Figure 1-13. *Three major areas contributing to runway incursions are communications with air traffic control (ATC), airport knowledge, and flight deck procedures.*

The key to stall awareness is the pilot's ability to visualize the wing's AOA in any particular circumstance, and thereby be able to estimate his or her margin of safety above stall. This is a learned skill that must be acquired early in flight training and carried through the pilot's entire flying career.

Figure 1-14. *Sedona Airport is one of the many airports that operate without a control tower.*

The pilot must understand and appreciate factors such as airspeed, pitch attitude, load factor, relative wind, power setting, and aircraft configuration in order to develop a reasonably accurate mental picture of the wing's AOA at any particular time. It is essential to safety of flight that pilots take into consideration this visualization of the wing's AOA prior to entering any flight maneuver. Chapter 3, Basic Flight Maneuvers, discusses stalls in greater detail.

Use of Checklists

Checklists have been the foundation of pilot standardization and flight deck safety for years. *[Figure 1-17]* The checklist is a memory aid and helps to ensure that critical items necessary for the safe operation of aircraft are not overlooked or forgotten. Checklists need not be "do lists." In other words, the proper actions can be accomplished, and then the checklist used to quickly ensure all necessary tasks or actions have been completed. Emphasis on the "check" in checklist. However,