have limits and some obstacles may be present. However, it is possible to combine the lateral deviation models with the probability that an aircraft will challenge specific subareas of the runway. Figure 22 combines the results from Figure 21 and the lateral deviation models presented in Table 5, where the probabilities for a given distance are multiplied by the subarea probability.

In this case, the contour lines represent the probabilities that an aircraft will exceed a given lateral distance during a runway excursion.

Table 7. Lateral deviation models for normalization using RDA.

Figure 21. Risk contours—probability of deviations exceeding a given distance **L1** *for each subarea—distances normalized with RDA.*

Figure 22. Risk contours—adjusted probability of deviations exceeding a given distance **L1***—distances normalized with RDA.*

Veer-Off Consequences Approach

Using both the lateral deviation models for individual subareas in combination with the cumulative probability model for the longitudinal distance, it is possible to evaluate the risk that an aircraft strikes an obstacle during the veer-off. However, the risk of accidents during veer-offs is not always associated with the aircraft collision with an obstacle. For example, in many events the landing gear collapsed during the touchdown resulting in major damage to the aircraft, even before the aircraft departed the runway. In other situations, uneven terrain, sometimes resulting from transitions between paved and unpaved areas, caused the landing gear to collapse or wing/engine to collide with the terrain. Another common occurrence is the collapse of the landing gear during the runway excursion due to high stresses when tires sink in soft terrain. In many cases, minor damage was caused by aircraft striking runway/taxiway lights and signs.

Probability of Accidents

Figure 23 summarizes different causes of damage to aircraft during veer-off events with associated frequencies. The illustration contains three groups involving both accidents and incidents, accidents only, and incidents only. The following categories of aircraft damage cause were identified:

- *Touchdown Hard*—aircraft suffers damage as a result of high stresses or striking the wingtip on the ground. In many cases, damage was a result of the collapse of landing gears.
- • *Rough Terrain*—aircraft departed the prepared surface of the safety area, crossed the transitions between paved and

unpaved surfaces (e.g., crossing taxiways), unprepared terrain, or areas with varying bearing capacity, in many cases off the RSA.

- *Soft Terrain*—aircraft wheels sinking in soft terrain causing high stresses to landing gear that lead to collapse.
- • *Struck Light/Sign*—although frangible, these structures may still cause damage to aircraft during runway excursions and increase severity of veer-offs.
- • *Mechanical Collapse of Landing Gear*—this category does not include cases in which gear collapse occurred due to hard touchdown and is only related to the collapse of the gear during normal touchdowns.
- *Struck Obstacles*—aircraft striking obstacles other than runway/taxiway lights and signs. It may include hangars, ditches, other aircraft, etc.
- • Other damage causes may include foreign object debris (FOD) ingestion, blown tires, gear-up landings, wildlife strikes, etc.

The frequency observed for each of the seven categories of damage causes are represented in Figure 23.

Based on Figure 23, the main causes of damage to aircraft during veer-offs were rough terrain and the striking of lights and signs. For accidents, the main causes of damage to aircraft were rough terrain, soft terrain, and striking of obstacles. Striking lights and signs were the main cause of damage to aircraft during veer-off incidents.

It is important to note that the damage cause may or may not be the cause of the veer-off. For instance, if the landing gear collapses due to high stresses during touchdown, it may be the cause of the veer-off and the cause of damage. However, if an aircraft strikes an obstacle off the runway, it is normally the result of the veer-off rather than the cause of the event.

Figure 23. Damage causes during aircraft veer-offs (Mech = mechanical, $Acc = accident, Inc = incident).$

Location where Aircraft Damage Occurred

Figure 24. Location at which damage was caused to aircraft (Rwy runway).

Figure 24 summarizes the data for accidents/incidents for which records contained a veer-off path. This figure indicates aircraft damage frequencies and if the damage occurred on or off the runway. In some cases, aircraft was damaged both on the runway and off.

These results are very important to support the modeling approach for consequences because accidents occurring during veer-offs are not always related to aircraft striking obstacles in the vicinity of the runway. Since the damage cause for many veer-off events is not associated with the presence of obstacles in the safety area or its vicinity, it was necessary to combine the probability of striking an obstacle with the probability of substantial damage to the aircraft from other causes based on evidence from veer-off accidents and incidents. Historically, approximately 25% of reported veer-off events result in substantial damage to aircraft. Out of those 25%, approximately 3% resulted from aircraft colliding with obstacles. Therefore, the probability of an accident from causes not related with obstacles was approximately 22%.

Probability of Aircraft Striking Obstacles

Modeling the probability of an aircraft striking an obstacle will require evaluating the probability that the aircraft path passes within the obstacle area. Each veer-off event has a wreckage path associated with it and Figures 25 and 26 illustrate the average longitudinal distances for each subarea covered by the aircraft path during the runway excursion for LDVOs and TOVOs, respectively.

Based on the results presented in Figure 25 for LDVOs, the *average* distance covered is fairly constant for all the subareas. For TOVOs, the distance is small for subareas near the start of the takeoff and becomes constant for subareas beyond the runway midpoint, as shown in Figure 26. The average distances for each subarea will be used to define an area of influence

Figure 25. Average longitudinal distance covered during landing veer-off path fraction of RDA.

associated with the position of the obstacle along the runway, as shown in Figure 27.

Two areas are characterized in the figure. The first area is called *Area of Influence 1* and its length is associated with the average distance X1 covered during veer-offs in the subarea where the obstacle is located, as presented in Figures 25 and 26. X1 depends on the type of operation (landing or takeoff) and the subarea in which the beginning of the obstacle is located. It is assumed that veer-offs initiated in this region will impact the obstacle. The end of this region is located at a distance equivalent to half of the wingspan (WS) of the aircraft considered in the analysis. In this case, it is assumed that the aircraft may collide with the obstacle if located at the farthest point of this region if it deviates enough from the runway edge.

The second region is defined as *Area of Influence 2.* This area has a length X2 that can be calculated with the following formula:

 $X2 = L_{obs} + WS/2 + WS/2 = L_{obs} + WS$

where

X2 is the length of *Area of Influence 2*, Lobs is the length of the obstacle, and WS is the wingspan of the aircraft considered.

Runway Distance Available (RDA)

Figure 27. Areas of influence (WS = wingspan, L_{obs} *= length of the obstacle, X1 average distance covered during veer-offs in the subarea where the obstacle is located, X2 length of Area of Influence 2).*

The next step in the modeling approach is illustrated in Figure 28. In this figure (not to scale), the obstacle is located on the left side of the runway at a distance from the runway edge. To use a simple example, the obstacle is parallel to the runway and both the beginning and end of the obstacle are located at the same distance from the runway edge $(L_1 = L_2)$ $(L_1$ is the lateral distance to the beginning of the obstacle measured from the edge of the runway. L_2 is the lateral distance to the

end of the obstacle measured from the edge of the runway. The beginning and end of the obstacle are defined based on the direction of operation). For a given aircraft WS, both the length of the obstacle parallel to the runway and the distance from the runway edge are adjusted to include half of the WS (WS/2) as shown in the illustration. The adjustment is to consider the difference between the center of the aircraft, which is the reference for the distances $(D - L)$ used in the probability

Figure 28. Total area of influence and calculation of probabilities (D1 is the longitudinal distance from the runway approach end to the beginning of the obstacle. D₂ is the longitudinal distance to the end of the obstacle. Beginning and end of obstacle are defined according to the direction of operation.).

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models and the tip of the wing. A collision is assumed when the aircraft wingtip or any part of the aircraft strikes the obstacle.

With D_1 , probability (P_1) is calculated from the cumulative probability model developed in this study. Using the same model, probability (P_2) is estimated based on a distance (D_2) , as shown in the illustration. The probability that the aircraft will veer off in the longitudinal region of the obstacle (PD) is estimated by $PD = P_2 - P_1$.

Next, the probability that the lateral deviation from the runway edge exceeds $L_1 - WS/2$ (PL) is estimated using the lateral deviation model for the subarea(s) and the total probability that the aircraft may have struck the obstacle is calculated by the product PD*PL.

One or more obstacles may be considered using the approach. In some cases, where the obstacle is at the ground level (e.g., ditches), the center of the aircraft or the width of the main landing gear is considered instead of the wingspan. In addition, the approach may also be applied to obstacles with variable distances to the runway edge, by splitting the obstacle in two or more elements. Theoretically, the lateral deviation models could be used to evaluate an obstacle with limited depth, in case the aircraft veers off the runway and has its path

behind the obstacle; however, the approach was conservative and the models incorporated in the analysis software cannot evaluate this scenario; instead, it is assumed that obstacles extend to the limits of the RSA.

The ultimate goal of modeling the consequences is to estimate the probability of accidents resulting from the presence of obstacles. If desired, an adjustment factor can be applied to the probability of veer-offs to estimate the probability of accidents resulting from collision with obstacles. Therefore, the probability of an accident can be calculated using the following equation:

$P_{\text{acc}} = P_{\text{vo}} * (P_{\text{cobs}} + 0.22)$

where

- P_{acc} is the probability of an accident in the event of a veer-off,
- \bullet P_{vo} is the probability of a veer-off (calculated from the frequency model),
- P_{cobs} is the probability of a collision with an obstacle resulting from the veer-off, and
- 0.22 is a factor used to add the probability of accidents not related to collision with obstacles.

CHAPTER 6

Analysis Software

Overview

Analysis software for aircraft veer-offs developed in this study is named Lateral Runway Safety Area Risk Analysis (LRSARA). It integrates the approach and the models developed into an analysis tool that is user-friendly and incorporates three basic interfaces: (1) an interface for entering data, characterizing the RSA, and managing files; (2) a module that contains the algorithm to check the validity of data, process the information, and perform the calculations to estimate veer-off risk; and (3) an interface to organize results and output in report format.

The software program and the accompanying user guide (presented in Appendix G) are available for download at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) website. The user guide may also be accessed from the Help menu within the program. The software main screen is shown in Figure 29.

Software Capabilities

With LRSARA, airport stakeholders may analyze nonstandard RSA widths and the presence of obstacles in the vicinity of the runway lateral RSA. A summary of LRSARA capabilities is presented below:

- Perform full-risk assessment for multiple runways.
- Enter multiple obstacles in each RSA scenario.
- Characterize two different categories of obstacles (ground or high).
- • Define and analyze non-standard (non-rectangular) RSA geometry.
- • Internally integrate operations and weather data from separate files.
- Automatically convert operations and weather data into parameters used by probability models.
- Include database of aircraft with capability to add new or edit existing aircraft characteristics.
- Automatically compute runway criticality factor for each operation.
- Automatically correct for required distances (landing and takeoff) based on elevation, temperature, wind, and runway surface condition.
- • Generate analysis reports from software with summaries of the following parameters:
	- Average risk for each type of incident by runway, by RSA section, and total for the airport.
	- The expected number of years for an accident to occur for a user-defined annual traffic volume and growth rate.
	- Percentage of operations subject to a probability higher than a user-defined target level of safety (TLS).
	- Graphical outputs with the distribution of risk for each RSA and each type of event.
- • Run a simplified analysis using default or user-defined veeroff probabilities, with no need to enter historical operations and historical weather conditions.

Input Data

Input data required to run the analysis include the following information:

- Sample of historical operations data (date and time, aircraft model, runway used, type of operation, etc.) if full analysis is selected.
- Sample of weather data for the airport covering the historical operations sample period (wind, temperature, precipitation, visibility, etc.).
- • Characteristics of runways (elevation, direction, declared distances, displaced threshold) if full analysis is selected.
- Characteristics of RSAs (geometry and location, size, and category of obstacles).
- • General information (airport annual traffic volume, annual growth rate).

Much of the input information is arranged in table format. Operations and weather data are entered using Microsoft Excel templates with automatic checks for value ranges

Figure 29. LRSARA—main program screen.

and data format. Figure 30 shows the program screen and template to input operations data.

The template for drawing the lateral RSA area was also created using Microsoft Excel. It consists of a canvas area formed by a matrix of cells. Each cell corresponds to a coordinate that is referenced to the runway edge. To include an obstacle, the user assigns a letter to each cell to define the type of obstacle. Entering "g" represents a ground obstacle (e.g., ditch, rough terrain, depression). If letter "w" is entered, it represents a wing-level obstacle to account for the risk of aircraft wings or fuselage striking the obstacle in the given location. After entering a letter, the color of the cell will change according to the type of obstacle entered to facilitate the visualization of the drawing. Figure 31 shows an example of an RSA defined with the tool.

Output and Interpretation

Two analysis alternatives are available: full and simplified. In full analysis it is necessary to enter historical operations and weather conditions for the airport. The information will feed the frequency models for each historical operation at the airport. If simplified analysis is selected, the probabilities of landing and takeoff veer-offs are fixed and either default values from *ACRP Report 51* will be used, or the user may define the two probabilities.

When the analyses are completed, the user may see the results using the Output option in the main menu. There are two types of results: runways or the consolidated results for the whole airport. Within each of these options, the user can view the results for probability of landing and takeoff veer-off events or view the analysis output for the risk of accidents.

Each worksheet contains the risk estimates for one type of veer-off and individual operation and the total veer-off risk during landings and takeoffs. The results for each individual runway are provided in separate Excel output files. The summary table provides the average risk for each type of accident and expected number of years for a veer-off accident to occur. The accumulated risk distribution is provided in graphical form for the lateral RSA.

The results for the entire airport are provided in one Excel output file. The user must create the output files for each runway prior to creating the output file for the airport. An example presenting the summary of results for the whole airport using the full analysis is shown in Figure 32. The main table contains a summary of average risk levels for each type of veer-off accident and total risk involving both runways analyzed. Risk levels are shown in terms of accident rates per number of operations and expected number of years for one accident to occur. Additional tables are presented showing the average risk for each runway, the percentage of movements with higher risk, and the number of operations challenging the lateral RSA sections associated with each runway. Similar output reports are generated if the analysis involves multiple runways.

The first table contains three user-defined fields: the airport annual traffic volume, the expected annual traffic growth rate, and the TLS. These values reflect the options entered during the analysis input phase and may be modified by the user directly in the output spreadsheet. When these parameters are changed, the average number of years between accidents will change to reflect the new traffic volume estimated for future years. If the TLS is modified, the percentage of movements above the TLS will change automatically to reflect the new TLS value.

HOD ID	DATE&TIME	RUNWAY		Arr/Dep	FAA Code	FLIGHT_Categr ^			
	1/10/2006 12:03 AM	15 ₁₅		A	A319	AIR			
$\overline{2}$	1/10/2006 12:14 AM	33		A	MD83	AIR			
3	1/10/2006 12:17 AM	33		A	B752	AIR			
1/10/2006 12:19 AM 4		15 ₁₅		A	A320	AIR			
5	1/10/2006 12:21 AM	33 [°]		A	B752	AIR			
6	1/10/2006 12:26 AM	33		D	A319	AIR			
7	1/10/2006 12:27 AM	33		D	B744	AIR			
۰	MA neich annelarly	22 m.	XIG	$D+ \times \vert \pm \vert$ \sim				Example HOD Input - Microsoft Excel	
Total number of records: 2000			File	Home	Page Layout Insert	Data Formulas	Review	View	Acrobat
				D ₄	f_x A $+1$				
				A	B	C		\mathbf{D}	F
		Create New							
		Input File		HOD ID	DATE&TIME	RUNWAY DESIGNATION		BOUND	FLIGHT
			$\overline{2}$ $\overline{3}$	1 $\overline{2}$	1/10/06 12:03 AM 1/10/06 12:14 AM		15 33		AC AAI
			4	$\overline{3}$	1/10/06 12:17 AM		33		UA
		Edit Existing	$\sqrt{5}$	$\overline{4}$	1/10/06 12:19 AM		15		
		Input File	$\overline{6}$	5	1/10/06 12:21 AM		33	Please enter	\int_{J}^{1} Flight Bound
			$\overline{7}$	6	1/10/06 12:26 AM		33	either A for	b
			8	$\overline{7}$	1/10/06 12:27 AM		33	departures	arrivals or D for
			9 10	8 9	1/10/06 12:30 AM 1/10/06 12:33 AM		33 33		$rac{1}{s}$ T/ D

Figure 30. Example of input screen and template.

Figure 31. RSA characterization using Microsoft Excel template.

Figure 32. Example output summary.

CHAPTER 7

Model Validation

The purpose of model validation was to perform an independent check to compare risk estimated with the models to historical risk rates for a sample of airports. Moreover, probability distributions used to develop the models were compared to the probability distribution generated with an independent sample of veer-off records.

A secondary goal was to validate analysis software by checking its performance, rationality, and consistency in running analyses and outputting estimated risk for given RSA and operation conditions. This chapter describes each test conducted to accomplish these goals.

Validation of Veer-Off Location Models

Mathematical models were developed to characterize the probability distributions for longitudinal and lateral distances associated with veer-off accidents and incidents. To validate these models, an independent sample of data on veer-off accidents and incidents was used to compare the distribution obtained with the models, with the probability distributions derived from the independent validation data. This section presents data used, results, statistical analyses conducted, and conclusions on validation of the runway veer-off location modeling.

Summary of Independent Sample Data

Data on veer-offs were collected prior to the modeling effort. A randomization process was used to select approximately 15% of available data, which were not used in developing the models. This independent sample was kept aside to be used during the validation effort. A summary of data used for validation is as follows:

- Period: 1983 to 2011:
- 91 accident and incident records with information on veeroff path;
- • 47 veer-off accidents and 44 veer-off incidents;
- 68 veer-offs during landing and 23 veer-offs during takeoff; and
- • 79 records from U.S. databases (NTSB, AIDS, and ASRS), and 12 records from international databases.

A summary of records used for validation of probability distributions is included in Appendix G.

Probability Distribution for Longitudinal Distances

Two models to characterize the probability distribution for longitudinal distances during the veer-offs were developed: one for veer-offs during landings and another model for veer-offs during takeoffs. An integrated model representing both takeoffs and landings was also developed and was used for the comparisons. The main reason in using the integrated model rather than individual models for each type of operation is the size of the independent sample. In the independent sample there are only 23 records of veer-off events during takeoffs. This number of records would be insufficient to conduct the hypothesis test proposed to compare the probability distributions.

Figure 33 presents two probability distributions for longitudinal distance. The distribution obtained during the modeling phase is represented by the white bars and the distribution for the independent sample is represented by the dark gray bars. Except for subarea 0.3, the distributions look very similar. Table 8 contains the number of veer-off occurrences in each subarea of the runway. Each subarea represents 10% of the total distance available for the operation when the veeroff occurred. It is important to note that one veer-off event may challenge more than one subarea; therefore, the number of occurrences in each subarea should not be confused with the number of veer-off events reported.

A Chi-square goodness of fit test was applied to statistically evaluate the similarities of the two distributions shown

Figure 33. Longitudinal distance probability distributions: model vs. validation sample.

in Figure 33. The technique is used to test the hypothesis that two probability distributions match. A p-value of 0.09 was obtained from the analysis, with acceptance of the null hypothesis of no differences, thus indicating that the two distributions may be considered statistically similar.

Probability Distribution for Lateral Distances

Modeling data for all subareas were integrated for the purpose of comparing the modeled probability distribution for lateral distances with the distribution obtained from the independent validation sample. Results are graphically summarized in Figure 34 and based on this plot, an excellent agreement was achieved between the models developed in Task 4 and the probability distribution derived from the validation data. It should be noted that integration of data for all subareas was necessary due to the very small sample sizes.

Table 8. Number of occurrences in each subarea.

Subarea	Model	Validation Sample
0.1	55	4
0.2	99	19
0.3	146	41
0.4	145	28
0.5	146	24
0.6	105	16
0.7	77	12
0.8	59	9
0.9	54	6
$\mathbf{1}$	44	14

Figure 34. Probability distributions for lateral distances: model vs. validation sample.

Comparison of Estimated Risk with Historical Frequency

The same eight airports used in the *ACRP Report 50* study were also used in this study to compare estimated risk with historical frequency of accidents and incidents for these airports. These airports were initially selected using random stratified sampling to screen airports for generating the sample. Only airports that did not contribute data to create the normal operations data (NOD) used in the modeling process for veer-off frequency were screened. The procedure resulted in a sample of airports with a spectrum of characteristics, from small GA airports to large hubs, and distributed over various regions of the U.S.; the estimated results obtained from analyses are compared to the actual rate of accidents at the selected group of airports. Operational and weather data for the eight airports, presented in Table 9, were collected and processed to make the data compatible with LRSARA software input format.

Lateral RSA conditions and the presence of obstacles were characterized using satellite images (Google Earth). Data for airports were collected and consolidated. Operations data were retrieved from the FAA Operations & Performance Data and Aeronautical Information Management lab. The weather data were obtained from the NOAA database for the meteorological stations serving each airport. A list of veer-off accidents and incidents identified from the sample of eight airports over the past three decades is presented in Appendix F and a summary of results of the analysis is presented in Table 10.

The expected number of years between critical events is based on the average annual volume of operations during 2011 and assuming an average annual growth rate of 2.5%. The estimates were calculated using the average level of risk

State	Airport Name	Location ID	City	Hub
FL	Miami International	MIA	Miami	
AK	Anchorage International	ANC	Anchorage	M
MO	Lambert-St. Louis International	STL	St. Louis	M
WA	Spokane International	GEG	Spokane	
SD	Joe Foss Field	FSD	Sioux Falls	N
WV	Yeager	CRW	Charleston	N
AZ	Deer Valley International	DVT	Phoenix	GA
FL	Ft. Lauderdale Executive	FXE	Ft. Lauderdale	GA

Table 9. List of airports for model/software validation.

Note: $L =$ large hub, $M =$ medium hub, $s =$ small hub, $N =$ non-hub, and GA = general aviation.

for the entire airport, as shown in column 5 of Table 10. The last two columns of Table 10 contain the incident type with highest chances of occurrence and the most critical runway.

Validation of Frequency Models

Comparison of the actual rate for each type of veer-off and at each airport individually would not be very helpful because these are rare events and the number of occurrences is relatively low. In addition, given the limited sample size of airports used in the validation, the analysis consisted of comparing the rates for the whole sample of eight airports. Figure 35 shows frequency rates for LDVOs and TOVOs with three different estimates: the historical frequency rate in the United States, the actual frequency rate for the sample of eight airports, and the estimated frequency rate for the sample of airports. The rates for the sample were calculated based on the weighted average for the eight airports; in other words, the risk rate for each airport was weighted for its associated annual volume of operations.

The actual rate represents the total number of veer-offs from 1981 to 2011 divided by the total volume of operations during the same period. The figure shows these results in both graphical and tabular format. Some differences were expected given the small sample size of eight airports surveyed. The

figure also presents the total probability for veer-off events compared for the three scenarios evaluated.

The results presented in Figure 35 demonstrate good agreement between actual accident rates for the sample of airports and the historical rate for all the airports in the United States. The results support that the sample of airports is representative of conditions for the population of airports in the United States. It can also be noted that the estimated probability for LDVOs is almost half of the U.S. historical rate and almost half the actual rate of LDVOs for the sample airports. A similar trend was observed for LDVO events in the *ACRP Report 50* study, which used the same group of eight airports. Despite the difference observed, the research team assumes that the difference may be attributed to the small sample size of eight airports used for the comparison of such rare events. The actual frequency rate of TOVOs for the eight airports agreed with the estimated frequency rates for this sample and with the U.S. historical rate of TOVOs. It is important to note that frequency rates involve both accidents and incidents, with no distinction of the level of severity.

Validation of Accident Risk Models

The second part of the validation effort consisted of the comparison of actual accident risk rates with those estimated

Airport	State	Annual NOD in 2011	No. of Runways	Average Airport Risk	Average # of Years to Critical Veer- Off	Most Critical Runway	Airport's Most Critical Type of Incident
ANC	AK	270K	3	1.7E-07	18	07R	LDVO
CRW	WV	70K	1	4.4E-07	24	05	LDVO
DVT	AZ	190K	$\overline{2}$	1.7E-07	23	07L	TOVO
FXE	FL	33K	2	$2.4E - 07$	58	13	LDVO
MIA	FL	380K	4	8.4E-08	23	30	LDVO
FSD	SD	54K	$\overline{2}$	2.3E-07	44	21	LDVO
GEG	WA	67K	$\overline{2}$	3.2E-07	32	25	TOVO
STL	MO	191K	4	$1.2E-07$	31	30R	LDVO

Table 10. Summary of analysis results for sample of airports.

Figure 35. Actual and estimated frequency of veer-offs for sample of airports.

for the sample of eight airports. The estimated risk of veer-off accidents is associated with the likelihood of an accident, rather than a simple incident. According to NTSB, accident is defined as an occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft where, as a result of the operation, any person receives fatal or serious injury or any aircraft receives substantial damage. This is also the definition used in this study to characterize an aircraft accident.

Data presented in Appendix F contain the accidents that took place at the eight sample airports from 1981 to 2011. The table includes three LDVO accidents that took place at FXE airport (two events) and STL airport (one event). The ratio between the actual number of LDVO accidents in that period divided by the volume of landings at the airports provides the actual risk of LDVOs for the airport sample. There were no TOVO accidents for the 8 airports during the analysis period; therefore, the historical rate of takeoff veer-offs for the airport sample is nil.

Similar to the validation of the frequency models, the comparison is made for LDVO and TOVO accidents, as well as for the total accident rate. Again, three types of rates were calculated for each type of accident: the estimated rate for the sample of eight airports, the actual (historical) rate for the sample of airports, and the historical rate in the U.S. The results are shown in Figure 36 in both graphical and tabular form.

The rates for LDVO accidents are in good agreement between actual and estimated risk for the sample of airports. It may be noted that the historic risk of runway veer-off accidents is relatively higher for U.S. airports. However the estimated and actual rates are quite similar, thus indicating that the models are reflecting airport conditions for the sample of eight airports. On the other hand, the sample of airports did not include any TOVO events so the historical rate for the sample of airports is nil; however, the estimated rate of TOVOs is in good agreement with the U.S. historical rate. The number of accidents during the analysis period was very low when using only eight airports, and larger variations were expected when comparing the parameters based on the number of accidents for the sample.

Another type of analysis compared the proportion of accidents to the total number of incidents and accidents. In other words, the analysis obtained the ratio between the number of veer-off accidents and the total number of veer-offs (incidents

Figure 36. Actual and estimated risk of veer-off accidents for sample of airports.

Figure 37. Actual and estimated accident to incident ratios for runway veer-offs.

and accidents). This is an important parameter since it may be used to validate the consequence approach developed in this study. Similar to previous analyses, three types of ratios were calculated for LDVOs and TOVOs: the historical ratio in the U.S., the actual ratio for the sample, and the estimated ratio for the sample of eight airports. Figure 37 illustrates the findings; as shown, the estimated ratios are in good agreement with the actual historical ratios for the entire U.S. However, variations exist when comparing the actual ratio for the sample of airports because there were only three veer-off accidents at the eight airports during the 30 year period of analysis and none of them were a TOVO.

CHAPTER 8

Conclusions and Guidance

The risk of fatal aircraft accidents in the vicinity of runways is relatively large compared to those occurring in other areas of the airport. The RSA is intended to mitigate the consequences of aircraft veering off, overrunning, or undershooting a runway; RSA design standards have proven to provide good protection for these types of events.

The demand to operate larger aircraft coupled with higher traffic volumes has often resulted in airport operators being unable to meet airfield standards that were created three or four decades ago based upon engineering judgment. In many cases, adhering to these standards would be cost prohibitive due to physical, economic, and/or environmental restrictions. However, even more compelling is that adhering to the existing standards may not improve the level of safety. This has created the need to reassess the level of safety provided by these standards through the use of risk-based methodologies.

One of the current challenges with airfield design is to develop a tool to evaluate the level of safety at airports that cannot comply with current standards for RSA. ACRP Reports 3, 50 and 51 were intended to fill some of those gaps; however, a methodology to evaluate risk in certain subareas of the RSA was not available to the industry. This study attempts to fill such need with the development of models and analysis tools to allow assessing risk when RSA standards cannot be met.

Major Achievements

Updated Veer-off Accident and Incident Database

The number of aircraft veer-off events identified during this study can be helpful for additional research in this field. The comprehensive database includes 1,144 recorded events in an organized structure to facilitate its use.

The database includes veer-off events involving aircraft over 6,000 lbs of MTOW. In addition to basic information on location and date, data about the airport, the operation, and the consequences were collected when available. The veer-off pathway was characterized for approximately 50% of the records, and each report was reviewed in an attempt to identify the causes of aircraft damage to support the consequence model.

Validated Location Models to Estimate Likelihood of Aircraft Challenging Runway Safety Subareas

The objective of the model validation effort was to check if the risk estimates provided by the new models compare to historical veer-off accident rates and that probability distributions generated would be similar to those provided by an independent sample of veer-off reports.

Results obtained demonstrate excellent agreement between probability distributions given by the location models and that of the independent sample of 91 veer-off events. Also, there was good agreement between historical accident and incident rates for U.S. airports compared to the rate for a sample of eight airports, and the rate estimated from LRSARA analyses for each airport. Some differences were identified; however, these may be attributed to the small sample size and large variations expected when modeling rare events.

Finally, the validation effort has helped identify bugs in the LRSARA software and allowed them to be resolved. Several enhancements were made to the program, resulting in increased protection for inconsistent input data and improved accuracy of modeling runway veer-off risk.

The models integrated to the approach were based on evidence of worldwide veer-off accidents and incidents collected from 1982 to 2011. The models utilize a transformation to the longitudinal veer-off distance that is based on the RDA for the operation. Two other alternatives were attempted; however, more accurate results were obtained by using the selected alternative.

Approach Incorporating Veer-Off Location Models to Estimate Risk

In addition to developing the mathematical models for veer-off risk, an approach integrating the models in a stepby-step process was necessary to serve as the basis for the computer algorithm developed for the analysis.

The approach concept is similar to that used in previous ACRP studies and the framework is based on a three-part model: event probability, location probability, and veer-off consequences. The event probability (frequency) models are those presented in *ACRP Reports 50* and *51*. The location probability and veer-off consequences models were developed in this study. The risk-based approach introduced in this report is rational and robust, and it can be used to quantify the risk of veer-off accidents and evaluate how obstacles in the vicinity of the runway may impact the risk.

Software Tool to Analyze Lateral RSA

The standalone analysis software was named Lateral Runway Safety Area Risk Analysis (LRSARA) and combines Microsoft Access databases and Microsoft Excel spreadsheets to store and output results generated during the analysis. This concept provides user-friendly interfaces for inputting data, running the analysis, and outputting results.

There are two sources of information required for this analysis: general data and analysis-specific data. General data are requirements that apply to all analyses, such as model parameters and aircraft characteristics. Analysis-specific data are information specific to the airport and the lateral RSA to be evaluated.

The software records user input data into a project-specific database where the information can be later assessed along with the results of the analysis. Updates to general data, as well as uploads of analysis-specific data, are made through a specific software interface. There is no need for user interaction with the databases; however, the databases are also available as regular Microsoft Access files.

Outputs of the analysis results are reported in Excel spreadsheets. These spreadsheets are generated based on a predefined template. One spreadsheet for each runway in a given airport is created. The spreadsheet contains the summary probabilities of veer-off incidents and accidents. The probabilities are illustrated with graphs of accumulated risk and probability histograms. The templates for databases and spreadsheets are compatible with MS Office version 2010 and newer.

Model Limitations

The main challenge to develop the models and analysis tool presented in this report was the availability of reliable information to develop the mathematical probability models. Only approximately 10% of the accident and incident reports for events identified as veer-offs had comprehensive information about the pathway during the aircraft veer-offs, and 50% of reports contained no information that could be used to infer the veer-off path.

To overcome these limitations, it was necessary to use the report narrative and obtain information from additional sources to make inferences to characterize the veer-off pathway. These inferences can certainly have some negative impact on characterizing the exact track during the veer-off and to a lesser degree on the accuracy of the location models developed in this study.

Although some accuracy may have been lost due to the assumptions made, the information presented in this report will assist the industry in understanding the mechanisms and the relationship between risk, available safety areas, and the presence of obstacles associated with aircraft veer-off accidents and incidents. The approach will certainly improve the knowledge of the relationship between airfield design standards and the risk level involved when standards cannot be met.

Guidance

Expand the Approach to Lighter Aircraft

The prevalence of and risks associated with runway excursions have not been addressed for aircraft weighing less than 6,000 lb, in part because no effort has been made to compile a database of those excursions. Little research effort has been spent to evaluate how design standards and non-compliance issues may impact risk of runway excursions at airports.

Most aircraft with MTOW lower than 6,000 lb are operated under 14 CFR Part 91 rules, which represent close to 90% of civil aircraft registered in the United States. Many communities benefit from general aviation flights, which generate over \$150 billion in economic activity (AOPA). Many of the airports used by lighter GA aircraft are not certificated and have no towers that could report incidents.

A research study using approaches similar to those presented in ACRP Reports 3, 50 and 51 would greatly benefit general aviation airports to reduce risks of runway excursions and improve aviation safety in the United States.

Improve Veer-Off Reporting

The FAA has recently adopted a Safety Management Systems (SMS) approach to aviation safety. In this approach, one needs to identify risks and then take measures to mitigate

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those risks. FAA Order 8000.369A furthers safety management by moving towards a more process-oriented system safety approach with an emphasis on risk management and safety assurance.

Comprehensive information required to identify the stopping location and veer-off path of the runway veer-offs is seldom explicitly available in accident and incident reports, except for major accidents for which a full investigation report was developed.

This study identified some gaps in veer-off reporting in existing aviation databases. These gaps are related to information required to develop risk models for veer-off events and the suggestions provided are intended to enhance data collection to improve accuracy of risk models.

The main suggestion is to report information to characterize the veer-off path. It can be a drawing or a picture showing the veer-off path, or a narrative describing the incident. A template was created and is presented in Appendix A. It helps the reporter identify key information that may be provided in narrative format. The gaps in information made available in veer-off events reported were identified for the three main aviation accident and incident databases available in the U.S. Filling those gaps may be beneficial to improve accuracy of existing models.

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Abbreviations & Acronyms

Glossary

The terms as used in this report are defined as follows:

- **Accident:** an unplanned event or series of events that results in death; injury; or damage to, or loss of, equipment or property.
- **Aircraft Accident:** occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft that takes place between the time any person boards the aircraft with the intention of flight and all such persons have disembarked, and in which any person suffers death or serious injury, or in which the aircraft receives substantial damage (source: NTSB).
- **Aircraft Incident:** an occurrence, other than an accident, associated with the operation of an aircraft, which affects or could affect the safety of operations (source: NTSB).
- **Beginning of the Runway:** for takeoffs, this is the point on the runway where takeoffs may start. For landings, this area starts at the landing threshold. The beginning of the runway for takeoffs and landings normally coincide with each other except when the threshold is displaced or when a takeoff takes place at a taxiway intersection.
- **Consequence:** the direct effect of an event, incident, or accident. In this study, a health effect (e.g., death, injury, exposure) or property loss.
- **Fatal Injury:** any injury that results in death within 30 days of the accident.
- **Hazard:** the inherent characteristic of a material, condition, or activity that has the potential to cause harm to people, property, or the environment.
- **Hull Loss:** airplane totally destroyed or damaged and not repaired.
- **Incident:** a near miss episode, malfunction, or failure without accident-level consequences that has a significant chance of resulting in accident-level consequences.
- **Likelihood:** expressed as either a frequency or a probability. Frequency is a measure of the rate at which events occur over time (e.g., events/year, incidents/year, deaths/year). Probability is a measure of the rate of a possible event expressed as a fraction of the total number of events (e.g., one-in-ten-million, 1/10,000,000, or 1x10-7).
- **Major Accident:** an accident in which any of three conditions is met: the airplane was destroyed; there were multiple

fatalities; there was one fatality and the airplane was substantially damaged.

- **METAR:** aviation routine weather report.
- **Quantitative Risk Analysis:** incorporates numerical estimates of frequency or probability and consequence.
- **Risk:** the combination of the likelihood and the consequence of a specified hazard being realized. It is a measure of harm or loss associated with an activity.
- **Risk Analysis:** the study of risk in order to understand and quantify risk so it can be managed.
- **Risk Assessment:** determination of risk context and acceptability, often by comparison to similar risks.
- **Runway Criticality:** term introduced in *ACRP Report 50* to represent the relationship between the runway distance available for that operation (landing or takeoff), and the runway distance required by a given aircraft and specific operational conditions. Runway criticality is represented mathematically by the ratio between the runway distance available and the runway distance required. A lower ratio means a lower safety margin and greater operation criticality (note: this definition is a correction to that presented in *ACRP Report 50*).
- **Safety:** absence of risk. Safety often is equated with meeting a measurable goal, such as an accident rate that is less than an acceptable target. However, the absence of accidents does not ensure a safe system.
- **Safety Risk Management:** the systematic application of policies, practices, and resources to the assessment and control of risk affecting human health and safety and the environment. Hazard, risk, and cost/benefit analysis are used to support development of risk reduction options, program objectives, and prioritization of issues and resources.
- **Substantial Damage:** damage or failure that adversely affects the structural strength, performance, or flight characteristics of the aircraft, and that would normally require major repair or replacement of the affected component.
- **Target Level of Safety (TLS):** the degree to which safety is to be pursued in a given context, assessed with reference to an acceptable or tolerable risk.
- **Veer-Off:** an aircraft running off the side of the runway during takeoff or landing roll.

Template for Veer-Off Reporting

Figure A1. Location references. Figure A2. Touchdown off the

Runway.

Figure A3. Typical veer-off Path. Figure A4. Veer-off with aircraft back to runway.

Typical Lateral Runway Excursion Paths

APPENDIX B

Summary of Accidents and Incidents for Modeling

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APPENDIX C

Lateral Deviation Models for Normalization Alternative 1—Runway Distance Available

The figures presented in this Appendix illustrate the lateral deviation models developed when normalizing the longitudinal veer-off distances with the runway distance available (RDA)

Figure C1. Lateral probability distribution: – Subarea 1—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure C2. Lateral probability distribution: – Subarea 2—distances normalized by RDA.

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Figure C3. Lateral probability distribution: Subarea 3—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure C4. Lateral probability distribution: Subarea 4—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure C5. Lateral probability distribution: Subarea 5—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure C6. Lateral probability distribution: Subarea 6—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure C7. Lateral probability distribution: – Subarea 7—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure C8. Lateral probability distribution: Subarea 8—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure C9. Lateral probability distribution: – Subarea 9—distances normalized by RDA.

Figure C10. Lateral probability distribution: Subarea 10—distances normalized by RDA.

APPENDIX D

LRSARA User Guide

Runway Veer-Off Location Distribution Risk Assessment Model

Lateral Runway Safety Area Risk Analysis (LRSARA) Software User's Guide (V1.1)

developed by Airport Safety Management Consultants, LLC for the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP)

Disclaimer

While every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this analysis tool, the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) and Airport Safety Management Consultants, LLC (ASMC) assume no responsibility for errors or omissions, or for damages resulting from the use of information contained in this document or from the use of this software. In no event shall ACRP or ASMC be held liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damage caused or alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly by the use of this software.

The user shall be aware that the software should not be used without adequate knowledge of the contents of ACRP Report 107 and this User Guide for LRSARA Software. Analysis software contains a tool developed to assist with risk analysis associated with the lateral portion of runway safety areas and is not intended to be a substitute for the airport planner professional judgment.

Neither ACRP nor ASMC shall be held liable for any death or bodily injury, damage to property or any other direct, indirect or incidental damages or other loss sustained by third parties which may arise as a result of customer use of the LRSARA software, nor for damage inflicted with respect to any property of the customer or any other loss sustained by said customer. Neither ACRP nor ASMC shall be responsible for the accuracy or validity of the data entered and/or generated by the software.

Lateral Runway Safety Area Risk Analysis (LRSARA) User Guide – Version 1.0

1. Introduction

This software is being developed as part of the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) Project ACRP 4-14, "Runway Veer-off Location Distribution Risk Assessment Model" and is intended to serve as a tool to help airport operators evaluate risk associated with their lateral RSA conditions.

The risk associated with the following five types of aircraft accidents may be evaluated with this software:

- Landing veer-off (LDVO)
- Takeoff veer-off (TOVO)

The user may perform two types of analysis with this software. In the first type of analysis, the user can evaluate the probability that the aircraft will exit the runway and stop beyond the lateral limits of the RSA. In the second type of analysis, the user may consider the obstacles inside or in the vicinity of the lateral sections of the RSA to evaluate the risk of an accident (substantial aircraft damage and/or multiple injuries/fatalities).

2. System Requirements

3. Using the Guide

To facilitate reading and comprehension of this user guide, please note the following styles and conventions used throughout:

Menu Selection

Analysis/Run Analysis means click on *Analysis* on the main menu and then click on *Run Analysis* in the *Analysis* sub-menu.

Main Window

The main window contains the top title bar with the main menu name and the Minimize, Maximize, and Close buttons.

Movements Challenging the Lateral RSA

In a given airport, any movement (landing or takeoff) may challenge the right or left side of the lateral portion of the RSA, in case of a lateral runway excursion (veer-off).

Level of Risk Format

The program provides results in scientific format (e.g., 2.3E-07 or 0.00000023). These results can also be read as number of movements to occur in one event. To read in this format, you have to take the inverse of the value in scientific format (e.g. $1/2.3E-07 = 4.347,826$). In the example provided, a risk of 2.3E-07 is equivalent to one accident in 4,347,826 movements.

4. Software Installation

The installation of LRSARA uses the same process applied to other Windows programs. Go to the folder where you downloaded (either from the TRB website or the accompanying CD) and unzipped LRSARA, and double click on *setup.exe*. Then follow the on-screen instructions to install the program. It will add the program to your program group and place a shortcut on your desktop.

If you want to install a new version to replace the existing one, you first need to remove LRSARA. To remove LRSARA, select *Start/Control Panel* in your desktop window. Select *Add or Remove Programs*. When the program list is populated, select *LRSARA* and click *Remove*.

[Development of a Runway Veer-Off Location Distribution Risk Assessment and Reporting Templa](http://www.nap.edu/22411)te

5. Opening the Program

To open LRSARA, double click on the shortcut to open the *Disclaimer* screen. Please read the disclaimer and if you accept the conditions, click *I Accept*, and the main screen will open, otherwise the program will be closed.

6. Creating a New Project

Click on *File/New Project* and the following screen will appear.

Fill the fields as shown in the example below and click *Create Project*. The project name cannot have spaces.

7. Entering Data

Defining Airport Conditions

The following screen will appear when you select the *Create Project* button or when you select *Input Data/Airport Characteristics* in the main menu.

Enter the specific characteristics of the airport, including the characteristics of the runways and available distances. Each of the fields and commands are described in the table that follows.

For runway configuration, enter all the runways that will be evaluated. The analysis provides results for each runway and for all runways as the total risk for the airport. **For the analysis, each runway direction is treated independently**. To enter the runway information, click on *Add RWY* to enable the runway fields. The information required follows.

Once the runway fields are filled, save the information by clicking *Save RWY*. You may continue adding the basic information for each runway before defining the RSA geometry for the runway. Changes to runway declared distances can be made by clicking *Update RWY* and saving the changes.

For the Example Project, the information for runways 15 and 33 were entered and the following screen illustrates the example.

Defining Lateral RSA Geometry and Obstacles

Next, enter the RSA information, including the geometry and existing obstacles. To perform this step, click *Edit RSA Geometric Layout* and the following screen will appear.

The dropdown list includes all runways entered. In the example above, runway 15 is selected. The screen contains one set of buttons to define the lateral RSA geometry and the presence of obstacles. The two fields for *Lateral OFA Distance* are used to define the **distance from the runway edge** (not from the runway centerline) to the farthest lateral distance to an existing obstacle limiting the available Object Free Area (OFA).

The runway in the example is 150 ft wide, and the RSA limit is 300 ft from the runway edge. The first step is to define the lateral RSA geometry. This area helps protect aircraft veering off runways 15/33.

The *Lateral OFA Distance* is the clearance from the runway edge to the nearest obstacle, fixed or movable. LRSARA assumes a ground-level obstacle as default to limit the Lateral OFA Distance. However, in some cases, the object may be a hangar or another fixed object and the user will be required to define a "wing-level" obstacle at the borders, for example, an aircraft located in a parallel taxiway. In this latter case, the *Lateral OFA Distance* will be assumed as the distance between the runway edge and the wingtip of the taxiing aircraft, as shown below. The location of the wingtip is associated with the Aircraft Design Group (ADG), or it may be the aircraft with the largest wingspan operating at the airport.

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In the figure, WS2 is the wingspan of the taxing aircraft and WS1 is the wingspan of the aircraft in the runway. The available lateral distance will be automatically calculated as follows:

 $SOFAD = CS-RW/2-WS2/2$

Where:

- SOFAD is the lateral cleared distance available
- CS is the runway/taxiway centerline separation
- • RW is the runway width
- • WS2 is the wingspan of the aircraft in the taxiway, usually characterized by the largest wingspan of the ADG of the airfield

The lateral cleared distance available to the right and to the left are not necessarily the same. In the example, the cleared distance on right side of Runway 15 is 250 ft measured from the runway edge, and the left side is 300 ft wide. LRSARA software takes into consideration the gear width of the aircraft landing or taking off to calculate the cleared distance in the default case. Again, if the user prefers to use a tall obstacle to limit the RSA, a tall obstacle should be placed over the entire distance of the runway, and located at the OFA edge.

To define the RSA, click on *New RSA* and a dialog box prompting you to create a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet will appear, as shown below.

It is recommended that you name the file for the runways chosen, for instance, the example used here would be 15/33 RSA. Click *Save* and the Excel spreadsheet will open, as shown in the following screen. The user should note that each layout will represent the runway in both directions; therefore, it is not necessary to create another template to input information for Runway 33.

Initially, the spreadsheet contains an "empty" RSA with two lateral lines defining the RSA limits set in the previous step. The number on top of the runway figure represents the runway direction for the approach end. The template has only one folder (*Main*) and is used to define the RSA geometry, and locate existing obstacles.

Please note the runway shown is only a representation to facilitate locating its position and may not be on the same scale as the RSA. On the top left portion of the template, appropriate scales (lateral and longitudinal) for representation of each cell are automatically set; the runway width will not match the coordinates used to define the RSA geometry.

The area is automatically defined based on the runway distance available and the lateral distance available making up the RSA. Two types of obstacles may be evaluated in the analysis: ground obstacles and tall obstacles. A ground obstacle is a structure below the ground level (e.g., ditches, uneven terrain, terrain drops, etc.). These obstacles may cause an accident if aircraft gears pass over it and in this case the landing gear dimensions are considered in the analysis. A tall obstacle is a structure above the ground that may lead to an accident if struck by the aircraft. In this case, the wingspan of the aircraft is considered in the analysis.

Two codes are used to define the areas with obstacles: "g" and "w". The letter "g" is used to represent ground-level obstacles and the letter "w" represents tall obstacles. For example, a 140-ft long ditch located on the right side of runway 15, 60 ft from the runway edge is shown below. A second obstacle categorized as "tall" (e.g., a hangar) is located on the left side of the runway, 200 ft from the runway edge as shown in the figure. The obstacle is 70 ft wide and 280 ft long. The longitudinal scale does not allow the user to enter the exact length of the obstacle and it is recommended to be conservative and use a length that is larger than the actual obstacle being represented.

Use the Excel menu to save the RSA geometry for Runway 15/33, and close the spreadsheet. The action will take you back to the *RSA Geometric Layout* screen.

When the RSA characteristics are entered for each runway available in the drop down list, you may click *Done* to exit the screen, taking you back to the *Airport Characteristics Input* screen. The program will automatically save the information entered.

Historical Operations Data (HOD)

The next step is to enter HOD. Ideally historical data for the airport should be collected for one year. The information is placed in the template spreadsheet for this type of data. The columns, the field, and the format to save this data in the spreadsheet are presented in Attachment A to this guide. To enter the historical data into the analysis, click *Analysis/Input Data/ Historical Operations Data* to open the screen to load the file.

Please note that the HOD can be edited using Microsoft Excel, however, you **should not change the name of column headers or the tab name that contains the data**. LRSARA uses the labels to identify the type of data to load into the program.

For towered airports, it is possible to retrieve the records for operational data from the tower log or from the FAA's Aeronautical Information Management Lab. In some cases, the records are available; however, the runway used is not identified. For airports in the Aviation System Performance Metrics (ASPM), it is possible to identify the runway configuration used in an hourly basis. The information is available online at *aspm.faa.gov*.

For non-towered airports, a sample of operations during one month may be repeated over the 1-year period of records for the analysis. The information will be matched to the weather data retrieved for the airport to create a representative sample for analysis.

The screen allows the user to create, edit, import, or view the HOD required to run the analysis.

Historical Weather Data (HWD)

The file containing the HWD data will be loaded using a similar process to that used to load the HOD. The period for the weather data must match the period for the operational data. The LRSARA program will match the operational and weather data to characterize the actual weather conditions for each operation. The preparation of weather data is described in Attachment B to this guide.

It is important to note that the HWD can be edited using Microsoft Excel, however you **should not change the name of column headers or the tab name that contains the data**. LRSARA uses the labels to identify the type of data to load into the program. The screen to enter the file containing weather data is as follows.

The screen allows the user to create, edit, import, or view the HWD required to run the analysis. The spreadsheet may be opened using LRSARA or directly in Excel and saved without changing the file name.

Aircraft Library

The software contains a basic database of aircraft that may be updated to run the analysis. Click *Software Parameters/Aircraft Database* to access the database. The following screen will appear.

You may edit, update, or add records by clicking the check box on the top left of the screen. Checking that box enables the fields for editing. It is important to note that LRSARA identifies the type of aircraft in the historical information by the aircraft FAA code shown in the third column.

8. Model Parameters

The user may view the frequency and location models used in the program by clicking *Software Parameters/Model Parameters*. The model parameters cannot be edited. The frequency models incorporated into the software are those presented in *ACRP Report 51*, and the location models are those developed in ACRP Project 4-14 research. They will be available in this report, *ACRP Report 107*.

This screen contains two tabs. The first shows the frequency models for landing veer-offs (LDVOs) and takeoff veer-offs (TOVO). The second tab presents the location models for longitudinal and transverse distances relative to the runway axis for the same types of events.

9. Running the Analysis

The analysis menu has four submenus:

- • Check Analysis Status
- • Run Full Analysis
- • Run Simplified Analysis
- • Output Missing Data

Check Project Status

The user may select *Analysis/Check Project Status* to check the status of calculations for one or more runways.

In the example presented, both the probability of veer-off and risk of accidents for runways 15 and 33 were estimated.

Run Full Analysis

This type of analysis requires the use of historical operations and weather information for the airport. The information is used to feed the frequency models for landing veer-offs and takeoff veer-offs presented in *ACRP Report 50*. To run the full analysis, select *Analysis/Run Full Analysis*, and the following screen will appear.

You may run the analysis for individual runways or for all runways entered in the project. The selection is made on the top left of the screen, and if *Run Individual Runway* is selected, the list of runways is enabled for user selection.

After selecting *Run Individual Runway* or *Run All Runways*, the user must select one of the following two buttons to run the analysis:

- Probability of Incident-Frequency
- • Risk Analysis

The analysis is conducted in two steps. First, click on *Probability of Incident-Frequency*. The program will only estimate the probability of veer-offs occurring for the runways selected. In this case, only the frequency model will be used to calculate the probability of veer-offs, no matter if the event resulted in an accident or not. The program will store the results internally, and this step will allow the user to identify missing data on the historical records. **Running the** *Probability of Incident-Frequency* **is required before running the next steps**.

This step saves time when running the second step—when the actual RSA dimensions and obstacles will have an influence on the risk estimates. If you want to evaluate different RSA conditions, it will not be necessary to run the calculations with the frequency model again.

The *Risk Analysis* button allows the user to consider the interaction between the aircraft and the obstacles present within the RSA or its vicinity. The analysis will consider the type, location, and size of the obstacles and will assume that an accident will occur when the aircraft strikes an obstacle. The lateral limits are assumed to be ground obstacles by default. **When clicking the** *Risk Analysis* **button, please wait a few minutes before the progress bar is shown**. The program is performing internal calculations before the progress bar is activated.

The approach to estimate the risk of accidents uses the following assumptions:

- 1. Two categories of obstacles are defined as a function of obstacle height.
	- a. Ground Obstacle: The width of aircraft landing gear is considered to estimate the probability of collision with the obstacle (e.g., cliff at the RSA border, body of water, ditch, rough terrain, etc.)
- b. Tall Obstacle: the aircraft wingspan is used to estimate the probability of collision with the obstacle (e.g., buildings, fences, aircraft, vehicles, etc.)
- 2. The lateral distribution is random and does not depend on the presence of obstacles. This is a conservative assumption because there are events for which the pilot may have enough directional control to avoid the obstacle.

Run Simplified Analysis

For this alternative, no information on historical operations and weather for the airport are required. The probability of veer-off is estimated from default or user-defined values, which are fixed for each type of veer-off: landing and takeoff. Default values are those presented in *ACRP Report 51* however, the user may change the default values as necessary. To run the simplified analysis, select *Analysis/Run Simplified Analysis*, and the following screen will appear.

Output Missing Data

When running the analysis for a given runway for the first time, the program checks for missing records, either aircraft or weather. The analysis cannot be completed for specific records that have missing information. One common occurrence is a record for an aircraft not being listed in the aircraft database. In most cases, the FAA code for the aircraft is a variation of the normal code; it is an aircraft that isn't widely used and is not in the default aircraft database; or it is an aircraft with maximum takeoff weight lower than 5,600 lbs. If missing records were identified during the run, the following screen will appear.

If the user selects *Yes*, an Excel spreadsheet will appear as shown below, showing the records with missing information. These records will be stored during the analysis and can be retrieved by the user at any time by clicking *Analysis/Output Missing Data*.

The user may ignore the list of records with missing data if the list contains only a few records; however, it is possible to fix the problems with such records and rerun a faster analysis with only the missing records for all runways or individual runways.

There are two ways to correct missing data for aircraft. If the information for the aircraft is not in the aircraft database, the user should click *Software Parameters/Aircraft Database* and add the aircraft information to the database. If the information is available and the code does not match the FAA code in the aircraft database, the user may simply edit the code by clicking *Analysis/Input Data/Historical Operations Data* and then *Edit Existing Input File*. Information on FAA codes for aircraft can be obtained from FAA Order JO 7110.65T (Feb 2010). All the mismatching codes should be replaced with the code matching the code available in the aircraft database.

If weather data is missing, the user may correct the file by clicking *Analysis/Input Data/ Weather Database* and then *Edit Existing Input File* to make the necessary corrections.

After the corrections are made, the user may run the analysis only for the revised records. This will save time, particularly for the analysis of larger airports with many historical records. To rerun the analysis for the revised records, the user must check the option *Check to rerun fixed missing data* in the *Run Analysis screen*. The estimates after rerunning the analysis will consider both the previous and the new analysis of records recovered.

In addition to checking missing data, LRSARA also checks inconsistencies in input data. The preliminary check is automated and is executed in the MS Excel templates used to create HOD and HWD. Prior to performing the calculations, LRSARA will recheck data to warn of data outside the expected ranges. An example of the message warning the user is shown below.

If the user selects *Yes* to visualize inconsistent data, an MS Excel file will open, as shown in the following figures, for HOD and HWD, respectively.

The user should correct the inconsistent data before running the risk analysis; otherwise the analysis will not be completed.

10. Output Results

When the analyses are completed, the user may see the results using the *Output* option of the main menu. There are two types of results: individual runways or the consolidated results for the whole airport. Within each of these options, the user can view the results for risk of events taking place outside the RSA or view the analysis output for the risk of catastrophic accidents.

Results for Runways

To see the results for all or individual runways, select *Output/Runway* and the following screen will appear.

The output file for the selected runway or all runways is created by clicking *Create Output for Risk Analysis*. The results are stored internally in the program. Creating the output in this step is necessary to transfer the data to an Excel spreadsheet to facilitate visualization of results.

Since this screen is for runways, the user may select one specific runway to output results, or see the results for all the runways. In the latter case, the number of spreadsheets created will be the same as the number of runways analyzed. The spreadsheets created will open automatically when creating the output files.

If the user has run the analysis and created outputs, the files can be opened by clicking *Open Existing RSA Outputs*, and selecting the desired file.

Results are presented in both tabular and graphical format. Each set of results contains the risk estimates for each type of incident and individual operation and the total risk during landings and takeoffs. A summary of the results is presented in the *Summary* tab shown in the previous screen. The summary table is shown below. It is very important to understand the information contained in the three tables shown.

The first table contains the *Airport Annual Volume* and the expected *Annual Traffic Growth Rate*, and these values may also be modified by the user in the output spreadsheet. By changing these values, the average number of years between incidents will also change to reflect the new volume of traffic estimated for future years. The second piece of information, the *Target Level of Safety (TLS)*, may also be modified in the spreadsheet and the value will impact the percentage of movements above the TLS (4th column in the large table).

The second table titled *Veer-Off Risk for Movements* for the selected runway contains results for veer-off only. This is necessary because it is a different area and is composed of the lateral safety areas between the runway ends. The configuration of this table is similar to the one presenting the results for the RSA (second table).

Veer-Off Risk for Movements on RWY 15

The histogram shown in the *Summary* tab contains the probability data for each movement challenging the lateral RSA. Similar histograms for each individual type of operation (landing and takeoff) are available in the *Plots* tab.

Results for the Airport

To see the results for the airport as a whole, select *Output/Airport* and the following screen will appear.

Again, it is necessary to create the output if this procedure has not been performed earlier. The user may select the type of output and click *Open Existing Airport Summary* to view the results in a spreadsheet as shown in the screen below.

Risk of Accident - Summary of Results

Overall Results

Risk Analysis

 T_{ch}

Airport: Anywhere Airport Date of Analysis: 7/12/2013 Analyst: Jane Doe Note: fields in yellow may be changed by user

Risk of Accident in Events per Operation

Average # of Years Between Accidents

Percent Events Above 1.0E-06

Summary of Operations Challenging the RSAs

Movements Challenging each RSA

Notes

- 1 Fields in orange may be directly changed in spreadsheet by user
- 2 The total risk for the airport is per movement (landing and taking off)
- 3 Each takeoff and landing will challenge the lateral safety areas for veer-offs 4 - Histogram for the whole airport is for any type of event and includes each

movement challenging the LRSA

The tables are similar to those presented for individual runways, except that results for all types of incidents/accidents are consolidated and data for individual risk for any type of event are consolidated into the histogram. In addition, individual tables containing results for each runway are also presented.

Similar to the output for individual runways, the spreadsheet also provides a *Plots* tab containing histograms for individual types of incidents/accidents for the airport as a whole.

An example of the first table is shown below. It contains in the second column the average probabilities for each type of event and the total average probability for the airport. In the third column, the average number of years between incidents or accidents is calculated. This number is estimated based on the event probability, the annual volume of operations challenging the RSA for the given event, and the expected growth rate. Please note that this number is not to predict how many years it will take for that accident to happen; rather, it is an indication on how frequently the event can take place if the same conditions of operations are kept for a very long period of activity at the airport.

The fourth column indicates the percentage of movements challenging the RSA that have a risk higher than the selected TLS (e.g., for LDVOs, 4.9% of the movements are under a risk higher than 1.0E-06, one in one million movements).

Finally, column 5 contains the estimated number of years between events for the selected TLS. The results in this column are calculated using the same method used to estimate the results in the third column, except that the risk used is the TLS.

The table immediately below has the airport volume of operations (annual number of movements: landings and takeoffs), the expected annual growth rate of traffic, and the selected TLS. These numbers can be directly changed in the spreadsheet and new values will be calculated for the third, fourth, and fifth columns of the main table.

Overall Results *Risk Analysis*

Below the main table, a plot with the total distribution of risk is shown. Data used for this plot are originated from each type of event and two results are presented. Each bar that makes up the histogram of risk represents a given risk level as shown in the x-axis. The number of operations for each bar is read on the left y-axis. The segmented line is associated with the right y-axis and indicated the percentage of movements that have a risk higher than the value read

in the x-axis [e.g., approximately 20% of movements are subject to risk higher than 1.7E-07 (or one event in 5,880,000 movements)].

Histogram of Total Risk

Additional tables are shown on the right of the main table. The first table presents the probability of runway veer-offs for each runway and each type of operation.

Summary of Results by Runway

Probability of Event per Operation

The second table presents the average risk level for each type of event and the associated runway direction challenged by the movements.

Risk of Accident in Events per Operation

The next table presents the average number of years for one accident to occur if the operational conditions are similar during a long period of activity. Similar to the previous table, the results are provided by runway direction challenged by aircraft movements at the airport.

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The fourth table in the group shows the percentage of movements challenging each runway direction that are subject to risk level higher than 1 accident in 1 million operations.

The final table shows the total number of movements that challenge each runway direction. These values are based on the HOD sample used for the analysis.

Summary of Operations Challenging the RSAs

Movements Challenging each RSA

Below is an example output for simplified analysis. For this case the probability of accident will depend only on the category of aircraft and no histogram of risk is generated. The user may change the percentage of operations for each category of aircraft directly in the spreadsheet and the average risk results will change accordingly. There is no need to use the Output submenu to obtain the report for simplified analysis; the file with the results will open automatically upon completion of the analysis.

Simplified LRSA Risk Analysis

Summary Table

1. Assumed 50% Landing and 50% Take-off

Airport:

Date of Analysis:

Analyst:

Notes 1 - Fields in orange may be directly changed in

spreadsheet by user 2 - The total risk for the airport is per movement (landing and taking off), based on traffic distribution provided by the analyst.

3 - Each takeoff and landing will challenge the

lateral safety areas for veer-offs

ines.

 $-100 - 100$

Probability of Landing Veer-off Accident

Take-off Distribution (%)

Probability of Take-off Veer-off Accident

Average # of Years Between Accidents

11. Help and Troubleshooting

The last option in the main menu is *Help*. When selecting this option *Help/Content*, a pdf version of this User Guide will open. If the user selects *Help/About*, the following screen will be presented.

A tta c h m e n t A

Historical Operations Data

This section describes the procedure to prepare historical operations data for the airport. The historical operations data provided is consolidated internally in the program with the weather information provided (see Attachment B). The process is used to characterize the sample operations for the airport and weather conditions to which these operations were subject.

Ideally a sample of data covering one full year of recent operations should be prepared to run the analysis. Having one year of data will help take into consideration seasonal weather and operational variations.

A Microsoft Excel (2010 or later) spreadsheet is used to enter the Historical Operations Data and create the sample. To create this database, select Input Data/Historical Operations Database and the following screen will open.

To create the operations file, click on *Create New Input File* and a dialog box will open.

Please enter a file name and the Excel spreadsheet will open with eight columns as shown below.

Each line in the spreadsheet should correspond to one record. The following table contains a description of each field.

An example of the template filled with the information needed to run the program is shown below.

If the date and time format is not matching the format presented in the example above, the user may adjust by selecting the column, right-clicking, and selecting *Format Cells*. In the dialog box, select Date in the *Category* box and selecting *3/14/01 1:30 PM* in the *Type* box, as shown in the screen below.

A tta c h m e n t B

Historical Weather Data

This section describes the procedure to prepare historical weather data for the airport. The historical weather data provided are consolidated internally in the program with the historical operations information provided (see Attachment A). The process is used to characterize the sample operations for the airport and weather conditions that these operations were subject.

The period for *weather data must match the same period for historical operations data*. Having one year of data will help take into consideration seasonal weather and operational variations.

A Microsoft Excel (2010 or later) spreadsheet is used to enter the Historical Operations Data and create the sample. To create this database, select Input Data/Weather Database and the following screen will open.

To create the weather file, click on *Create New Input File* and a dialog box will open.

Please enter a file name and the Excel spreadsheet will open with nineteen columns as shown below.

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Each line in the spreadsheet should correspond to one record. The following table contains a description of each field.

(Continued).

An example of the template filled with the information needed to run the program is shown below.

If the date and time format is not matching the format presented in the example above, the user may adjust by selecting the column, right-clicking and selecting *Format Cells*. In the dialog box, select *Date* in the *Category* box and selecting *3/14/01 1:30 PM* in the *Type* box, as shown in the screen below.

APPENDIX E

Summary of Accidents and Incidents for Validation

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APPENDIX F

Accidents and Incidents at Airports Selected for Validation

APPENDIX G

Location Models for Other Normalization Alternatives

Three alternatives to normalize the longitudinal distances for veer-off path were evaluated in this study: runway distance available (RDA), raw distances, and runway distance required (RDR). Only the models for RDA were presented in the body of the report and this appendix shows the results for the remaining two alternatives.

Normalization Alternative 2—Raw Distances

For this scenario, the raw longitudinal and lateral distances were used in the modeling process. To model the longitudinal probability distributions, 10 subareas were defined, each with length of 800 ft, with the last segment comprising all distances above 7200 ft.

Longitudinal Probability Distribution

Figure G1 illustrates the longitudinal probability distribution for both landing and takeoff veer-offs when using raw longitudinal distances. Figures G2 and G3 represent the longitudinal probability distributions for landing and takeoff veer-offs, respectively.

The cumulative probability plot and corresponding polynomial model is represented in Figure G4. It should be noted that this model was developed based on a maximum longitudinal length of 10,000 ft. The application of this model to runways with more than 7,200 ft should assume a linear trend for the last subarea; however, it should be recognized that this is a fundamental weakness of the approach using raw distances. The cumulative probability model $(R^2 = 100\%)$ is represented by the following equation.

 $CP = 4.3285E^{-24}D^6 - 2.2632E^{-19}D^5 + 4.2519E^{-15}D^4$

$$
-3.6387E^{-11}D^3 + 1.2812E^{-07}D^2 + 3.5830E^{-05}D
$$

where

D is the longitudinal distance from the beginning of the runway and

CP is the cumulative probability that a veer-off will occur within *D*.

Lateral Probability Distribution

The lateral deviation models were developed using the mathematical structure described for the previous set of lateral deviation models. A model was developed for each subarea using the lateral deviations identified for each landing veer-off and takeoff veer-off event challenging the specific subarea. Table G1 summarizes the model coefficients for each subarea. Figures illustrating the mathematical models with the actual data used for modeling are presented in Appendix D.

Based on the lateral deviation models, risk contour lines were derived to cover the subareas defined, as shown in Figure G5. The contour lines in this figure represent both sides of the runway. Aircraft deviations are referenced to the center point of the aircraft between the main gears. The ISO-risk lines can be used to estimate the probability that an aircraft exceeds the lateral distance in a given subarea.

It should be noted that the risk contour curves presented in Figure G5 are applied to individual subareas and it is not possible to calculate the risk of an accident for a given scenario where the safety area may have limits and some obstacles may be present. However, it is possible to combine the lateral deviation models with the probability that an aircraft will challenge specific subareas of the runway. Figure G6 combines the results from Figure G5 and the lateral deviation models in Table G1, where the probabilities for a given distance are multiplied by the subarea probability.

In this case, the contour lines represent the probabilities that an aircraft will exceed a given lateral distance during a runway excursion.

The two previous plots present very high variability as a function of the raw distance, particularly for the outer contour lines. This is an indication that using raw distances may not be very accurate and not the best alternative for modeling.

Figure G1. Longitudinal probability distribution: both landing and takeoff veer-offs—raw distances in feet.

Figure G2. Longitudinal probability distribution: landing veer-offs only raw distances in feet.

Figure G3. Longitudinal probability distribution: takeoff veer-offs only raw distances in feet.

Figure G4. Longitudinal cumulative probability distribution—raw distances.

Normalization Alternative 3— Runway Distance Required

For this scenario, the raw longitudinal distances were divided by the runway distance required (RDR) by the aircraft involved in the event under its specific operational conditions. To model the longitudinal probability distributions, 10 subareas were defined. Subareas 1 through 7 had a length of 0.2*RDR each; the 8th segment had a length of 0.4*RDR; the 9th segment had a length 0.8*RDR; and the last segment comprised all distances above 2.4*RDR. The length of segments was selected such that the longitudinal probability distribution could be characterized with at least 5% of occurrences in each segment in the consolidated frequency histogram.

In addition to the basic RDR by each aircraft under ISO conditions (sea level, 15 degrees Centigrade), the following corrections were applied to RDR for each event:

- • Elevation,
- Air temperature, and
- Longitudinal Runway slope.

Longitudinal Probability Distribution

Figure G7 illustrates the longitudinal probability distribution for both landing and takeoff veer-offs when using longitudinal distances normalized for RDR. Figures G8 and G9 depict the longitudinal probability distributions for landing and takeoff veer-offs, respectively.

Figure G5. Risk contours: – probability of deviations exceeding a given distance L1 for each subarea—raw distances.

Figure G6. Risk contours: adjusted probability of deviations exceeding a given distance L1—raw distances.

Figure G7. Longitudinal probability distribution: both landing and takeoff veer-offs—distances normalized by runway distance required.

Figure G8. Longitudinal probability distribution: landing veer-offs only distances normalized by runway distance required.

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Figure G9. Longitudinal probability distribution: takeoff veer-offs only—distances normalized by runway distance required.

Based on the results presented in Figure G7 for both landing and takeoff veer-offs, the cumulative probability distribution curve for the runway distance required was developed and is shown in Figure G10. No mathematical model was developed for this scenario. If necessary, a polynomial of degree higher than 6 may be applied for the modeling. As indicated in ensuing paragraphs, this alternative for normalization was not selected for incorporation in the analysis software.

Lateral Probability Distribution

Similar to previous normalization alternatives, exponential models were developed for each subarea using the lateral deviations identified for each landing and takeoff veer-off event challenging the specific subarea. Table G2 summarizes the model coefficients for each subarea and the figures presented in Appendix E illustrate the mathematical models with the actual data used for modeling. The last column in Table G2 shows the models' *R*² .

Risk contour lines were also derived for this normalization scenario, as shown in Figure G11. It should be noted that the contour lines represent both sides of the runway. Aircraft deviations are referenced to the center point of the aircraft between the main gears. The ISO-risk lines can be used to estimate the probability that an aircraft exceeds the lateral distance in a given subarea.

It can be noted from Figure G11 that the contour lines are quite variable. This trend may be an indication that this normalization alternative may lead to larger errors if these risk contour curves are applied to individual subareas. Combining the lateral deviation models with the probability that an aircraft will challenge specific subareas of the runway makes it possible to obtain Figure G12. In this figure, the probabilities for a given distance are multiplied by the subarea probability. In this case, the contour lines represent the probabilities that an aircraft will exceed a given lateral distance during a runway excursion.

Figure G10. Longitudinal cumulative probability distribution: distances normalized by runway distance required.

Table G2. Lateral deviation models normalization using RDR.

Figure G11. Risk contours:—probability of deviations exceeding a given distance L1 for each subarea—distances normalized by RDR.

Figure G12. Risk contours:—adjusted probability of deviations exceeding a given distance L₁—distances normalized by RDR.

