

# Police Aviation News

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IPAR



## Italian exercises on Mount Pink

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# LAW ENFORCEMENT AVIATION

## CANADA

**RCMP:** The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in British Columbia, Canada's westernmost province, are to receive two new helicopters this summer:

A Eurocopter AS350-B3 A-Star will replace the 25 year old Bell 206L1 Long Ranger operating out of Kelowna in B.C.'s Okanagan Valley. This aircraft will be used in a law enforcement utility role including transport of investigators and police dog teams; search and rescue; mountaintop radio repeater servicing; movement of emergency response team personnel; aerial crime scene photography; urban patrol over the Okanagan cities of Kelowna, Vernon and Penticton; and management of vehicle pursuits.

A new Eurocopter EC-120B Colibri based at the RCMP air section at Vancouver International Airport (CYVR) will join the existing AS350-B3 there. It will be deployed on traffic enforcement and urban patrol duties over the "Lower Mainland" metropolitan area comprising the city of Vancouver and numerous surrounding municipalities. Total population of this area is approximately two million people.

The aircraft is being partially funded by a special traffic safety initiative of the government of British Columbia and the Insurance Corporation of B.C. (ICBC). The program will focus on safe management of vehicle pursuits; deterrence of street racing; detection and apprehension of stolen vehicles; and aggressive and impaired driving enforcement. The aircraft will also be available for other urban policing support roles. It will be maintained and operated by the RCMP, with tactical flight officers (TFO/observer) drawn from the RCMP and other municipal police forces including the Vancouver Police Department.

With these acquisitions the RCMP in E Division (British Columbia) will have a total of ten aircraft deployed at six bases around the province.



These include two Pilatus PC-12's, two Cessna 208 Caravans, three AS350-B3's, one EC-120B, one Bell 206L4 Long Ranger and one Cessna 206U.

Nationwide, RCMP Air Services operates thirty-three aircraft from eighteen bases. In addition to the aircraft types already mentioned, the RCMP fleet ranges from de Havilland Twin Otters in the North, to a Piaggio P180 Avanti twin turboprop based at Ottawa. RCMP Superintendent Bob Connell is the director of Air Services for the Force, based at national HQ in Ottawa. [PLE RCMP]

## IRAN

Iran's government has blamed police for the death of six soccer fans killed after a 2006 World Cup qualifier against Japan in Tehran last month.

A government spokesman said the victims were trampled to death while leaving Tehran's Azadi stadium because a police helicopter had blocked the main gate.

At least 40 others were badly injured in the crush as people tried to leave the 100,000 seat stadium. Iran beat Japan 2-1 in the Asian zone Group B game on March 25. [Reuters]

Although there have been several reports on this, they all seem to originate from the same source and there are no clues as to the manner in which the police helicopter blocked the entrance.

## ITALY

### VATICAN

*In this photo released by the Italian Air Force, an Italian Air Force helicopter patrols the air space above St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Thursday April 7, 2005 for security ahead of Pope John Paul II's funeral April 8. (Aeronautica Militare Italiana)*



With some 200 world leaders attending the funeral in Rome, the Italian government drastically tightened security measures. The Civil Protection Department and the Interior and Defence Ministries fielded up to 15,000 police, paramilitary and military anti-terrorist, intelligence, snipers, bomb-disposal and NBCR special units, in addition to members of the fire brigade, civil protection teams and voluntary personnel.

Assets included Italian Air Force Lockheed Martin F-16 fighters, AMX multi-role attack fighters and Aermacchi MB-339CD advanced trainers. Helicopters included Agusta HH-3F helicopters armed with machine guns.

Except for military, police and emergency flights, a 10 nm diameter No-Flying Zone was established over central Rome with a 70 nm airspace area with lesser restrictions. Local airports [Ciampino, Roma Urbe and Fiumicino] were either closed or had their traffic flows curtailed. These airports, together with Pratica di Mare air force base remained open to police, emergency, paramilitary and military fixed and rotary-wing assets and received foreign government flights.



## KOREA

LG International has decided to advance into helicopter lease services for government agencies, including the National Maritime Police Agency and the Forest Service. LG plans to purchase ten more Russian-made rescue helicopters by the year-end, and aims to hold 100 helicopters in stock by 2008.

In the last decade the company supplied about 50 helicopters to government agencies; most of which are Russian.

LG also plans to build a four storey, 9000 square metre technology supply and repair center within Chongju International Airport. Staffed by 67 live-in technicians, 40 of whom will be Russians, it will have the capacity to repair six helicopters at a time. [Korea Times]

## RUSSIA

**MOSCOW:** During events dedicated to marking the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in World War 2 special agents are to safeguard public order using helicopters.

It seems that Nikolai Kulikov, head of a department in charge of security in Moscow, says that the agents are tasked with unearthing the 'unauthorized gathering of people.' In excess of twenty Sukoi Su-27, Mig 29 and Mig 31 interceptor fighters and unidentified helicopters will be engaged. [Izvestia]

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## UNITED KINGDOM

**ALEA UK Members:** The ALEA is seeking to increase its involvement and services to UK and European members. The ALEA Board has authorised the conduct of an ALEA UK Safety Seminar similar to those already conducted in the US. ALEA regions.

Glenn A. Daley, a former New York Police officer and pilot is the North East Director, responsible for arranging the Northeast Safety Seminar in the US and also responsible for any expansion into Europe.

In the past ALEA has made overtures to European groups but much has fallen on stony ground with various states injecting their own issues into the business before allowing ALEA to try it their own way.

Trying again Glenn and the ALEA are going to try again and propose to conduct an additional seminar in the UK in 2006. The following [www.alea.org/public/seminars/ne/index.htm](http://www.alea.org/public/seminars/ne/index.htm) will give you an idea of the format and classes offered. The seminar is free of charge to all ALEA members.

Glenn and the ALEA President Dan Schwarzbach will be in the UK this November to help the London Metropolitan Police ASU celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During their stay they would like to meet as many UK police aviators as possible and get feedback on the ALEA and attract suggestions or comments.

*Ed: The ALEA has been trying to get somewhere with this project for nine years. They have sent representatives to a variety of police aviation related meetings in the UK, Italy [UP] and other European PACE meetings.*

**FUNDING:** A Home Office White Paper on police reform [Building Communities, Beating Crime] includes proposals to shake up procurement.

It is suggested that a new National Policing Improvement Agency [NPIA] might be set up to oversee and rationalise various functions including procurement. The White Paper states that 'The lines of accountability and responsibility are often blurred' and it is intended to overcome this and other drawbacks currently experienced. The NPIA, if it happens, might oversee work currently undertaken by others including PITO [Police Information Technology Organisation]. Framework agreements, the manner by which new aircraft and equipment are watch. 'In 2000 PITO identified .... an arrangement for awarding contracts on a restricted basis to a limited number of suppliers.'

'The original frameworks went to a large number of suppliers .... [discounts were not very large] ...better value for money... limited number of suppliers' [Police Review 15/4/05 page 20]



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**CAMBRIDGESHIRE:** The air support unit is currently without a Unit Executive Officer following the resignation of Mr Tony Yeldham last month. Tony has been with the unit since it was set up in 1997 and took up the same job in a civilian capacity on retirement as a police inspector. It is believed that his vacated post will be advertised seeking a wholly civilian replacement. There is a deputy in Cambridgeshire and meanwhile Essex Police have taken over the mantle of substantive UEO. [IPAR]

*Ed: Although one unit, Devon & Cornwall, has successfully sought civilian aviation managers they have had to pay appropriately. Cambridgeshire may well be one of the first instances where the ability of the police to attract a civilian to take up the post at a relatively low cost may be demonstrated. In the recent past such posts have been taken up by retiring police officers who remain in post and the salary on offer [usually around £24,000] has effectively been subsidised by the officers pension.*

*Whilst £24,000 is a good wage, it remains to be seen whether it is enough to attract a manager of the right calibre with the knowledge to operate a high-tech police aviation unit. In this specific instance the applicant will be faced with introducing into service a new MD900 Explorer helicopter at a time when the helicopter type is going through a particularly problematical period.*

*Beyond that there may be issues with training a replacement. With only a single UEO training course each year the timing of the introduction of a new face to the job will need to be just right.*

*The holder of the position of UEO is, (jointly with the Chief Constable of the Force concerned) legally liable for the proper & efficient running of the unit under his or her control. It is an almost unique position in the Police Service.*

*When approached Cambridgeshire Police declined to discuss the vacancy.*

**CLEVELAND:** The 35<sup>th</sup> National Police Air Rally [Polair2005] is being are to be hosted by the Cleveland Police Aviation Club [North East] for the British Police Flying Association at Durham Tees Valley Airport between June 10-12. The competition commence at 0900 on both Friday June 10 and Saturday June 11. Both days end at 1700 hours. The event is being organised in association with the facilities of the Cleveland Flying Club. More details can be found at [www.cleveland.police.uk/polair05](http://www.cleveland.police.uk/polair05)

**ESSEX:** Essex Police is about to fit an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera in a helicopter to catch speeders, road tax cheats and uninsured drivers from 2,000ft up in the air! The chopper uses a special long-range US-built camera so it doesn't have to hover low to capture the information.

As well as cracking down on errant motorists, the system will make locating stolen cars easier. An Essex Police spokesman said: 'This will be useful for checking out vehicles in inaccessible rural locations - where stolen cars are often stored.' [autoexpress]

*Ed: The detail on this storyline is that Essex has successfully undertaken trials using its existing FSI Ultraforce 2 camera and has now ordered a spotterscope for installation in the same turret – this effectively upgrades the sensor to the designation Ultraforce 2+. Whilst the ANPR trials demonstrated that the standard system worked it was clear that the helicopter needed to get far closer to the target than would be necessary with a higher powered spotterscope fitted.*

*Contrary to the impression given by the original article the equipment is not expected in service before June and its use will be somewhat more serious than the quoted 'speeders, road tax cheats and uninsured drivers.'*

**NORTH EAST:** A second North East Air Support Unit (NEASU) helicopter delivered in March was officially launched at Durham Tees Valley Airport on April 4.

Police in Northumbria, Durham and Cleveland have replaced their BN-2 Islander plane with the new £3.7M Eurocopter EC135T2 helicopter.

The EC135 is a more modern version of the existing EC 135 Eurocopter, which at 6,900 hours is the world leader for the aircraft type.

Between January 1996 and March 2005 NEASU carried out 51,500 tasks, was involved in the arrest of 7,500 suspects and helped in the recovery of property valued at £6.75M. NEASU has also been involved in many life-saving missions.

NEASU consists of 20 police constables and two sergeants from the three forces who act as observers and ten contracted pilots. They provide 24-hour air support across the region from bases at Newcastle International and Durham Tees Valley airports.



Following a best value review of the unit it was decided replacing the plane with a second helicopter would add greater flexibility in co-ordination of pilots and helicopter maintenance as well as provide an equal service across the region. Another helicopter also adds greater operational flexibility in support of front-line officers and the public.

The Home Office awarded NEASU a £1.5M grant towards the helicopter's purchase while the remainder of the money is provided by the three forces and trade-in value of the Islander.

The new EC135 T2 Eurocopter was built in Germany and fitted with its specialist equipment by Oxford-based Eurocopter distributor McAlpine Helicopters.

The new helicopter has the future capability to adopt the Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS), which is a requirement to attract Home Office funding. NVIS involves the pilot and observers wearing special night vision goggles, offering safety and operational advantages for night operations. [NEASU]

**NORTH YORKSHIRE:** Prisoners at the Full Sutton high security prison near York were planning a spectacular helicopter escape according to a leaked Prison Service document. Intelligence states that two such escape plots have come to light in the past six months – and specifically warns that Full Sutton is at risk.

The Full Sutton information stated that plans were to drop firearms from a helicopter into an exercise yard. Prisoners would then use firearms to force staff to allow access to an area in which a helicopter could land or hover to pick up prisoners.

The report warns that a number of inmates have the right money and contacts to finance such an attempt and also says that a microlight aircraft could be used.

Full Sutton houses the rich among its inmates - drug barons, terrorists, gangsters and Yardies. [Yorkshire Post]

*Ed: North Yorkshire Police do not have air support. In an emergency they rely upon the MD900 helicopters of the surrounding Yorkshire forces.*

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE:** In what was basically a re-run of the Yorkshire Post article carried in PAN last month European Business Air News [EBAN] quotes Jeremy Awanat of Police Aviation Services [the UK MD agent] stating that one of his MD900 Explorer forces is returning 97% availability. He stated that the reported spares shortages are not supported by his own findings and that 'all of its Explorers are flying normally for its customers.'

*Ed: Clearly this availability issue is commercially sensitive and variable but published sources tend to support the lower values quoted last month. A recent 'Best Value' report by HMIC on air support in Dorset, Hampshire and Sussex records 'availability' figures of 79% in Dorset, 75% in Hampshire and 88% in Sussex but it fails to qualify the basis of those numbers. The [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/airopsbvr05.pdf](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/airopsbvr05.pdf) is worth a read but it does include some apparently eccentric conclusions.*

## UNITED STATES

**FEDERAL:** Readers may recall an item last month that highlighted an apparent change of plans in the US Coast Guard's Deepwater programme. The missing AB139 is just one item. Sikorsky has now announced that the USCG is to upgrade and modernize its current Sikorsky HH-60J JAYHAWK helicopter fleet to meet its expanded Homeland Defense responsibilities, within the revised Deepwater Implementation Plan recently presented to Congress. An earlier

version of Deepwater called for the purchase of a new and smaller aircraft to replace the JAYHAWK as the Medium Range Recovery (MMR) helicopter. Deepwater now forgoes the new aircraft [the AB139] and calls for upgrading the current HH-60J JAYHAWK [and the HH-65].

The newly-designated MH-60T will be fitted with a new state-of-the-art cockpit, new search /weather radar and Electro-Optics/IR units, upgraded engines and airframe, and an Airborne Use of Force Package to provide more firepower and protection from small arms fire. The JAYHAWK is a variant of the Sikorsky H-60.

Sikorsky Aircraft delivered 42 HH-60Js to the Coast Guard for search and rescue (SAR), offshore law enforcement, drug interdiction, aids to navigation and environmental protection. [Sikorsky]

*Ed: This is not a cancellation of the AB139, the type was never ordered for Deepwater. For marketing purposes it suited both the Deepwater programme developers and Agusta-Bell to associate the image of the AB139 as a modern helicopter with the proposals being made.*

*As currently proposed the AB139 would be unable to match some of the performance capabilities of the Jayhawk but, as the proposed introduction date remains some way into the future, this shortfall was always likely to be a development target. [Sikorsky/IPAR]*

**CALIFORNIA:** Kern County Sheriff's Dept [KCSD] Air Support Unit are hosting their first Fly-In Fiesta on May 5. Join them for an afternoon of camaraderie, good food and valuable networking. You need to be at Bakersfield Meadows Airport Sheriff's Hangar on the day between 1000 – 1400.

Please RSVP (# attending, type of aircraft). Unfortunately the unit cannot now guarantee lunch service [bookings closed on April 29] but contact Deputy Caughron at [Caughron@co.kern.ca.us](mailto:Caughron@co.kern.ca.us) or +1 661-391-7682 to tell them you are going.

Don't miss their special guest speaker: Officer Jack Schonely from LAPD, the author of "Apprehending Fleeing Suspects; Suspects Tactics and Perimeter Containment". Officer Schonely will be hosting a 1-hour presentation from 1200 - 1300. Lunch Served 1100 -1200.

Arrive early to enjoy the Great Mexican Food and enter to win the many door prizes to be given away. [KCSD]



**NORTH CAROLINA:** A bank has filed a lawsuit against Franklin County Sheriff Jerry Jones, a former deputy and county officials to recover an \$81,000 loan to upgrade an ageing helicopter.

Tennessee-based Citizens Bank is accusing Jones, ex-Deputy Benjamin Barrick and other officials of fraud, negligent misrepresentation and conspiracy according to court documents. Barrick needed more than \$81,000 for his 1966 Hughes helicopter, which was going to be used by the office to fight crime and eradicate marijuana plants. He received the loan in April 2004, offering the machine as collateral but it crashed the following month, injuring Barrick and killing a deputy.

The bank is also seeking loan interest, relief for attorney fees and punitive damages in excess of \$10,000. Barrick was fired from his job as a deputy sheriff in September, and now lives in Tennessee. [Media]

*Ed: The accident to which this relates took place in mid-May 2004 when a Hughes 300/269A N115ES crashed into woods near Louisburg, NC. Contemporary articles stated that the pilot, Barrick, was the President of a Non-Profit Org. that owned the helicopter and that he had been hired by the Sheriff in April 2004 to fly the Hughes.*

**MARYLAND:** The Baltimore Police Aviation Unit [+1 443-984-7042] is seeking pilots. Baltimore City Police Department is accepting resumes for the position of Flight Officer.

Prospective candidates must be a US citizen, pass police background checks and willing to attend police academy. Flying requirements include a minimum of 1,400 hours Total Time; 800 hours PIC; 700 Turbine Helicopter; Commercial Instrument Helicopter Certificate. Class II Flight Physical.

The city is offering a competitive salary and excellent benefits. For additional information call or send resume to: Baltimore Police Department Aviation Unit 701 Wilson Point Road Box 31 Baltimore, MD 21220 [BP]

**NEVADA:** As previously reported the Phoenix Police Department has recently taken delivery of their Eurocopter AS350B3 helicopter. Two more of these TwinStars are due to join the unit shortly. They will join a fleet of MD520N, Cessna light singles and an Agusta 109E. [PPD]

*Ed: Phoenix have flown helicopters manufactured by MD and their predecessors [Hughes etc] since 1968 and have been notable for flying the MD520N for more than a decade. They were the lead operator of the type and even went back and bought two additional airframes [97 and 98] in 2002. Clearly the current situation presents a radical change of direction.*

*Phoenix are now developing and refining their training process on the new airframe and, it would seem, are turning their back on further MD920Ns.*



**NEW YORK:** It is proposed that the 'rickety', 38-year-old blue Hughes OH-6A helicopter N81751 flown by Westchester County police is to be replaced.

To police Capt. Paul Stasaitis, the creaking relic of the Vietnam War (during which it was reportedly shot down twice) is ill-suited for modern police work and needs to be replaced with a helicopter more capable of fighting fires, responding to terror attacks and rescuing victims.

The County Executive has sent the Board of Legislators a proposal to buy a \$4.5M, eight-seat helicopter capable of 166mph as part of its latest financial plan

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County police have been shopping for a new helicopter on the back of the 9/11 attacks for some time. Initial proposals were considered too sophisticated and bumped the price up to about \$6.5M, beyond the acceptable spend.

A new commissioner, Thomas Belfiore, now proposes something more modest at \$4.5M, with \$2M in federal aid to make the deal more likely. Any helicopter manufacturer will be able to bid on the county purchase, but it is suggested that the AgustaWestland A119 Koala is presently proposed. [Journal]

# AIR AMBULANCE



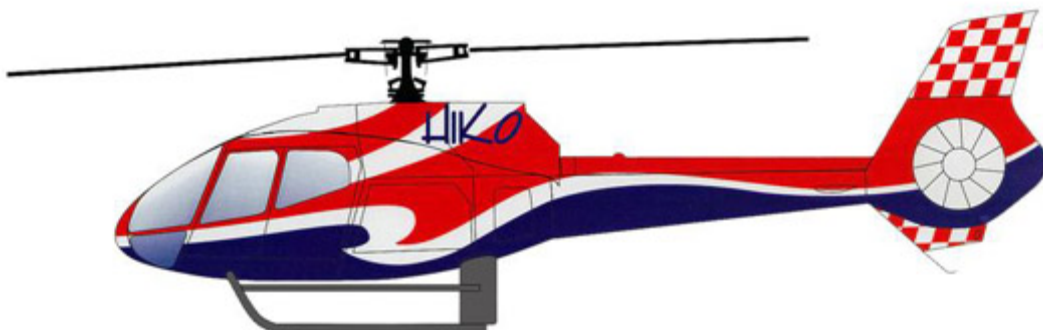
## CROATIA

A Croatian helicopter operator has ordered two Eurocopter EC145 medium twin-turbine helicopters for potential use in a variety of Government civil support roles. Delivery is expected at the end of this month.

Helikopterska Kompanija [HIKO] intend the helicopters will be used for SAR, EMS, border patrol and fire fighting in addition to passenger and cargo roles. HIKO also expect to acquire a BK117 to incorporate into a ten-strong mixed fleet including EC130s. [Flight]

*Ed: An update on the Flight information is that HIKO of Zagreb, Croatia, have ordered the BK 117 and that will be delivered at the end of May. One EC 145 is currently on order and that is to be delivered in June. Both are nearing completion at Donauwörth but they are yet to be painted. Both will be configured for the HEMS role.*

*Meanwhile the parties are negotiating a package of six EC145 and four EC130. The EC145s will be used mainly for EMS and SAR, the EC130s are intended for various roles like police surveillance, fire fighting, etc.*



## DENMARK

A male patient from Tinglev/Denmark requiring fast medical assistance was the first cross-border air rescue mission from Germany to Denmark. On April 11, 2005, the crew of the German rescue helicopter Christoph Europa 5 started to its first mission in Denmark. Since April 1 the helicopter, operated by the German non-profit air rescue organization DRF (Deutsche Rettungsflugwacht e.V./German Air Rescue), started operating its HEMS base in the German village Niebüll/Schleswig-Holstein.

The DRF BK117 helicopter at Niebüll hospital, operates daily from 7 a.m. to sunset, and carries full medical equipment on board. DRF currently provides experienced pilots and paramedics, emergency physicians are provided by Danish and German hospitals.

'We are very much interested in cross-border air rescue since there has been no area-wide air rescue system in Denmark that could be compared with the German system,' noted Carl Holst, County Mayor of the Danish administrative district of South Jutland (Sønderjyllands Amt). 'With this cross-border cooperation, we expect that the emergency medical care of the population in the south and west of Denmark will be optimised,' he added. [DRF]

## UNITED KINGDOM

### CORNWALL:

Three members of staff at the charity which pays for Cornwall's air ambulance service have been arrested on suspicion of theft. Police have questioned two women aged 31 and 62, and a 40-year-old man.

The three, all from north Cornwall, were quickly released on police bail to re-appear at Newquay police station in June. The Charity Commission is working with air ambulance trustees to evaluate if a formal investigation is needed. [Media]

**DEVON:** The Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) has introduced a second air ambulance in Devon for the summer months from the end of April. The aim is to provide additional emergency air ambulance cover in the County during the busy summer months.

The helicopter is the Bolkow BO105DBS, the type that served Devon for over 12 years before it was replaced with the new EC135T2 aircraft. Bolkow G-WMAA will be based at Belle Vue Flying Club, near Great Torrington; at the kind permission of the landowners, Mr & Mrs D Easterbrook.

By deploying a second air ambulance, Devon becomes the only single county in the UK to operate more than one aircraft. As with the other aircraft, based in Exeter, Westcountry Ambulance Services will provide the crew and equipment necessary to respond to emergency 999 calls.

Although based in North Devon, the air ambulance will be deployed across the whole of the County along with the Exeter based EC135. This means over 95% of Devon can be reached in 5 minutes by an air ambulance.

The DAAT state that the second Air Ambulance, which will also be supplied and maintained by Bond Air Services, will cost the Trust around £250,000 for the summer period. [DAAT]

*Ed: In the wake of continued problems affecting the Great North Air Ambulance this announcement clearly underlines the health of Devon's fundraising. Last month the DAAT were reticent about commenting on the effects of the Tsunami on their finances. Now I guess we know why.*

**EAST ANGLIA:** The operation continues to raise funding for a larger new helicopter capable of carrying more than the patient and to improve the ability to undertake hospital transfers. Although the exact type apparently remains flexible, a move up from the current BO105DBS5 is aimed at.

In the past the BK117 has been mentioned but as that type is no longer available new other types are being considered – including the MD900.

The air ambulance claims it is the second busiest in the country making an average of four missions a day. The fundraising campaign for a new helicopter began last year, but it relies entirely on voluntary donations and costs £65,000 a month to run. To secure a new helicopter the annual income needs to be doubled to £3M. [The Advertiser]

**ESSEX:** The Essex Air Ambulance Appeals team launched its Presentation Suite at the Appeals Office in Earls Colne, Colchester on April 15. The establishment of a permanent suite at the offices has been made possible by the charity's ongoing relationship with Lloyds TSB Bank who donated £2,500 to purchase projector equipment.

The 2005 Flora London Marathon will see a record number of runners raising funds for the county's Air Ambulance. This year six Essex Air Ambulance supporters entered the 26 mile marathon on April 17. [EAA]

**GREAT NORTH:** The air ambulance operation operating in the North East remains reduced to a single MD900 Explorer aircraft as this issue goes to press. The BO105 and AS355 remain out of service. GNAA has stated the situation is improving but that a formal statement is not expected before May. [GNAA]

**NORTH WEST:** The NWAA, currently the only regional medical air emergency service which covers the North West and Cumbria region, recently joined forces with HM Coastguard [South Cumbria] on a training day to familiarise staff with the NWAA and its operation.

The day started at 8.45am with a live exercise test in which communications and practicalities of using the aircraft in the coastguard setting were displayed.

The NWAA arrived from its Blackpool base within eight minutes of the call to Foulney Island, South of Barrow. The Coastguard had secured a landing site and let off a flare for the NWAA to pinpoint the Coastguard's location.

Once on ground, the NWAA explained to the Coastguard its role, operating limits and safety of working around the helicopter and in exchange the Coastguard went through its equipment and capabilities.



The air ambulance, a registered charity, costs almost £1M a year to maintain its service over an area of 5,500 square miles and a residential population of seven million people. On average the NWAA is called out four times a day, rising up to ten in the summer. As of 1 April, the NWAA extended its flying time from 8am - 6pm until October.

The South Cumbria Coastguard's rescue boat is used for SAR, general patrol, safety work and transportation of men/equipment around the area. [NWAA]

**WARWICKSHIRE & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:** The operation has reached another milestone, 2,000 missions since operations started in October 2003. [WNAA]

**WEST MIDLANDS:** The latest new Eurocopter EC135T2 for the County Air Ambulance has been delivered. Registered G-HWAA the EC135 is now in service with the operator based at the M5 Services Strensham. [JP]

**YORKSHIRE:** Even as its neighbouring air ambulance GNAA is going through hard times the Yorkshire Air Ambulance service is appealing for £5m to buy two new helicopters.

At present the service has only one 15-year-old BO105 helicopter and the charity hopes to replace its old helicopter this year with a new, larger model and then work towards buying a second one. Last year the helicopter flew 729 times.

Mumtaz Khan, chairman of the highly-successful Mumtaz restaurant and chilled food business, has already pledged at least £2,000 a month to the air ambulance appeal, the entire profits from his highly successful lassi yoghurt drinks.

The pilot of the Bolkow was returning to base when a warning light came on and he had to cut one of the two engines and make an emergency landing. It was perfectly safe but it highlights that the unit is spending £100,000 on unscheduled maintenance every year. They would rather spend that money on a new helicopter. One would be for South Yorkshire, the other for West and North Yorkshire. [Yorkshire Post]

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## UNITED STATES

**ALASKA:** Guardian Flight of Fairbanks announced that it is opening a dedicated LearJet 35 aero-medical transport service that will serve Southeast Alaska. The service will be based in Ketchikan and is a total care aero-medical transport Air Ambulance. Guardian Flight will be working with local helicopter, float planes, and SAR.

The dedication of the Learjet for emergency air service for Southeast Alaska will be held in Ketchikan in May 2005. The date has not yet been announced. [SIT]

**ARIZONA:** The wait time for advanced medical care to Douglas area residents will now be greatly reduced due to a new Bell 407 helicopter operated by Med-Trans Corporation that will be available full-time to patients in need of critical care.

A grand opening, dedication and air-craft blessing was held at the Douglas Municipal Airport last month to welcome Arizona Lifeline and its crew to Douglas.

The idea to bring the medical transport service to Douglas began in December of 2003. [The Daily Dispatch]

**FLORIDA:** Florida Hospital is getting a new high-tech emergency medical helicopter -- one of only five in the nation -- that will allow the hospital's Florida Flight 1 team to treat even more patients.

The new EC145 flight medicine helicopter is equipped with state-of-the-art weather radar, which allows the team to take off and maneuver around storms instead of waiting the storm out. In addition, the helicopter is larger, meaning there's more space for additional critically ill patients, as well as more medical staff and equipment.

Florida Hospital has provided air ambulance service for the past 20 years, transferring patients within the Florida Hospital system as well as patients at other hospitals across the state. [OBJ]

# FIRE FIRE FIRE FIRE FIRE FIRE FIRE

## AUSTRALIA

**NEW SOUTH WALES:** Australian Aerospace announced the delivery of the first EC145 helicopter in the South Pacific, to True North Helicopters in mid-March. True North Helicopters is best known for operating luxurious wilderness tours in the Western Kimberleys but it is also heavily involved with fire agencies in NSW.



The EC145 is an ultra-modern, twin-engine, multi purpose helicopter, with up to 11 seats for pilot/s and passengers.

From November to April of each year the EC 145 will be operated in NSW to assist the fire agencies with helicopter fire fighting capabilities (1500 Kg cargo swing and Bambi buckets). The EC 145 will also assist with winching fire fighters on the spot using the 270 Kg hoist. For the remainder of the year, True North will be in Kimberley operating the luxurious tours. [AE]

## KOREA

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) recently agreed to allow South Korean helicopters to cross the southern boundary of the demilitarised zone (DMZ) that separates the DPRK and South Korea to fight forest fires in the buffer zone.

The agreement came via a telephone message after a request from the South Korean Defense Ministry was delivered through the UN Command at the joint security area (JSA) of Panmunjeom.

The agreement will pave the way for local helicopters to enter the southern section of the DMZ and prevent any forest fire there from spreading into South Korean territory.

In issuing the agreement, however, the DPRK requested that South Korean helicopters and personnel not cross the military demarcation line (MDL) which effectively bisects the 4-kilometer-wide DMZ. [China News]

## UNITED STATES

**CALIFORNIA:** County supervisors have approved a financial package that will eventually fund two Bell 412EP helicopters to replace the two oldest in the fire department's fleet of seven helicopters. The action also authorised amortisation of a \$14m balance remaining from the previous purchase of Sikorsky Firehawk helicopters. [NBC]

**TEXAS:** Tyler County ambulance service 'Eagle EMS' has discontinued use of Angel Flight, Gold Star EMS' medical helicopter service after a patient died. Medical sources suggest that the male patient was in need of oxygen; but oxygen tanks on the aircraft that responded were empty. Eagle EMS denied liability.

The same week a Lear Jet belonging to Gold Star EMS was seized by Jefferson County due to the company owing nearly \$63,000 in tax. [KBTv]

# SEARCH & RESCUE

## CANADA

General Dynamics Canada is forging ahead with its part in the \$5-billion contract awarded to Sikorsky Aircraft Corp. for 28 new maritime helicopters despite the legal challenge of losing bidder AgustaWestland Inc.

As a major player in the Sikorsky consortium, General Dynamics will be compensated \$750 million for the first five-year phase of the 20-year contract. The Department of National Defence formally signed the contract last November.

The new H-92 Cyclones will replace the aged Sea King aircraft in service with the Canadian Forces. They will be able to handle surface and subsurface surveillance and control, people and cargo transfers and SAR missions.

AgustaWestland, is still looking for its day in court to argue that the Cyclone is inadequate for the task and that its bid was the victim of a contract process biased by political agendas. [Media]

## ITALY



# ALPINE TRAINING

With the drawing near of the spring in the mountains the danger of avalanches grows daily.

Some avalanches are generated by skiers off piste in fresh snow. The already unstable surface, literally cut by the ski, is at the heart of many avalanches. Often the skiers are the victims of their own action.

When avalanches happen the time to intervene in their rescue is short. The first 20 minutes are vital to extract a person in otherwise good health overrun over by avalanche. The time available for rescue is shortened for those suffering traumas.

The presence of organisations trained to intervene rapidly, and placed near the more crowded alpine locations, is fundamental to try to save life.

In Italy the Guardia di Finanza maintain 23 mountain rescue stations named SAGF (Soccorso Alpino Guardia di Finanza), and each of them has also a canine unit specialised in search in avalanche. Local exercises to maintain personnel and dogs in the peak of performance are undertaken on a weekly basis. Additional larger exercises involving a wider range of the emergency services are undertaken in the winter months.

At the end of February one of these took place as the Esercitazione Monte Rosa (Exercise Mount Pink) involving three SAGF units from Alagna, Domodossola and Macugnaga, the civil CNSAS organisation (Alpine rescue), the Swiss Border Guard and the Guardia di Finanza Air Service.



*Mount Pink*



### ***The Exercise.***

The exercise took place on the eastern side of Mount Pink (an Italian-Swiss Massif with peaks including Gnifetti 4,554m, Zumstein 4,563, Dufour 4,634, Nordend 4,609), and on the Castelfranco glacier at the foot of the Torre di Castelfranco, a 3,629m peak. Just a few days before a real avalanche had hit the area and now it became the theatre of the exercise.

Some SAGF volunteers buried targets for the exercise - objects and mannequins - in the snow, and the warning is launched.

The units waiting in the Macugnaga station, Anzasca Valley [1,327m amsl] move rapidly to the AB412HP helicopter from Venegono Guardia di Finanza's Air Section. The personnel have to be particular wary when carrying large equipment such as skis in the vicinity of the turning rotors. Other dangers presented to people and dogs alike include the blinding effect of the downdraught created blizzard of stinging ice crystals.

With just a single Bell available it takes a number of sorties to transport all of the rescue squads to the avalanche site. The avalanche is ideally split in sectors and under the command of an SAGF officer, as the Operations Director. Meanwhile the helicopter is deployed to a landing site close by waiting to transport any rescued victims to hospital.

The search in avalanche is a difficult and exacting task even for well trained and equipped teams. Under the best circumstances the victims can be located after few minutes thanks to the ARVA, an instrument emitting radio signal worn by skiers and climbers. For others the time lengthens and, in real avalanche, for them the ikelihood of survival diminishes.

When dogs indicate scents at a precise site it is marked by the handler with a flag, and then the dog is taken elsewhere to start another search whilst a dig is undertaken to extract the person. If the person is not found quickly a team probes the area with rods.

At the end of the exercise the return-rotation flights in bright sunshine provide ample opportunities to observe the fantastic landscape surrounding the Monte Rosa. The sun though rapidly disappears during the brief, 30 minute, flight to the base at Venegono as the day draws to a close. [Words and photography **Dino Marcellino**]

## **NEW ZEALAND**

The Wellington based Westpac Rescue Helicopter undertook a very quick but successful rescue on Wellington's South Coast early last month.

The helicopter was asked by Wellington police to go and assist a diver in trouble at 1515hrs on April 6.

Within minutes of lift-off the helicopter's pilot spotted the man clinging to a rock in Houghton Bay. Once spotted it only took a couple of minutes to winch him up into the helicopter and get him to shore.

The 27 year old diver had been diving in the bay but was unable to make it to shore on his own. His brother, who was on the shore, called 111 and raised the alarm. The man was dropped off on shore and did not require any medical attention. The entire rescue was performed and the helicopter back at base within 12 minutes. [Life Flight Trust]

## **UNITED KINGDOM**

**PORTLAND:** At one time the whole operation was scheduled to close down with the Sikorsky helicopter being transferred to operate from another base. A review of helicopter provision along the south coast in the wake of the closure of the old Portland Naval Air Station by the Royal Navy in 1995 led to many protests. The pressure was such that the situation was turned around and now the Shipping Minister David Jamieson has opened a new £3.5m Coastguard SAR Flight Hangar in Portland. A plaque now marks the event.

The white, curved structure of the new hangar will house the Coastguard helicopter as well as new office facilities.

The new 3,050 sq metre hangar represents a considerable investment in the commitment the Government has made and is continuing to make to the safety of life at sea and on land. The hangar joins the recently completed Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy as the first visible new building developments at Osprey Quay.

The Portland Flight was involved in 394 missions over the last two years and has rescued several hundred people. The crew of the helicopter were involved in the highly acclaimed BBC

network series 'Seaside Rescue' broadcast earlier this year and was deployed to the extensive flooding in Boscastle with RAF and RN helicopters. [MCA]

*Ed: HM Coastguard can call upon 12 dedicated SAR flights in the UK to prosecute its SAR missions, 4 of which are Coastguard, 2 Royal Navy and 6 Royal Air Force. The flight operates all weather cover between 0900 and 2100 all year. Outside of these hours the area is covered by the Coastguard Flight at Lee-on-the-Solent and RAF Chivenor.*

## UNITED STATES

Northrop Grumman Corp. has said it was dropping out of the race to build the US Air Force's new SAR helicopter, while Sikorsky expressed concerns about the scope of the programme. Both firms are concerned that their helicopters will not be able to meet the range requirement fast enough to justify a bid.

Lockheed Martin Corp. is the clear frontrunner after its victory in the Navy's presidential helicopter replacement VXX with the US101.

The Air Force expects to release a formal request for proposals in June, a draft is already around. The deal is expected to cover 141 helicopters.

Sikorsky still expects to participate by offering the S-92, despite its concerns. Northrop Grumman had teamed with EADS to offer an entry based on the NH90 helicopter. Another possible contestant for the Air Force's new helicopter is the V-22 Osprey. [Dow Jones]

## INDUSTRY

A Texas judge has confirmed the recent \$96M jury award against **Lycoming** stemming from the failure of about two dozen crankshafts in higher-powered six-cylinder engines. The jury found Lycoming had fraudulently blamed a sub-contractor for incorrectly heat-treating the crankshaft blanks. The failures resulted in the recall and repair of more than 1,800 engines. The jury decided that the crankshafts were under-designed and weakened by the addition of Vanadium to the alloy mix. Lycoming continues to contest the matter. [AvWeb]

The **European Aviation Safety Agency** [EASA] will apply fees for its certification activities from 1 June 2005.

The fees are detailed in the Fees and Charges Regulation (EC No 488/2005) which was adopted by the European Commission in March and published in the EU Official Journal on 30 March. The Agency's charging system has been designed to be clear and transparent, taking into account the views of industry and other interested parties. It will be reviewed, and, if necessary, revised annually. [EASA]

In recognition of the successful operation and solid market demand of the Caravan since 1985 and the delivery of the 1,500th Caravan, **Cessna** is kicking off the Caravan's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a worldwide demonstration tour. Caravans equipped with the beautiful Oasis interior will crisscross the globe making their way to airports around the world. The Caravan will be featured at throughout the United States and Canada this year with special tours planned for South America in April and July, Africa during August and September and ongoing in Europe [effectively from February until October]. The Caribbean and Central America were toured during March and April.

The Caravan will be on display at some of the world's largest aviation trade shows. These shows include, but are not limited to EBACE in Geneva, Switzerland; Expo Aero Brazil in Araras, Brazil; EAA AirVenture in Oshkosh, Wisconsin; AOPA Expo in Tampa, Florida; and NBAA in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Caravan aircraft are operating in 68 countries. The worldwide fleet has accumulated in excess of 8 million fleet hours, a figure that grows at some 70,000 hours per month. The Caravan with the highest utilisation rate averages 220 hours per month. [www.cessna.com](http://www.cessna.com)



*Over two days in early April UK agent for Cessna Bob Crowe based at Cranfield hosted a Caravan on its European tour.*

In mid-April the keys to the 1,500th Caravan were presented to customer Radoslav Miskiewicz of **GEMI Ltd.** at the Aero Friedrichshafen Show. GEMI Ltd., a trading company in the ferroalloys industry, is headquartered in Poland and will use the aircraft for private and business travel. [Cessna]

**Zephyr International LLC** has developed an inspection capability for rescue hoist wire ropes. This development provides a capability to measure and record locations of defects in the wire rope and to provide a permanent record of the wire rope integrity at the time of the test. This development has taken over two years to perfect and has yielded a system that will benefit the rescue hoist user market in many ways.

The use of the system is designed so that the interpretation of the data will require minimal training and practice. Each system is supplied with a training guide and Zephyr International provides world wide customer support.

For more information contact: Mike Mitchell, President Zephyr International LLC, +1-610-438-0480 [www.zephyrintl.com](http://www.zephyrintl.com)

At the end of March **MD Helicopters, Inc.** (MDHI) announced the milestone delivery of its 100<sup>th</sup> single-engine MD 520N<sup>®</sup> helicopter, to GALS, Russian Helicopter Company. The first MD 520N was delivered in October 1, 1991 launching the revolutionary quieter, safer, NOTAR<sup>®</sup> system technology for anti-torque control into the market. A worldwide fleet of 247 NOTAR system-equipped helicopters has accumulated nearly 600,000 flight hours.

This delivery was also historic in that this airframe was the first MD 520N delivered in the Russian Federation. GALS, Russian Helicopter Company is the MDHI distributor for the Russian Federation. [MD]

A new report says pilots who think they can see in the dark with night vision goggles could be putting themselves and their passengers at risk.

An **Air Transport Safety Bureau** research paper on the use of night vision goggles (NVGs) in civil helicopter operations said that pilots unaware of the goggles' limitations could fly into hazardous flying conditions.

Pilots can overestimate the capabilities of the technology and fly into inappropriate conditions for safe flight.

The report recommended that risks could be mitigated by implementing a comprehensive night vision imaging safety system package which included, NVGs, lighting modifications, flight crew training, operational procedures and airworthiness requirements.

In December 2004, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority introduced procedures for CASA inspectors to approve some civilian helicopter operations.

In order for CASA to consider an application an operator must demonstrate a clearly defined operational need for NVG operations. [Fairfax]

During the Helicopter Association of Canada show in Vancouver, **Turbomeca** delivered its 6,000<sup>th</sup> Arriel engine to Phoenix Heli-Flight. The engine was installed on a Eurocopter EC 130, and will be performing EMS, Utility and VIP Transport.

6,000 is a significant number because 27 years after the launch of this engine family, new versions are under development with production and sales still increasing. This is a unique achievement in the industry making the Arriel the leader in its class.

The 28 variants of the Arriel engine power modern helicopters such as Eurocopter's EC 130, EC 145 and EC 155, Ecureuil and Dauphin helicopters as well as Sikorsky's S-76C+ and the planned S-76C++.

Arriel engines have accumulated over 19 million flight hours with more than 1,300 customers in 110 countries. [Turbomeca]

The UK Home Office has announced that one hundred thousand police officers are now using **Airwave**, the state of the art national police radio communications system.

Airwave is an important part of the Home Office's Police Science and Technology Strategy and the National Policing Plan. The network supporting Airwave is now complete across England and Wales and work to ensure that every police officer will benefit is well underway.

Airwave is based on terrestrial trunked radio (TETRA) technology, a European standard that was agreed in the 1990's by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute. TETRA technology has been adopted by emergency services and professional mobile radio users in many countries around the world because of its resilience and the high security it offers.

Airwave will have more than 150,000 police users when the system is fully operational. [HO]

*Ed: Roll out of this technology into Scotland and the other emergency services continues.*

**AOPA** say it's time it became legal to place cell-phone calls from light aircraft. Everything from weather to airport information is available by cell but the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] continues to outlaw their use. The FCC is now considering changing the rules.

It remains different on airliners where interference could come from a multitude of cell-phones, BlackBerries or laptops in the back. Meanwhile it is predicted that the technological hurdles will be overcome and it won't be long before wireless communication can be safely carried out on airliners. [AvWeb]

The 101<sup>st</sup> production EH101 was accepted by the Portuguese Air Force at **AgustaWestland's** Vergiate plant in Italy last month. The ferry flight from Vergiate to the Portuguese Air Force Base at Montijo (Lisbon) took place on Thursday 21 April. The 101<sup>st</sup> aircraft is the fourth search and rescue aircraft from an order of 12 aircraft placed by the Portuguese Air Force for SAR, Combat SAR and Fishery Protection (SIFICAP - Sistema de Fiscalização e Controlo das Actividades da Pesca) configured aircraft.

The Tony Blair's Government has announced it is going to the polls on May 5. Even before the announcement early last month Mike Smith and his Robinson based R44 *Flying TV* agreed a contract for news coverage with the **BBC**.

*Newsnight*, the late night BBC2 current affairs programme is taking to the air for its coverage of the General Election campaign.

*Newsnight* has the exclusive use of a 4-seat Robinson R44 helicopter for the month up to the Election. Using the callsign *Newsflight*, the helicopter will be liveried for *Newsnight* and will be on permanent call for deployment to any part of the UK. *Newsnight* reporter Michael Crick with producer and a cameraman will be flown to wherever the day's Election story is happening.

In addition, *Flying TV's* specialist ENG helicopter G-PIXX will be deployed on an as-needed basis to capture images and transmit using its downlink. Until recently the helicopter used BMS analogue equipment but it has now switched to using a Link Research COFDM digital kit. This dedicated tv helicopter has the ability to transmit live pictures and sound for over 100 km. G-PIXX has been flying for nearly a year and is a regular feature of BBC news coverage.

[MS/IPAR]



The **South Carolina State Law Enforcement** are disposing of a 1967 Hughes OH-6A helicopter N501SU. The dark blue helicopter is fitted with a FLIR 2000 sensor and has 7,140 total flight hours split roughly 50/50 between its former military role and its most recent use in law enforcement. Sealed bids will be accepted until May 13 with a posted minimum reserve ticket of \$150,000. [SC]

A federal air marshal with 15-years in law enforcement is suing **Homeland Security** Secretary Michael Chertoff and other officials to block government rules that prevent him from speaking out about possible security lapses.

The complaint, filed in Riverside by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, claims the rules infringe on Frank Terreri's free speech rights.

Terreri, 38, wants to blow the whistle on policies he believes threaten aviation security. Among his concerns are visible flight check-in procedures and a formal dress code that could compromise marshals' undercover status. Restrictions imposed in 2002 prohibit agents from criticising other Federal Air Marshal Service employees, speaking publicly and releasing information about the division.

Terreri was taken off flight duty and placed under investigation last year after he allegedly complained to colleagues in an e-mail that a People magazine story about an air marshal posed a safety risk because it discussed operational details. [Media]

**AgustaWestland** has won a £300M deal to look after the country's fleet of Sea Kings for the Ministry of Defence. The support contract replaces about 60 individual contracts with more than 30, mostly British, different suppliers and will save £50M over the next ten years. The Yeovil-based Italian-UK firm will be responsible for spare parts, upkeep and repair of the UK's 102 Sea Kings. Defence giant BAE Systems and French group Thales have been made "major sub-contractors" by AgustaWestland as part of the deal. It will provide a technical support service including on-site support teams at the main Sea King operating bases. The contract, which lasts until 2018, the aircraft's out of service date, is worth £300M for the first five years, when it will be reviewed for the next five. [The Scotsman]

The **British Business and General Aviation Association** [BBGA] held its first Annual General Meeting at Sopwell Hall, Hertfordshire, since two existing General Aviation organisations merged.

**Red Box International** has announced a new addition to its range of Portable Power Supply units, for use with aircraft and military installations.

The RBSC range comprises 4 units with outputs of 50 amps, 100 amps, 150 amps or 200 amps, all at 28V DC. These power supplies have been designed with light weight for high portability in hangars, or can be rack mounted or wall mounted. Input is 190-250V single phase AC and a stable voltage is maintained in extreme conditions. These supplies will provide reliable high grade, stable, 28V power for general maintenance, gear servicing, avionics work, crew training or weapons system checks. Available for a wide range of aircraft including private and corporate jets, rotary wing including Military and Police aircraft and also heavy-duty tactical support vehicles and armoured fighting vehicles. They are also idea for laboratory or workshop use, the RBSC units are fully portable (via carry handle and/or trolley) allowing them to be taken directly onto an aircraft. The 50 amp and 100 amp units can be combined with a Red Box RB50A or RB75A portable battery start pack, on a lightweight trolley, for servicing and also starting of aircraft requiring up to 3,500 amps start power. [RB]

After the successful completion of an initial order to provide **Flight Reference Cards** (FRC) for three helicopters, Pennant Information Services has been awarded a new contract by McAlpine Helicopters.

This new contract is to provide FRCs for two types of helicopter, the Super Puma AS 332 L1 and Ecureuil AS 355 N. The FRCs cover normal and emergency procedures.

"This new order was a direct result of the quality and delivery achieved on the first order, which was delivered to budget and an extremely tight deadline," says John Churchman, Senior Business Development Manager for Pennant. [Pennant]

In the **UK Sky Watch** trustees and members recently considered the merit in changing the name of the organisation to Auxiliary Air Service. After consideration the name change was rejected.

Meanwhile the organisation has continued to complain about the negative attitude it receives from police forces in its own publication. Last month PAN carried a short item about the problem but there was no mention of the force identity. It now seems that it concerned Lincolnshire – a force that does not have air support of its own and therefore arguable the most likely to need a bit of public spirited assistance. Sky Watch has written to Tony Lake the Chief Constable of Lincolnshire about the problem.

And it is not just the police that are less than welcoming. It seems that on being briefed on the facilities available to them via Sky Watch Emergency Planning Officers only had one interest - who would be liable if Sky Watch had an accident? [SWR/IPAR]

**Eurocopter** has announced the delivery of the 400<sup>th</sup> EC135. The machine is also the first EC135 in an offshore [oil industry] version. It was delivered to Transportes Aéreos Pegaso joining an existing fleet of eleven Eurocopter helicopters.

On April 18 the new extension to the Snecma Group factory for **Turbomeca Ltd** and Microturbo Ltd was officially opened at Concorde Way, Segensworth North, Fareham, Hants. The facility was originally set up by Microturbo to support military projects and be the sole source manufacturer of parts for a range of products. In recent years Turbomeca moved in and is now offering an expanded support service to UK helicopter operators using Turbomeca engines.



In keeping with the military supply background of the facility General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue, Chief of Defence Logistics MoD undertook the opening ceremony. The two companies support 2,000 engines operating in the UK market and have a combined current employment of 150.

The impressive new £5M turbine engine manufacturing and maintenance, repair and overhaul [MRO] facility adds 50,000 square feet of space to the existing building and already includes a substantial area for future growth into new products.





*Sir Colin Terry congratulates Turbomeca's Ed Arcimoles, on the award of the Royal Warrant.*

The facility complements and supports existing Turbomeca product support based on McAlpine Helicopters in Oxford that have been operating since 1977.

Turbomeca Ltd has just been awarded a Royal Warrant by The Queen. The Sikorsky S76 helicopter used by The Queen is Turbomeca powered. The Fareham occasion was used [apparently at very short notice] to unveil and present the Royal Warrant .

The two companies support 2,000 engines operating in the UK market and have a combined current employment of 150.

## POLICE AVIATION NEWS **ARCHIVE** still on-line from Issue 81 January 2003

In southern Africa **Pratt & Whitney Canada CSC (Africa) Pty. Ltd.** is expanding its engine maintenance facility at Lanseria International Airport in Johannesburg, South Africa, to begin offering comprehensive PT6A engine overhaul services to operators in central and southern Africa.

The expansion project, scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2005, will include refurbishing and adding maintenance space at the 2,045 square-metre facility, reconfiguring an advanced onsite engine test cell, and hiring additional highly skilled maintenance professionals and support staff.

**Meeker Aviation** and AirFilm Camera Systems have announced the receipt of an FAA STC [# SR01654LA] for a new Bell 206A/B/B1 and 206L/L1-4 and 407 Nose camera mount. Designed and manufactured by AirFilm and sold through Meeker Aviation. The mount offers 130lb payload capacity, is constructed from solid billet aluminium with bolt together construction and no welds. Easy to install, it uses existing hole patterns and requires no permanent airframe modifications. Camera adaptor plates come standard, there is an optional light kit for night operations. Contact [Meeker](#) on +1 604 644 1125 fax: 760 758 9612



**Tactical Aerospace Group (TAG)** based in Beverley Hills California has announced its largest non-military sale of UAVs in a deal with Rotor F/X of Los Angeles.

The sale includes a minimum of 14 UAV helicopters along with spares, maintenance and flight training which are to be supplied over two years.

Rotor F/X supplies scale helicopters for on camera work in television and major motion picture production. The purpose built UAV's utilise a special airframe TAG designed for media production to accommodate the installation of a wide variety of different fuselages.

TAG - Tactical Aerospace Group manufacturers UAVs and associated equipment for military, civil, media, surveillance, scientific and research applications.

# ACCIDENTS & INCIDENTS

**28 February 2005 Beech King Air C90B N1083S.** Air Ambulance of Eagle Air Med of Blanding, Utah. Aircraft encountered a lightning strike at an unstated location. The pilot immediately landed and found two pin size holes on the left wing and two static wicks missing. The aircraft was inspected, repaired and returned to service. No injuries reported. No patient. [Concern]

**31 March 2005 Agusta-Bell AB206A-1 PS-??** Italian State Police of 7° Reparto Volo (Nr. 7 Aviation Unit) Abbasanta. The helicopter was on a training mission near Borore, Nuoro, Sardinia and appears to have suffered engine problems at 40 metres [120 ft], impacted wire netting and then the ground. The tail broke off. The two pilots suffered minor injuries but the TFO Gualtiero Gessa, 37 years died later in San Francesco di Nuoro hospital. The crash had split his spleen. [AGI/media]

*Ed: Although there are many reports on this accident it has been difficult to identify the detail. The airframe is believed PS-41 c/n 9148 or PS-36 MM80736 c/n 9060.*

**2 April 2005 Westland Sea King** Royal Australian Navy. Helicopter helping in the rescue effort on an Indonesian island hit by an earthquake crashed killing nine of its crew and injuring two others. The dead were four air crew and the rest were medical relief specialists. The Sea King helicopter crash landed as it was approaching the remote west coast of Nias Island, off the Indonesian coast. The aircraft was from the Australian naval ship HMAS Kanimbla. [Media]

**4 April 2005 Hughes 500E Hughes 500E ZS-RFJ.** South African Police Service. One person was killed and two injured when a police helicopter fell on the roof of a house in Torque Road, Benoni, North Rand and burned. The helicopter was from the air wing in Johannesburg and had been patrolling the N12 highway. Crew member Inspector Anton van Vuuren, 34, of the SAPS Air Wing in Johannesburg, died at the scene, the pilot, Captain Carol Crosby, was seriously injured and another crew member, trainee pilot Inspector Vijiendra Lankaser, was slightly injured. [Cape Times/Media]

**7 April 2005 Bell 206B [OH-58?] N198PD.** Colorado Springs Police Dept. Auto-rotation forced landing 10 miles NW of Colorado Springs Airport., Colorado. No injuries reported among the pilot and two passengers. [FAA]

**9 April 2005 Mil Mi-2 RA????** Air ambulance. Five people received serious injuries and were hospitalised as a result of the crash near Vologda, northern Russia. The incident happened in the area of the Poshekhon highway when the helicopter was carrying an injured woman. According to preliminary information, the helicopter, which belonged to the ROSTO sport club, got caught in a power line. The machine ended up in an upright state with the lower fuselage severely crush. Main rotor appeared intact. [Media]

**16 April 2005. Eurocopter AS365 N365A** Air ambulance of West Michigan Aircare based at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

During ground taxi, aircraft turned and swung tail section into contact with a low shed adjacent to helipad. Minor damage to the composite tail structure but no injuries to the crew. [Concern]

**17 April 2005 Bell 407 N508MT** Air ambulance. Careflight Med-Trans Corp. based at Avera St. Lukes in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

The helicopter crew was transiting to an accident when it encountered a flock of ducks four miles south of Brentford. The aircraft landed safely on a rural road in Spink County. The

windscreen was shattered and the pilot reportedly covered in duck blood but no injuries reported. [Media/FAA]

### **20 April 2005 Agusta-Bell AB212 PS\*??**

Italian Police of 2° Reparto Volo (Nr. 2 Aviation Unit) from Milano-Malpensa. The winch-man head-inspector Francesco Santoro, 49 years old was fatally struck by a rotor blade while he was helping a passenger to embark-disembark during a mission in the mountains. The helicopter was in the hover.

The accident happened during the third flight of a transport mission to Valle Cannobina - North Alps in support of a magistrate and specialist scientific police to a site where a 75-years old man had been found dead. [DM]



**20 April 2005 Lockheed P-3B Air tanker N926AU.** Fire drop aircraft owned and operated by the Aero Union Corporation of Chico, California. Crashed immediately following a fire retardant training drop near Chico. According to the company, the accident flight was the seventh flight of the day for that aircraft. The purpose of the flights was to conduct qualification checks for pilots who were scheduled to conduct firefighting operations during the upcoming fire season. The aircraft was manufactured in 1966 and was a former USN airframe. [NTSB]

**26 April 2005 Agusta Bell AB212.** Italian Air Force SAR unit on Milan-Linate covering north-west Italy. The helicopter crashed on Mount Pallanzano in Como Region, during a training mission. All five on board died, an officer on ground survived. The dead included Captain Fabio Avella, second lieutenants Luca Grana and Mario Di Carluccio, Field Marshal Alfonso Castronuovo and Aircraftman Angelo De Lucia. [DM]

**26 April 2005 Bolkow BO105 N.** Air ambulance. Goldstar EMS. The helicopter had to make an emergency landing at an accident scene on Highway 150. The Bolkow made several passes over the scene before the tail rotor developed a problem forcing the aircraft to land in a nearby pasture. [Houston Media]

**27 April 2005 MD369FF N5252Y.** Federal Bureau of Investigation. The helicopter crashed during training exercises at the FBI Academy at the Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia injuring three of the four people on board. It was destroyed.

The helicopter had been hovering between 25 feet and 30 feet immediately prior to the crash undertaking 'fast rope' training. Two pilots and a member of a hostage rescue team were taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. [Media]

## **LETTERS**

Dear Mr. Elliott,

Just a quick note of correction on your article on the Camden County Sheriff's Office in New Jersey in the April edition. Your opening line stated we are the only aviation unit in the state. We are the only *county* aviation unit. I believe the New Jersey State Police Aviation Unit and the NY/NJ Port Authority Air Unit will take offense with that statement. The State Police have been providing EMS and law enforcement services for years.

Thanks for providing a great service to the industry. I am keeping up with the news while being deployed to Iraq flying Blackhawks.

Sincerely,

Inv. Mike Rosebery

Camden County Sheriff's Office

## PEOPLE

Sergeant Brian Hemsby the Cheshire Police UEO has retired. The unit UEO is now [Janet.Griffiths](#)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Air Ambulance 2005.** The 7<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of HEMS operators in the Czech Republic will take place on from 12 – 14 May 2005 at the Hradec Králové Airport.

The event is organised under patronage of Eurocopter GmbH. For more details, see web site [www.airambulance.cz](http://www.airambulance.cz).

# Air Ambulance 2005



**ACPO 2005** 17-19 May 2005 Birmingham. An International exhibition and conference being run at the same time as other leading edge exhibitions on Fire, Security and Health & Safety.

This is currently the definitive event for UK police and public security professionals to meet suppliers, view the latest technology and make informed purchasing decisions. Products on display range from body armour, clothing, crime prevention and protection equipment, right through to the latest surveillance products, information systems and hi-tech communications innovations. Helicopters, sensors and downlink technology is included.

Details on the venue can be found at <http://www.necgroup.co.uk/nec/> Details on the event, including visitor sign-up can be found at [www.acpo-expo.co.uk](http://www.acpo-expo.co.uk)

HeliMedia Limited, (Hall 7, Stand K3) will be demonstrating the very latest in advanced Surveillance and Reconnaissance solutions. It will show visitors how police command and control operations can be dramatically improved by linking mobile, roadside and on-foot ANPR technologies to deliver immediate identification, detection and detention.

They will also be exhibiting a new handheld product developed for Police use to allow identification of suspects and communication with patrols and operational centres.

In addition they will be exhibiting L3-WESCAM's latest products, the Night Spotter, available on the MX15 and MX20 products.

Other aircraft related exhibitors include McAlpine Helicopters who will be promoting their helicopter options [EC135/EC145] to a gathering of visitors drawn from across the emergency services.

The European representatives of US microwave manufacturer Broadcast Microwave Services [BMS] are CAM GmbH based in Munich, Germany. Both companies will be at the exhibition with a range of image transmission solutions for aerial and ground use.

As usual Qinetiq will be in both ACPO and the IFSEC shows. Their answer to the Stinger and Stop-Stick the X-net will again be displayed.

**European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (EBACE)**, May 18-20 Geneva Palexpo Conference Center, Geneva Airport. Switzerland. Plans are well underway for EBACE2005, the three-day exhibition that will showcase more than 250 business aviation Exhibitors from around the world and cover nearly 17,000 square metres from May 18 to 20, 2005. More than 35 aircraft, including nearly every major business aircraft design currently in production, will be on display at Geneva International Airport in the Static Display area immediately adjacent to the exhibit hall. For more information about EBACE or to view photos from the 2004 event, visit the official web site at: <http://www.ebace.aero>

The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) and the European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) have announced future EBACE dates have been confirmed for 2006 through 2009 at Geneva . The dates are:

- EBACE2006 – Wednesday, May 3 through Friday, May 5, 2006
- EBACE2007 – Tuesday, May 22 through Thursday, May 24, 2007
- EBACE2008 – Tuesday, May 20 through Thursday, May 22, 2008
- EBACE2009 – Tuesday, May 12 through Thursday, May 14, 2009



EBAA is the leading Association for Business Aviation in Europe. In 1975, Dr. Ir. F.J. Philips founded the Association to defend the interests of Business Aviation. Nowadays, more than two hundred Business Aviation companies, direct Members or Members of associate organizations rely on the EBAA to protect their assets.

As the battle over landing and take-off rights continues to rage, with a handful of giants dominating the debate and trying to gain more access to airport and airspace, the EBAA continues its impressive growth. Its fleet has grown from 107 aircraft in 1987 to over 500 aircraft today. The reason for this expansion is that the Association ably represents the legitimate concerns of an industry anxious about its future.

The EBAA influences the regulation process by taking an active part in consultancy hearings promoting the flexibility of business aircraft and demonstrating that business aviation can live side by side with the airlines. It is the only voice to represent Business Aviation among the European Institutions.

**ALEA SAFETY SEMINAR** At its January 2005 meeting, the **ALEA** Board voted to combine the North Central and South Central Regions into one 'Central Region.' The 2005 Central Region Safety Seminar will be held in Dallas, Texas on November 9-11, at the Adams Mark Hotel in the downtown area. The Region Director is personally encouraging all ALEA Members to attend this centrally located seminar. Flights should be booked into Dallas Love Field as opposed to Dallas-Ft. Worth Airport (DFW) as they will enjoy only a 10 minute ride to the hotel. Besides a terrific educational curriculum, a tour both the 'Frontiers of Flight' Museum and the 'JFK Assassination - Sixth Floor Book Depository Museum' are scheduled in.

Anyone planning to travel to Texas for training with such as Bell and Eurocopter in Texas in the future should consider scheduling the trip in November. Since you will be coming to Texas anyway, why not join Martin L. Jackson, Lieutenant Texas Department of Public Safety Aircraft Section – Midland for some real Texas hospitality.

**12-13 July 2005. Heli-Pacific.** Hyatt Regency Coolom, Queensland, Australia The inaugural Heli-Pacific Conference and Exhibition. It will showcase Queensland's growing capability in defence and civil helicopters. The conference will include an exhibition of local, regional and international companies. [www.shephard.co.uk](http://www.shephard.co.uk)

**27-29 September 2005. Helitech** at the Imperial War Museum Duxford has announced that it is again expecting exhibitors from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. A formidable contingent is expected this year – Russian OEMs Kamov, Kazan, Rostvertol, and Ulan-Ude, plus design agency Mil, are joining Poland's PZL Swidnik. PZL plans to send a SW-4 to take part in the static display. Russian spare parts distributor VAO Interprofavia has booked a booth. VAO was established in 1991, to support Russian manufacturers by organising overseas delivery of spare components. It says it also organises R&D efforts and partners Russian federal programmes to develop new aircraft and upgrade others.

## DIARY

**4-6 May 2005** ALEA Northeast Region Safety Seminar hosted by the members of the Fairfax County Police Helicopter Unit. Contacts are Joseph Flynn of Fairfax County +1 703 830-3105 email: [Joseph.Flynn@Fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Joseph.Flynn@Fairfaxcounty.gov) and Glenn Daley, NPYD Retired, email: [gdaley@alea.org](mailto:gdaley@alea.org)

**10 -11 May 2005** Airborne Response Conference & Exhibition, Oxford Airport, Kidlington, Oxon. Designed to attract attendees from across the emergency services including police, fire, coastguard, emergency medical and SAR and consider issues concerning both rotary and fixed wing fleet.

A two-day conference and exhibition, static display, demo flights and a formal dinner at Blenheim Palace. For more information contact Moira Edwards, +44 01295 670049, [moira@internationalhelitrade.com](mailto:moira@internationalhelitrade.com) or visit [www.airborneresponse.com](http://www.airborneresponse.com)

**12-14 May 2005.** 7<sup>th</sup> International meeting of HEMS operators at the airport in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic. Event organised by **HEMS Association Prague** under patronage helicopter manufacturer EUROCOPTER GmbH. [hems@hems.cz](mailto:hems@hems.cz)  
[www.airambulance.cz](http://www.airambulance.cz)

**18-20 May 2005** **EBACE2005** Geneva, Switzerland

EBACE2005 has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 18 to Friday, May 20, 2005, in Geneva, Switzerland. For more information about EBACE or to view photos from the 2004 event, visit the official web site at: <http://www.ebace.aero>

**22 May 2005** BGS 50 Celebration. Flight services of the German Federal Border Police celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with an "Open Day" in Sankt Augustin/Hangelar.

Flight shows including the GSG 9 is just one of the highlights among many other attractive events which will take place during the day. The general public will not only have the opportunity to see the BGS Helicopter Fleet but also admire them in flight.

**24-25 May 2005** McGraw Hill 2005 Homeland Security Summit & Exposition. To be held at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, Washington DC. Additional information is available at <http://www.mcgraw-hill.com/>.

**13-19 June 2005** 46<sup>th</sup> Paris Air Show Le Bourget [www.salon-du-bourget.fr](http://www.salon-du-bourget.fr)

**20-24 June 2005** Airmed 2005 Barcelona, Spain <http://www.airmed2005.org>

finance for the AIRMED community. Following up on the industry's development standards and government policy on aeromedical service, the congress has gradually grown over the years, changing its research and development focus toward the implementation and application of medical resources from the air.

The 2005 congress, to be held in Barcelona June 20-24, will carry on with this tradition, emphasizing the coordination of resources to achieve interventions that are more effective for all stakeholders, be they individual users, the industry, doctors or public authorities. The event will bring decision-makers from the field of aeromedical service to Barcelona, giving you a unique opportunity to make the contacts necessary for your activity, as well as a chance to analyse the latest trends in the sector. What is more, this congress will allow you the possibility to invest in the main emerging and existing markets around the world.

**30 June – 2 July 2005.** AMBEX 2005. International Conference & Exhibition, Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate, Yorkshire. Billed as the largest out-of-hospital show in the world. Organised by Brintex +44 20 7973 6401. Additional information and attendance registration via [www.ambex.net](http://www.ambex.net)

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