

# 1983: B767 Gimli

## ■ General context

- Commercial flight Montreal-Edmonton
- 61 pax and 8 crew members
- Daylight
- Good weather
- Very first flight of the B767 **newly** introduced in the Air Canada fleet
- The country very recently switched to the **ISO metric** system.
- The aircraft is the **first** of the company fleet using the metric system.

# 1983: B767 Gimli (con'd)

## ■ Operational context

- The aircraft fuel gauges are **INOP** because the FPU was previously malfunctioning.

## ■ Situational context

### ● FL410

- ➔ Fuel press warning (L ENG)
- ➔ **L ENG flamed** out

### ● Start descent

### ● Requested direct to the closest airport (Winnipeg)

### ● FL260

- ➔ Fuel press warning (R ENG)
- ➔ **R ENG flamed** out
- ➔ **Lost** all usual navigation information  
(only the emergency navigation instruments available)

# 1983: B767 Gimli (con'd)

## ■ Situational context (con'd)

### ● FO

- ✗ Provided good support to Captain regarding the gliding distance
- ✗ At 25 Nm from Winnipeg, warned they cannot reach the airport

### ● Crew turned towards a decommissioned military airport:

- ✗ Gimli
- ✗ Realise they are too high and too fast

### ● Captain (an experienced glider pilot) entered a slip until the flare...

### ● On short final, the crew discovered:

- ✗ Gimli is now a dragway racing strip
- ✗ A guardrail separated the former RWY into 2 strips length-wise
- ✗ A multitude of people and cars were sitting on the runway



Gimli

Winnipeg



# 1983: B767 Gimli (con'd)

- Situational context (end)
  - Landed but nose wheel collapsed
  - Two tires blew
  - A fire in the nose of the plane was extinguished by go-cart racers with hand-held fire extinguishers
- Consequences
  - A few pax slightly injured when coming off the evacuation slides, due:
    - The aircraft attitude
    - Related R1/R2 slides to the ground
  - Aircraft slightly damaged but was repaired for flight back to Winnipeg

# 1983: B767 Gimli (con'd)

## ■ Analysis

- 75 L of Jet fuel remained in the tanks
- Aircraft needed 22,300 kg of fuel for the flight
- Because the fuel gauges were INOP, a visual check was completed and was correct
- Refueler loaded the correct amount of fuel but in... Lbs
- Nobody in the company has been trained in the new metric system

# 1983: B767 Gimli (end)

- Causes (Transport Canada report)
  - Errors were made by:
    - ✗ Refueller
    - ✗ Both crew member
  - Insufficient training and safety procedures provided by company
- Disciplinary context
  - Captain was **demoted** for six months
  - FO was **suspended** for two weeks
  - Three ground workers were suspended.