



Onward and Upward

As cadet David Teitzel reaches the end of his cadetship at the Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA), **Mitch Brook** catches up with him to find out what's next...

Over the past several months, *OUTthere* has been following the progress of David Teitzel, one of the cadets at Rex's new Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA). He started his course several months ago and it has been a long journey of study, testing and flying. Now, David has only a few weeks until the end of his formal training at AAPA.

"By the end of the next three weeks I should have my Commercial Licence and my Multi Engine Instrument Command Rating," David says. The latter includes a test where David has no visuals – he must rely solely on the instruments and equipment. This will qualify him to fly commercial passenger planes.

After the cadetship, David will go to ground school, where he will learn Rex procedures and all about the aircraft that is used throughout Rex's fleet: the Saab 340 Turboprop. In order to fly this aircraft, he will need to complete simulator runs and check-in training flights. The cadets also have to adapt to the bigger planes – so far, they have been learning on smaller craft.

"Ground school takes around five weeks, the simulator period takes about two weeks and the check-to-line (establishing you as a fully capable first officer or airline pilot) can take up to six months, depending on how well

you go," says David. After these steps, he can start flying commercial passenger lines for Rex.

Part of the deal with an AAPA cadetship is that Rex supplies each cadet with employment on his or her successful completion of the course. The cadets have been putting in their placement requests, and David is hoping to land a position based in Sydney. "I am originally from Sydney, so I was hoping to get back there," he says. "Melbourne and Townsville would also be great though."

If all things go according to plan, David thinks that he could be flying as early as this month.

So as you sit in the comfort of your airline seat browsing *OUTthere* and thinking about your destination, consider the years of anticipation and the months of training David has been through in order to attain the expertise required to carry you to your destination.

"I love getting up there in the open air, flying over Australia," David says. "It's pretty liberating being able to take off from a destination by yourself and, with your know-how and handling of the aircraft, get to just about anywhere in Australia!" ●

Look out for more from David Teitzel – his final test results, his ground-school training and his job placement in upcoming issues of OUTthere.



AAPA cadet pilot David Teitzel. Part of the deal with an AAPA cadetship is that Rex employs each cadet on the successful completion of his or her course.