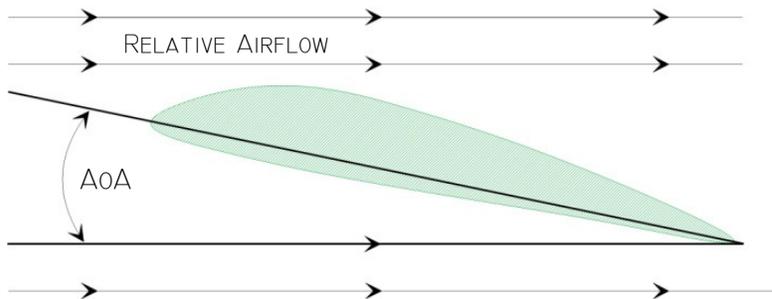


Feeling the AoA

Feeling the Angle of Attack ... come on, what does that even mean?

When I first started taking acrobatic lessons my instructor at the time kept telling me to take my eyes off the instruments and to start *Feeling the AoA*. To be honest, given the G-loaded predicament I found myself in, I just kept nodding in agreement, "Roger that, Wilco ... (with whatever on earth you're talking about)."



It didn't take long, when I reached a level where I could self-coach maneuvers at high altitude, that I realized what he meant. The AoA is the angle between the chord line of a wing and the relative airflow. To increase the AoA, and lift, you pull back on the stick. You can feel the stick force as you increase the AoA, because the wing wants to naturally cock itself back into the airflow, back to a zero AoA state. It's just the way a windsock wants to align itself with the wind

when you pull it off its natural track. The wing always wants to return to that "neutral" or "safe" state.

Did you catch it? This is significant. It means that during acro practice to recover from most (non auto-rotative) maneuvers, all you have to do is "Let go" of the controls to recover. Go figure.

Check out some of our flying adventures on [f /camiguinaviation/videos](https://www.facebook.com/camiguinaviation/videos) or www.camiguinaviation.com and feel free to contact us with questions about our Advanced Flight Maneuver Camp on Camiguin Island.

Happy Pulls!

Capt. Sean



Feeling the AoA

1. Wings naturally cock into the relative airflow
2. The effort to pull against that natural tendency, to increase the AoA, is felt in the stick
3. To recover from a maneuver, let go of the stick and the wing will orient itself

