

Police Aviation News

©Police Aviation Research

Number 135 July 2007

IPAR



**THE CHANGING
OF THE GUARD
- the Met go 145**

PAN – [POLICE AVIATION NEWS](#) is published monthly by
INTERNATIONAL POLICE AVIATION RESEARCH
7 Windmill Close, Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 3BQ UK
Main: +44 1992 714162 **Cell:** +44 7778 296650 **Skype:** Bryn.Elliott
Bryn Elliott **E-mail:** editor@policeaviationnews.com

Bob Crowe
Digital Downlink
L3 Wescam
Innovative Downlink Solutions
Power in a box
Interactive data-stream
Showing the way
Airborne Law Enforcement Association
European Law Enforcement Association
Sindacato Personale Aeronavigante Della Polizia

www.bobcroweaircraft.com
www.bms-inc.com
www.wescam.com
www.mrcsecurity.com
www.powervamp.com
www.imagebase.co.uk
www.skyforceobserver.com
www.alea.org
www.pacenet.info
www.uppolizia.it

LAW ENFORCEMENT

AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND: As the state continues to look with fear at the high costs associated with the purchase of a crime patrol helicopter to supplement the fixed wing fleet mainly assigned to transportation duties others have a more positive view.

The Mayor of the Gold Coast area Ron Clarke is backing a \$3 million trial of a police helicopter in his own region. Other politicians want the helicopter trial to focus on neighbourhood crime and hooning [a local term for anti-social use of motor vehicles - travelling at speed, showing off etc]. Cr Clarke has previously advocated remote-control helicopters for use in surf rescues.

Although this local support is growing in the face of local problems the State Police Minister Judy Spence said a helicopter was not on the State Government's agenda and not apparently on the shopping list of the local police. She said she was inclined to listen to police, not politicians, when considering additions to the force.

The State government provided an additional \$2.5M in this year's budget for a police aircraft for Torres Strait patrol although some reports suggest that that was a reluctant acquisition. When the new aircraft arrives the number of police planes in the fleet will rise to five and making it the largest police air fleet in Australia.

Queensland Police Air Wing aircraft – a mix of Cessna 208, Raytheon 1900 and similar types - undertake a variety of tasks including the provision of a quick response approach to counter terrorism measures, transport of police officers, air surveillance, SAR and emergency medical transport.

BOTSWANA

Recent media reports that the Botswana Police Service is a step closer to establishing an



Air Wing has been greeted with applause from various sectors of the society. Until now police air support – such as it was came from the Botswana Defence Force, the new proposals would see the creation of a separate entity and it has been suggested that funding recently announced by the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board would support a tender for the purchase of three Eurocopter AS350B3. [Mwegi]

GERMANY

Police helicopters circled a Greenpeace balloon and forced it down in enforcing a no-fly zone around a recent G8 summit at Heiligendamm in a Baltic resort.

Reports based on a Greenpeace statement suggested that police helicopters circling the balloon created turbulence and forced it to land in a field some 20 km (12 miles) from the venue. Greenpeace were hoping to fly in a petition to the G8 leaders demanding binding targets for CO² cuts. [Flight/Greenpeace]

The Federal Police [formerly the BGS] have taken delivery of the first of a fleet of six Eurocopter EC120 helicopters intended to replace Alouette helicopters currently in their flight training fleet. The machine is the 500th EC120 built. [EC]



GUYANA

DEFENCE FORCE: Since its inception, the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) never operated warplanes truly capable of defending its borders, but maintained a fleet of aircraft capable of conducting aerial reconnaissance and transportation of troops.

Even that fleet has reduced to the point where only two of five aircraft can still be flown, and the army's main machine, a Bell 412 helicopter [the last of three] has been grounded at Tacama since December last year. Reports suggest it may return to flight status this year.

At a time when other countries are boosting their army's capabilities to combat the threat of terrorism, drug trafficking and other crimes, the GDF's air wing is in a scramble to make money to support its operations and border patrols, and counter-narcotics sweeps are usually done with the cost of spare parts and aviation fuel on the minds of the pilots.

Like many operations in Africa and the Middle East the GDF keeps going by using its aircraft commercially – though such activities are largely frowned on in the Caribbean. They operate the only Short Skyvan in the country, and it is equipped to carry heavy equipment. As a result the industry charters the GDF Skyvan rather than pure commercial options in Guyana.

Similarly the army's Y-12-Turbo Panda aircraft, nominally acquired from the Chinese Government back in 2002 for Economic Zone Patrol and comprehensively equipped to do parachuting and medevac does not seem to actually undertake the role it was acquired for or anti-drug trafficking patrols.

Now there are calls that the GDF should get out of commercial aviation, charging for operations while the country's borders remain largely unprotected and open to the narcotic trade without aerial surveillance, the military aircraft are being diverted to make money. If nothing else the state-financed operations make the unregulated competition with the private sector singularly unfair. [Stabroek News]

MEDITERRANEAN

In a clear instance of the rhetoric not being matched by the deeds the EU border control agency Frontex is having great difficulty putting together the vessels and aircraft needed to operate its planned anti-immigration patrols in the Mediterranean.

Warsaw based Frontex claims to have arrested 910 illegal immigrants during a recent

crackdown in the eastern Mediterranean. Most of the clandestine immigrants were from Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq and Albania.

The operation, codenamed Poseidon 2007, was conducted on the frontiers of Greece and Turkey, Greece and Albania and Bulgaria and Turkey as well as the Aegean Sea between mid-May and the start of June.

Jose' Manuel Barroso, the European Commission President has called for EU member states to help Malta deal with the influx of illegal immigrants. He has also called for the European Patrols Network to become a permanent tool available to member states to curb illegal immigration and to detect emergencies at sea.

In the middle of June the core operations in the central Mediterranean operated by aircraft and patrol vessels of the Armed Forces of Malta [AFM] were given a public airing on the BBC. [Times/BBC]

SOUTH AFRICA

With the South African government focusing on visible policing to deter criminals, the Minister of Safety and Security is pushing for new equipment, including several helicopters, for the South African Police Service (SAPS). The new budget includes spending of \$20.2M on four new helicopters this year. In the next fiscal year, the police will receive another seven helicopters at a cost of \$36M. [Flysouth]

SPAIN

CUSTOMS: On June 10 Authorities were waiting on the beach in Las Amoladeras to undertake a joint operation between National Police and Customs Authorities in seizing 2.5 tons of cannabis resin worth €3.7M. on a beach in La Manga.

Ten people were arrested after a Customs helicopter spotted a suspicious-looking boat approaching the coast in the early hours. The arrests of five Spaniards and five Moroccan nationals were made at 4am.

TRAFICO: During the 2007 Paris Air Show, the Direccion General de Trafico (Spanish Traffic Monitoring Authority, a directorate of the Ministry of Interior) signed Turbomeca's SBH® (Support By the Hour) contract for its helicopters fleet, 100% powered by Turbomeca. This multi-year contract covers 17 Helicopters representing 26 engines: 18 Arrius 1A engines powering the Eurocopter AS355 and 8 Arrius 2F powering the EC120 Colibri.

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's police division commenced a traffic control program last month using helicopters, and police say the test operation is proving to be successful. Sri Lanka's Air Force currently provides the helicopter and other assistance to the operation conducted by Deputy Inspector of Police Mahinda Balasuriya. Police plans to buy their own helicopter depend on the success of the trial. [ComboPage]



THE NEXT GENERATION OF SECURITY ...

- Airborne Video Downlinks
- Central Command
- Disaster Recovery
- GPS Tracking
- Ground Surveillance
- Port & Border Patrol
- SATCOM

MICROWAVE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Visit our new web site at ...
www.mrcsecurity.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ACPO: The Association of Chief Police Officers [ACPO] were wrong footed last month over statements made in favour of so called US CIA Extraordinary Rendition 'torture flights' passing through Britain's airports.

Early in June a report was issued by ACPO stating that there was no evidence to support oft repeated claims that the US was using a fleet of civil registered aircraft to transport prisoners across the world and deliver them to a variety of interrogation and detention locations. It was a case of sheer bad timing. The following day a couple of the horde of British plane spotters provided clear photographic proof that something was clearly going on! Human rights organisations have long been highlighting the use of these aircraft and have been making full use of the readily available flight logs kept by plane spotters.

The case that led to the furore centred around what was to all intents and purposes a civilian CASA 212 N964BW registered to a US based airline company that flew into RAF Mildenhall in the east of England. The civilian aircraft was met by armed guards.

Even if you were not suspicious about that relatively short-range civil aircraft flying into a military base a little research would show that the FAA registered owners of the ex-Bolivian military CASA had claimed links with the CIA and was one of a group of such suspicious aircraft based in Malta. The spotters had logged its presence at Camp Peary, Virginia, an alleged CIA training facility, and in Kabul, Afghanistan in the last year. [Daily Mail]

Ed: Quite how ACPO failed to take note of the dozens of other instances – mostly clearly supported by reams of paper and photographic proof from the plane watchers of the world – in arriving at their 'no evidence' decision is difficult to comprehend. In their defence they stated that the report was only based on earlier news reports and that there was no evidence that the aircraft were carrying people. They would have been better just stating they knew it was going on but just didn't care to rock the boat! Whichever way you look at it the affair amounts to little short of a whitewash rather than an investigation truly worthy of the police service. [Media]

EXPLORER: Last month the Cambridgeshire Constabulary's were marking the first anniversary of their new MD900 Explorer helicopter and highlighting its multi-role capability offering an air ambulance and personnel carrier capability in addition to its police role.

From June 2005 to June 2006 the previous aircraft [AS355F2 G-CAMB] flew over 1,900 operations and was responsible for the arrest of 110 criminals.

Notwithstanding the spares availability issues surrounding the Explorer helicopter type the new aircraft exceeded the overall performance of the old airframe. From June 2006 to mid May, the new helicopter attended 2,014 incidents, directly arrested 105 people and assisted in a further 78 arrests.

Whilst Cambridgeshire were able to demonstrate reasonable availability there remain problem areas for the MD type. The somewhat older Sussex Explorer went for its Annual in early May and soon afterwards corrosion was found on the MR Mast leading to it being declared unserviceable. The difficulties surrounding the manufacturer receiving spare parts in relatively small batches from outside manufacturers have again been exposed. The supply of spare MR Masts has exceeded the predicted number and Sussex paid the price by being AOG as they await the supplier entering a new manufacturing cycle. The last guess was that the matter should be resolved as PAN goes to press, but that still left Sussex AOG for over six-weeks. This is the third time in just over a year that Sussex have found themselves needing one of the spares that MD have not yet managed to finally remove from the AOG parts. Their availability has suffered as a result.

When the Explorer went on maintenance in May Sussex operated a BO105 for a few days, when that too went offline with a technical problem the operation shut down.

METROPOLITAN: The Eurocopter EC145/BK117C2 fleet of three helicopters has taken over operations from the AS355N fleet and the latter are now grounded pending sale.

WEST & EAST MIDLANDS: The two new Eurocopter EC135P2 helicopters destined for delivery to the police forces respectively based at Birmingham Airport and Husbands Bosworth have been significantly delayed.

Although it looks as if there were some minor delays in the original programme due to the completion of the EC145s for the Metropolitan Police the current delay is related to the non-availability of an item of role equipment.

The Editor made enquiries in Paris to clarify the situation and it seems that the missing item is a low light camera for installation on the FLIR supplied sensor turret.

Last year the supplier of this camera [ITT] got into some mess with the US authorities over some export irregularities. ITT had illegally exported military night vision goggles to China and supplied classified technical data. That and a failure to get the paperwork right on other exports led to a \$100M fine from the US Department of Justice. It has been said that ITT knew that it was violating its export licenses but failed to take action until just before it was found out by the US Department of State. In addition to the fine ITT were banned from exporting as a further 'punishment'.

Many readers will be aware that the US is 'hot' on export sales of some items [including FLIR] even to its 'friends' and this had led to all sorts of anomalies in the past including exhibitors appearing at trade shows without working equipment simply because the paperwork failed to keep pace with the calendar. as a result there is a scramble to finalise a deal with an alternate [non-US] source.

Customers in the USA can still have their sensor with the original ITT camera off the shelf [and there are dozens in service] but this is another case that underlines the somewhat tenuous nature of some aspects of the US-UK alliance.

The non-availability of the complete aircraft systems are left both the customer and the completion centre [McAlpine Helicopters] in a difficult position. One option was to deliver the airframe 'as is' but it seems likely that neither party would want to deliver or take an aircraft where there were likely to be major outstanding integration issues.

Meanwhile the as-yet to be announced customer for the current East Midlands EC135T1 G-EMAS will have to wait a little longer. The same delivery delay applies to the West Midlands MD900 – now thought likely to end up at Dunsfold joining the recently launched Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. [IPAR]

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA: The Arizona Department of Public Safety has received a new air-rescue helicopter, completing a fleet modernisation approved by the state Legislature in 1998. The latest delivery is Bell 407 N58AZ [c/n 53736] 'Ranger 58.'

The new arrival – a completion by the Paradigm Aerospace Corp. in Pennsylvania - will allow pilots to fly with night vision goggles and it will be able to carry two patients.

The 2006 Bell Model 407 replaces a 1984 Bell Model 206L-3 Long Ranger helicopter that had accrued more than 11,200 flight hours.

ARKANSAS: Arkansas State Police unveiled their agency's new aircraft last month. The Beechcraft King Air was purchased for \$4M earlier this year, replacing an earlier state police airplane. [KATV]

21st CENTURY POLICE AVIATION

Conference & Exhibition

7 – 8 November 2007

Expo XXI, Amsterdam, Netherlands



CALIFORNIA: After two years of trying to raise funds from the public to sustain air operations the volunteer Stockton Police Department operation is selling its 1973 OH 58a+ N380PD. It is on offer in a flightworthy state with just 3,538.7 airframe hours and complete with SX-16 nightsun, dual aircom audio mixers, Technisonic TFM-500 and a flir mount at an asking price of \$275,000

All is not finished though, Stockton PD will be starting their own air support unit and the volunteers are assisting them with information.



CALIFORNIA: The Corona Police Department is in the process of purchasing a quiet cruise mode kit for Crown 1, its 1997 Bell 407 helicopter.

The manufacturer-built and installed kit will quieten the helicopter by slowing down the motor that turns the craft's rotor blades. The kit will cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

The department decided to purchase the system after officers heard it in action on the LA Department of Water and Power's helicopter in May.

Crown 1 flies a variety of missions, including search and rescue, traffic pursuits, and crime-scene mapping. It also reports to fires in Corona and beyond, where it can drop water or help assess an incident.

CALIFORNIA: In El Monte they have taken delivery of the latest addition to the area's police helicopter fleet. Air 77, a Robinson R44 Raven II is now part of what officials are calling the largest full-time regional helicopter program in the country.

Region One Air Support, based in El Monte, covers the communities of El Monte, Azusa, West Covina, Montebello, Baldwin Park and Irwindale, as well as the Baldwin Park Unified School District.

The program started in El Monte in 1992, when the city first used a helicopter for surveil-

Arizona Department of Public Safety Bell 407



Reims F406 Land & Sea Surveillance

The logical economical choice of many operators
Police, Fisheries, Coastguard, EMINT, EEZ patrol.

Recent sales and deliveries
Serial No. 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95

Bob Crowe Aircraft Sales Ltd
Tel: +44 (0)1234 750442
www.bobcroweaircraft.com
sales@bobcroweaircraft.com

lance during the Los Angeles riots. It became a cooperative in 1999, when Baldwin Park joined the program.
The three R44 choppers fly seven days a week, covering more than 50 square miles that are home to over 400,000 residents.

FLORIDA: St. Lucie County's medical transport helicopter – presumably its 2003 delivered Agusta A119 Koala N911SL [14028] - is in danger of being grounded from October thanks to a funding shortfall.
The sheriff's office will no longer pay for a pilot and other operating expenses when the new budget year starts on October 1 because recent tax reforms mean there will be less money from property taxes. The helicopter can't be sold without the St. Lucie County Fire District's approval because it's owned jointly by the fire district and the county commission so negotiations continue.

NORTH CAROLINA: Pitt County Sheriff's Office has taken delivery of its helicopter. The 1968 Bell OH-58C N740SD 68-16954 — donated last summer to the sheriff's office by the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Law Enforcement Services — has now started flying in its new role operated by three volunteer pilots.
Over most of the past year the office has worked to strip paint off the helicopter, perform maintenance, outfit it with radios, repaint and add office logos.
Before the paint scheme was added the craft had flown its first mission in late April to assist the Craven County Sheriff's Office to help locate a murder suspect.
The machine will not patrol and as a result the expectation is that it will only average some 15 hours each month on specific missions the cost paid with money from drug seizures and other sources; no money will come directly from taxpayers' pockets. Average costs should work out at about \$200 an hour to fuel, maintain and insure the helicopter. Dillon's Aviation Service has offered space to store the craft free of charge and will perform discount maintenance.
While the craft ready for flight now, Manning hopes to make several modifications in the near future, including replacement of the landing skids with taller ones to allow equipment to be mounted.

OKLAHOMA: The Bryan County Sheriff's Department received a fully restored 1968 Army Surplus Bell OH58C helicopter. The machine has been fully paid for by donations and will be available to all law agencies in the area.
The helicopter will be used mainly for rescue such as looking for missing children and even manhunts. The cost initial purchase cost was \$5,000 and was paid for by the Choctaw Nation. The labour to restore and paint the helicopter was donated by a couple of local businesses - Dunegan Collision and One-Stop Signs and Graphics in Durant.

Reims F406 Land & Sea Surveillance

NEW YORK: After completing its investigation of the Corey Lidle plane crash into a Manhattan high rise, the NTSB recommended that the FAA permanently restrict airspace for small planes around New York City.

The NTSB did not include helicopters in the recommendation and as a result there have been moves by politicians to introduce legislation banning helicopters from flying over Manhattan, which have even fewer restrictions than planes on where they can fly. The moves do not affect emergency services aircraft but they will of course be responsible for ensuring the legislation works.

AIR AMBULANCE

AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND: The State Premier Peter Beattie has said he would increase annual funding to the Royal Flying Doctor Service by almost 80% a year - from \$16.5M to \$29.3M. Queensland Health is to increase aeromedical funding by \$12.8M in 2007-08, with the Royal Flying Doctor Service as the preferred provider.

Careflight Medical Services will also receive additional annual funding of \$1.47M to help fulfil its role in emergency retrievals in Queensland.

Almost \$1M will be spent building a second hanger facility for the CQ Rescue Helicopter Service in Mackay.

The one-off federal grant will provide training facilities and bedrooms for pilots and crews. It will also be used by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

CANADA

SASKATCHEWAN: The Air Ambulance has a new King Air B200 aircraft as part of a \$12M investment in the air ambulance service.

The new plane, which is the first of two to come, will replace an aging one that will now be retrofitted and put into the province's executive fleet. The provincial Air Ambulance service is funded by Saskatchewan Health with Saskatchewan Property Management supplying the aircraft. There are three air ambulances that fly almost a million km a year.

EAST AFRICA

The air ambulance services provided by African Medical Research and Education Fund (Amref) in East Africa has been given international recognition.

Amref has been accredited by the European Aeromedical Institute (Eurami), becoming the only service provider in Africa to receive the coveted recognition. The Amref accreditation provides evidence that international standards can be achieved on a worldwide level and adequate medical care in the air rescue field is not only restricted to first world countries.

Amref evacuates at least 600 people annually following medical emergencies, 10 per cent of which are charitable.

SWITZERLAND

Goodrich hoists have been selected by AgustaWestland to equip their helicopters to be delivered to Swiss Air Rescue [REGA]. Deliveries of the new hoists are scheduled to begin in 2008.



UNITED KINGDOM

COUNTY: County Air Ambulance has extended its flying hours at the vital emergency service, based at the Strensham site just off the M5 motorway. This is the first of the three helicopters in the service to extend its flying hours from ten hours to 12. The decision follows an announcement earlier this year that it is revising its operational response across the region.

West Midlands Ambulance Service is responsible for the operational management of the helicopter service and they plan a number of changes to develop the future of the air ambulance service.

In the coming months the other bases will follow in extending their hours of availability. This will ensure an aircraft online for a period of 14 hours, a day seven days a week. [Bromsgrove]

DEVON: Devon Air Ambulance Trust (DAAT) has announced that it will be buying its own EC135 helicopter instead of operating its next replacement emergency aircraft under a leasing agreement.

In a major departure from traditional means of funding emergency helicopters in the UK, DAAT decided to buy their next aircraft outright and outsource the provision of all support services in a move which is expected to save substantially in future operating costs.

DAAT face compelling financial and operational reasons for owning and operating their own helicopter and this has been increased since they started operating two aircraft that have reduced the risk of down time because of maintenance issues or breakdown to an absolute minimum.

The investment in a joint airbase at Middlemoor where the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary has a full engineering support and maintenance facility is leading to the possibility of outsourcing this side of the operation to them for the purchased airframe. This again promises to offer savings in scale but there is no contract signed at present. Middlemoor supports the police Eurocopter BK117C1 but from 2008 they expect to take delivery of an EC145/BK117C2. The current air ambulance fleet of a EC135 and a BO105 is supported under lease from Bond Air Services by an on-site engineer.

The BO105 which is currently operating in North Devon will have to be withdrawn from its emergency medical role after 2009. It can be expected that it will be replaced by the displaced BASL EC135 in October 2008..

In purchasing their own EC135, DAAT will be able to customise its specifications to the last detail where leasing is like buying off the shelf – inevitably you have to accept standard specifications which will have been chosen by BASL and therefore might not always be suitable to specific operations. One area where this is evident is that the new helicopter will have the ability to maintain communication when the aircraft is shut down, a facility not currently available. [DAAT]



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT: Another new air ambulance operation is set to commence operations at Thruxton this month. The Hampshire and Isle of Wight operation will operate a BO105DBS leased from BASL [an airframe expected to be G-NAAB].

LONDON HEMS: Staff from London's Air Ambulance were presented with £18,000 recently to buy a new fundraising vehicle. Customers from the Outback Steakhouse in Wandsworth, south London raised the money by choosing to add £1 to their bills as part of a restaurant appeal.

The car will be used to collect and replace the 2,000 collection tins in businesses across London. Charity staff and volunteers will also be finding new locations in which to place collecting tins. In addition, the car will be at outdoor summer events to assist with promotional activity aimed at raising more money for London's Air Ambulance Charity.

The air ambulance carried out 1,306 missions in 2006. [Local London]

SCOTLAND: Air ambulances are being used as a taxi service to transport patients with minor injuries, at huge cost to the taxpayer. Pilots and paramedics are understood to be frustrated that many of the patients they are moving, at a cost of some £3,000 [\$6,000] a time, are able to walk on and off the aircraft unaided.

In one case, a helicopter was sent to evacuate a patient with a broken finger, while other callouts have involved people with cramp or routine blood tests.

It is alleged that of 25 air ambulance callouts in April to islands near the mainland a quarter were non-emergencies and some took place while ferries were still operating. [Mail on Sunday]

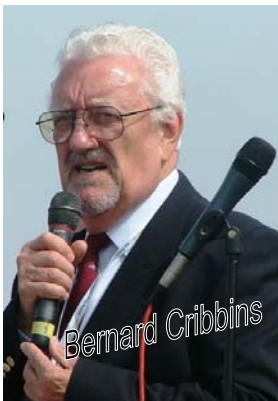
SURREY & SUSSEX: The new air ambulance operation was launched at Dunsfold airfield in Surrey last month.

A major launch event was set in the shadow of a new operating base set in the centre of the large airfield now primarily hosting film and television sets. It was therefore perhaps fitting that the proceedings were heavily stage managed and featured a Glen Miller style band and a sprinkling of notable stars of the British and World entertainment industry.

In an industry beset by a dearth of good MD Explorers [AOG worries or not this type is increasingly seen as the UK HEMS airframe of choice by many] the launch was undertaken using an ex-police Eurocopter BO105DBS4 G-WYPA. There is anecdotal evidence that the airframe operating for the Dunsfold air ambulance has been regularly changed, using various Bolkow's operated by Specialist Aviation Services out of Staverton, Gloucestershire..

It seems likely that after the dust has settled that a suitably re-registered ex-police Explorer currently G-WMID will migrate to serve from Dunsfold [see under UK police section, page 5].

The launch event was displaying a model of an MD900 Explorer in marks [G-KSSH] that are currently available from the CAA but not yet registered.



A large, grey, industrial-style building with a sign that reads "Air Ambulance" in bold, black letters. The building is situated in an outdoor parking lot with several cars parked in front of it. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Air Ambulance

Surrey & Sussex Launch

A close-up photograph of a woman with short, wavy, light brown hair, wearing a white jacket and a pearl necklace. She is holding a black microphone and appears to be speaking. The name "Penelope Keith" is written in white text above her head.

Penelope Keith

UNITED STATES

The US Army has now equipped its first unit with its latest UH-72A Lakota helicopter. The Air Ambulance Detachment at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, California received six of the new helicopters. The UH-72A will replace the UH-60 for a lot of jobs that don't require a helicopter quite that large (about a third larger). Medical evacuation is one such job. The army is buying 332 UH-72A (formerly called the UH-145) helicopters, for about nine million dollars each, from European firm EADS. The UH-72A is a militarized version of the EC145, a helicopter very popular with law enforcement agencies, including the FBI.

FIRE

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: In Los Angeles the city has signed up to add a large Erickson helicopter to its fire fighting operation.

The Fire Commission approved the \$2.26M a year contract with the Central Point, Oregon based Erikson Air Crane Inc. The contract allows the city to extend the agreement another

two years.

The Fire Department has four Bell 412 helicopters that are able to drop up to 350 gallons of water onto fires but the Erickson offers a capability to douse fires with drops of up to 2,000 gallons each. The helitanker is needed because of the high threat of wildfires due to record-dry conditions. Only 3.2 inches [8cm] of rain has fallen in downtown Los Angeles in 12 months. Normal rainfall is about 15 inches.

SEARCH AND RESCUE

NEW ZEALAND

AgustaWestland has announced that Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust of New Zealand has taken delivery of its A119 Koala single turbine engine helicopter, marking the entrance of this successful helicopter in the New Zealand market.

The arrival of the A119 Koala at Base Hospital will dramatically improve the capability of the Taranaki Rescue to provide emergency medical services in the district, which ranges from Waikawau (Tirau Point) in the north, inland to Tangarakau and south to the coast at Waitotara. The Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust has evolved from small beginnings to become the preeminent provider of emergency medical services in New Zealand.

NIGERIA

Galileo Avionica is to supply to the Nigerian Air Force two Airborne Tactical Observation and Surveillance System-[ATOS] mission suites which include a search radar and the



Complete Air to Ground Microwave Systems to Suit your Needs

The Downlink Experts



Tel: +1-858-391-3050 • Fax: +1-858-391-3049 Email • dept500@bms-inc.com • [Broadcast Microwave Services](#)

EOST-45 electro optical surveillance and tracking sensor for the manufacturer to install on board Alenia ATR42 MP Surveyor aircraft for the Nigerian Air Force. The ATR will be used for Maritime, Environmental and EEZ Patrol and SAR

ATOS has also been acquired by other nations with challenging requirements for EEZ and territorial waters control, such as Australia where Galileo Avionica is supplying 12 mission systems in the national coastal surveillance programme.

In Italy, ATOS is being successfully operated by the Italian Treasury Police [GdF] and Coast Guard on the ATR42 MP and on the Piaggio P166.



Right: The ATOS tactical interior fit in an Italian ATR at this years Paris Air Show.

UNITED KINGDOM

COASTGUARD: The multi-million pound development project intended to provide modern hangarage for up to three aircraft together with associated accommodation for 24/7 operation personnel at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency [MCA] based on the former Royal Naval air base of HMS Daedalus at Lee-on-Solent is proceeding to plan.



Raymond Brown Construction Ltd of Ringwood are the appointed Building Contractors undertaking the scheduled 50 week building programme. The project is being managed on the Agency's behalf by the hangar designers, Parson Brinckerhoff Ltd of Godalming, Surrey.

The first aircraft to use the new hangar will be the new generation AgustaWestland AW139 which will be replacing the existing Sikorsky S61N helicopters and will coincide with the new Coastguard SAR helicopter contract in early 2008.

Higher Definition.
Leading-edge 1080p HD



MX-15 True HD



1080p **720p** **Standard NTSC**

L3 communications WESCAM

www.wescam.com
1.800.668.4355

Comparison of MX-15 True HD Output Formats

INDUSTRY

ACROHELIPRO Global Services Inc. is cooperating with **Sagem Avionics, Inc.** to make the innovative, quality and reliability-enhancing and cost-saving Integrated Cockpit Display System (ICDS or Glass Cockpit) upgrade available for the Bell 205, Bell 206 and Bell 210 helicopter models.

For the Bell 206, the system consists of two 8-inch displays that effectively replace all electro-mechanical engine and navigational instruments. The system is capable of providing Traffic awareness, Stormscope, Ground Proximity Warning, video (including FLIR, MaxViz, or L-3's new IRIS system) and trend monitoring. The prototype aircraft (Spencer Aircraft) has successfully completed test flights and is in the final stages of obtaining an FAA Supplemental Type Certificate.

The Bell 205 & 210 variants will consist of three 10-inch ICDS displays, replacing all electro-mechanical engine instrumentation. It will also include a Multi-Function Display (MFD), with Engine Monitoring System (EMS) and an additional MFD to provide mapping data.

A major focus for ACROHELIPRO is to identify and develop opportunities to provide safer, more reliable and cost-effective products and services to legacy helicopter operators. The decision to select the Bell 205 and 206 models as a priority was due mainly to the quantity of these models currently in operation. www.acroheliopro.com

Since its inception in 1982 the Cospas-Sarsat System has provided distress alert information which has assisted in the rescue of over 20,531 persons in 5,752 distress situations. In 2005 the System provided information which was used to rescue 1,666 persons in 435 distress situations.

The real benefit of ELT's is only now being realised. Since the introduction of COSPAS SARSAT satellite system, traditional ELT manufacturers have been busy designing and producing a new generation of distress beacons operating on the key 406 MHz frequency. The benefit of 406MHz technology is simple, it now makes our ELT beacon transmissions faster, more reliable, more accurate and more informative, all stuff vital to improving a safe recovery.

The manufacturers have now brought excellent low cost, lightweight systems on to the market, many of which are direct replacements for older 121.5 + 243 MHz ELT's. For less than \$1000 you can now be safe in the knowledge that if an emergency does occur you'll be in the very best hands possible.

The older ELT's will stop being monitored in 2009. According to COSPAS-SARSAT the existing system will cease satellite processing of 121.5/243 MHz beacons from February 1, 2009. All beacon owners and users will need to begin taking steps to replace their 121.5/243 MHz beacons with 406 MHz beacons as soon as possible. A good time to consider the change is as the battery on the old beacon needs replacing. Typically, batteries need replacing every five years.

Adams Aviation - Europe's centre of excellence for ELT'S is currently offering a good selection of replacement ELT's from Artex and Martec/Kannad, .

Adams Aviation Supply Co.Ltd. are based in southern England and can be contacted on +44 1959 576129 or by Email to mail@adamsaviation.com

Lynco Tugger Corporation, Manufacturer of Engineered Precision Tow Equipment will be attending the forthcoming ALEA 37th Annual Conference and Expo in Orlando Florida. The ALEA event will be using a Lynco Hydra-Tug at the member event to move helicopters in and out of the Orange County Convention Center building. Any ALEA attendees interested in seeing the maneuverability and versatility of the Hydra-Tug are invited to the Fly In on Monday, July 9th or the Fly Out on Friday afternoon July 13th

Lynco Tugger Corporation will be showing their Hydra-Tug at the Expo on Booth 1611. Check out www.lyncotugger.com or call +1 419-687-7309

Airborne imaging becomes more and more important in different domains, ranging from law enforcement and military to television and film productions. Along with its increased areas of application, come its increased requirements of expertise from its operators.

In law enforcement, the gimbal operator does not get a second chance in performing his/her task. A split second of distraction could be the difference between life and death. Operator experience is essential in the success of the mission.

Also for the television and film productions, operator experience can save or cost a significant amount of money.

Experience can only be gained by training. Up to this moment, training was only possible in a static environment, where the helicopter to which the gimbal was attached is parked, or in a training flight. The former option not offering a realistic training value and the latter option having a sometimes prohibitive cost.

It is for these reasons that Aerosimulators has developed its Gimbal Imaging Simulator Trainer (GIST). The first version of this state-of-the-art product is based on the L3-Wescam MX-15 and will be displayed in its final version at the forthcoming ALEA conference.

Realistic training at an affordable price has been the basis on which the simulator has been developed.

The GIST comes with a hand controller, which looks, feels and handles exactly the same as the real hand controller. It is even possible to operate the GIST using the authentic L3-Wescam MX-15 hand controller.

From a hardware point of view, the system is compact, easily transportable and robust. It is designed for travel and fully locked, only occupies a limited amount of space.

Aerosimulators can be visited in booth 700 at the ALEA conference in International Drive, Orlando, Florida or call +32 474 86 02 16 for info www.aerosimulators.com

FLIR Systems has been awarded a contract from the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for Ranger III™ multi-sensor systems valued at \$6M. The systems will be installed along the southern US border as upgrades to older thermal imaging systems. This order represents the largest single order from CBP that FLIR has won to date. Systems will be manufactured in FLIR's facility in Billerica, MA, and deliveries will take place in the third quarter of 2007.

MRC announced that its multi-mode, multi-band video microwave equipment was chosen by the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) in their statewide video and communications upgrade. MRC's challenge was to give the NJSP the capability of receiving airborne generated live video feeds from any NJSP or New Jersey National Guard aircraft operating anywhere over the state then to seamlessly transport those signals back to the Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC) in Trenton; the state's base for homeland security, law enforcement and emergency response.

MRC met that challenge by analysing the state's geography, plotting the existing receive capability, and selecting the appropriate number of new sites required for the mission. Six strategic receive sites give New Jersey a state wide video receive network through which law enforcement personnel can view critical video of interest to the decision-makers at the ROIC. MRC's multi-band, multi-mode solution allows the NJSP to receive on three different frequency bands from both legacy analog microwave transmissions and new digital COFDM



microwave transmissions.

NJSP helicopters and strategic sites are equipped with a GPS tracking system that allow any of the six receive sites within range to track its position. As the aircraft flies from one area of the state to another, the next closest receive antenna seamlessly picks up the signal and continues the process. The NJSP are capable of receiving from broadcasters, the New Jersey National Guard, their own existing transmitter, their next-generation transmitters and from any other Federal law enforcement transmitters operating within the state or close to its borders. The interoperable network supports state and local mutual aid projects between New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Delaware, NYPD, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. [MRC]

Eagle Copters Ltd. Has announced that it has obtained Transport Canada Supplemental Type Certificate approval for the Single Engine Conversion of the Bell 212, universally known as the Eagle Single.

This project, thought to be first of its kind, will provide owners and operators with distinct advantages in the utility rotorcraft marketplace by offering increased payload capacity, easy accessibility to the engine, and greater flexibility in mission configurations. In addition to structural enhancements, improvements have also been made to the avionics, aircraft wiring and instrument panel. The Eagle Single can be maintained using currently available part numbers as well as a wide variety of approved accessories.

DART Helicopter Services Announces EASA Approval of **Apical** Tri-Bag Emergency Float Systems for Bell 212, 412CF and Agusta AB412, AB412EP aircraft.

DART and their affiliated partner, Apical Industries, a world class leader in emergency flotation and evacuation equipment, has added the Tri-Bag Emergency Float Systems for the types to their growing list of EASA approved float systems. The Tri-Bag Emergency Float Systems for these aircraft have also been previously approved by the FAA and Transport Canada.

Available with or without liferafts the Tri-Bag float design consists of 2 Fwd, 2 Mid and 2 Aft floats, which are attached to the skids and are activated automatically by four water activated float switches mounted on the underside of the fuselage. Floats may also be activated manually using a lever installed on the console.

The externally mounted integrated Float/Liferaft system weighs only 328 pounds (149 kg).





Skyquest Aviation, the UK supplier of airborne mission equipment for surveillance aircraft has announced that it has entered into a non exclusive price agreement with AgustaWestland to supply and support a range of multi-function mission displays, rugged video recorders and video distribution systems for both the A109 and AW139 helicopters.

Skyquest already supply a range of equipment to AgustaWestland and have developed a multi-function mission display specifically designed for the AW139 cockpit, and which is now offered by AgustaWestland as the 5th mission display on the aircraft.

Skyquest have become a major supplier of specialist video equipment to the aircraft industry and are committed to serving the airborne surveillance sector through development of innovative and state-of-the-art technology.

Later this year Skyquest will be exhibiting their new range of widescreen High Definition multi-function video displays designed to meet the demands of customers. For further information please contact Geoff Turner via E-mail on Geoff.turner@skyquest.co.uk or call +44 1628 891017

DART Aerospace Ltd, a world leader in developing, engineering and manufacturing helicopter accessories, has extended their existing FAA approval of the Bell 205/212 *Heli-Utility-Basket* to include the 210, 214, 412 and AB412 aircraft. The *Heli-Utility-Basket* has been previously approved by both Transport Canada and EASA on these models as applicable.

The *Heli-Utility-Basket* for these aircraft models is mounted to existing hardpoints and provides a practical solution for operators looking to increase cargo capacity, without compromising cabin space and without flight restrictions.

This *Heli-Utility-Basket* is available with a load capacity of 220lbs or 300lbs, and is ideal for operators servicing contracts for heliskiing and forestry services operations.

AgustaWestland delivered the 100th AW139 medium-twin helicopter during a ceremony at the Paris Air Show today. The aircraft was handed over to Synergy Aerospace, a division of Synergy Group. The aircraft will be delivered to Brazil after the Air Show to commence off-shore operations with Senior Táxi Aéreo, one of the largest helicopter operators in the country.

Sikorsky Aircraft has selected **Goodrich Corporation** to provide rescue hoist systems for the H-92 Canadian Maritime Helicopter Project. The aircraft will be used by the Canadian government for anti-submarine patrol, surveillance duties and utility roles such as search and rescue, cargo and personnel transport. The rescue hoist systems, offered as optional equipment by Sikorsky for the S-92, include Category One externally-mounted single and dual, AC electric rescue hoists and support structures.

Goodrich's hoist and winch team produces both traditional level wind and industry-unique translating drum cable management systems. Because the mission capabilities of the design concepts are so unique, Goodrich distinguishes between the technologies by category distinctions -- translating drum as Category One and the traditional level wind as Category Two. Goodrich is the only manufacturer of the Category One technology in the world. <http://www.goodrich.com/>.

In May Eurocopter announced the launch of a Maintenance Centre with **Falcon Aviation Services (FAS)**, a provider of high level aviation services in the UAE and Gulf regions, specialising in helicopter charter and associated services. This centre will provide full maintenance and revision services for Eurocopter helicopters in the region in order to enhance the support provided to local and regional customers in their daily operations. A fleet of around 650 Eurocopter helicopters is in service throughout the Arabian Gulf region, with military and civil operators.

FAS is to enlarge its fleet of Eurocopter helicopters. FAS is currently operating one EC130 and one EC135 and has now ordered an additional 2 EC130s and 2 AS365 N3s.

Private equity investment company Ranger Aerospace & Aeronautics has bought into **Texas Aviation Services [TAS]**, a well regarded law enforcement completion operation based on Meacham Field, Texas.

Nearly 27 years ago TAS was founded by Carl "Woody" Woodard and he is now retiring. His son Tim, the company's president, is staying on. The Woodards have completed the sale of their fast-growing helicopter completion and overhaul company to locally based Ranger.

TAS has orders to complete more than 50 new civilian helicopters, installing instruments, communications and other systems booked. It recently undertook a project to refurbish, re-wire and repaint 23 well-worn Sikorsky UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters for the National Guard.

Carl Woodard, now 76, said he was happy to entertain the overture from Ranger. He simply says 'I don't want to do this anymore.' Both Woodards will retain a stake in TAS.

The new owners have tapped into local helicopter industry expertise by naming John Murphey, the former chief executive of Bell Helicopter, to the company's board of directors.



Helitech:07

www.helitech.co.uk
sue.bradshaw@helitech.co.uk

100% Helicopters

2nd – 4th October 2007 Imperial War Museum Duxford Cambridge, UK

The website dedicated to operators of **Turbomeca** engines, the Turbomeca Operator On Line Support (T.O.O.L.S.) which can be accessed at www.turbomeca-support.com has been improved and redesigned, adapted to the increasing connexions and customers' evolving needs.

T.O.O.L.S. is available free of charge to customers who register on the website. In addition to information accessibility, Turbomeca sends automatically alerts by email, to registered customers to advise them of all information related to technical updates and information specific to their engine variant.

The website is part of Turbomeca's strategy to provide a stronger technical communication platform for Turbomeca's 2,200 operators in 150 countries.

The largest gathering of **Pilatus** PC-12 aircraft to be seen in Europe (other than the at the manufacturer's factory at Stans near Lucerne) was at Goodwood airfield [UK] during the Festival Of Speed last month. Bob Berry, the MD of the Bournemouth based Pilatus Centre UK and his team invited PC-12 owners to view the festival from their own pavilion. As a result seven of the much sought after aircraft had flown in from airfields across the UK with owners and their families, and management from Pilatus attended from Switzerland.

Underlining that the 9 seat PC-12s are much sought after five of the nine owners in the UK have already placed orders with deposit for the Next Generation PC-12 (priced from \$4M) with the first to be delivered in June 2008.

There are many reasons why Pilatus has demand outstripping supply, the turboprop aircraft is built to a military specification that allows it to not only cruise high in the airways with the business jets, but unlike the jets it has a larger cabin and a very long range. Another popular feature is a large cargo door (wide enough to take pallets) which enables owners easily take bulky items, and the long range means a longer flight, so a separate lavatory (rather than a converting seat found in competing aircraft of similar value!) adds to the appeal. The type is very popular with many emergency services operators – except in Europe where the operation of single engine types remains a problem for emergency services operators.

COOLSPPOOL

The latest 28.5 volt GPU range
Faster, cooler starts. Perfect for shaft or free turbines. Essential for FADEC aircraft.

NEW Mini 17 A/Hr portable GPU.
Built-in charger, digital voltmeter, protective padded jacket.

Massive performance, true portability, amazingly low weight.

Models from Mini 17 A/Hr to 260 A/Hr Ramp Cart

CALL NOW!

+44 (0)1934 643000

email: info@powervamp.com



powervamp

powervamp Ltd, Weston-Super-Mare, England

www.powervamp.com

ACCIDENTS

30 May 2007 Eurocopter AS365N2 N93SV. Air ambulance operated for Lifeflight of Toledo, Ohio by CJ Systems. During cruise flight at night the crew noticed a strong electrical burning smell. Simultaneously the cabin lights flickered and extinguished. The aircraft was landed at the closest available airfield [no stated] which was less than 2 miles away. [Concern]

1 June 2007 Helicopter [Bell OH58A?] Polk County Sheriff's Office. Three Sheriff's Deputy's escaped injury when their helicopter encountered mechanical problems and made a hard landing. The pilot, Deputy Brian Bolton, and flight observers, Deputy Mike Ison and Deputy Mike Ard, were responding to assist South West deputies with a suspicious vehicle when the helicopter experienced mechanical failure, and the pilot was forced to land the helicopter without power. No injuries were reported. The helicopter made a hard landing in a field behind an orange grove in the Highland City area at the end of Yarborough Lane near Crews Lake Drive, landing on its skids. [Media]

June 2007 Helicopter [Bell 206 N1??P] Pennsylvania State Police. Investigations are in hand into an accident that damaged a state police helicopter. No one was injured in the accident, but the helicopter was seriously damaged and may be a write-off. The helicopter was carted out of the hangar for flight. As the helicopter lifted off the cart, the helicopter drifted to the right. The pilot tried to bring the helicopter back down onto the cart, but the helicopter tipped to the right and the main rotor blade hit the ground. State police purchased the helicopter in 1990, and it is the department's oldest helicopter. It is used as a spare, with the other seven state police helicopters stationed around the state. [Media]

3 June 2007 Eurocopter BO105CBS-5 N623MB Air ambulance CALSTAR 1 based at Concord, California. The aircraft was responding to a scene call in a remote isolated area. During the final approach to the ground, the main rotor struck a small tree branch resulting in damage to the trailing edges of three MRB's. The landing was completed without event or further complication. A post flight inspection revealed damage to the trailing edge of three MRB's was damaged. The flight was terminated and the patient transported by the East Bay Regional Park Police. [Concern]

4 June 2007 Cessna 550 Citation II N550BP Air ambulance operated by Marlin Air Inc for Survival Flight at the University of Michigan Health System at Ann Arbor, MI. The aircraft operating an organ flight crashed killing all on board in poor weather [Light Rain, broken clouds at 3,000, overcast at 35,000, winds 10 mph, gusting to 19]. The Citation took off from General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee and was headed for Willow Run Airport near Detroit, a 42-minute flight. About five minutes after departure from the airport, the pilot declared an emergency and requested a return to Mitchell. The aircraft disappeared from radar. ATC notified the US Coast Guard and SAR procedures were implemented. The impact site was found about six miles northeast of Milwaukee. The condition of the aircraft debris and human remains found indicate a high-speed impact into the waters of Lake Michigan. Dr. David Ashburn, a physician-in-training in pediatric cardiothoracic surgery, was onboard, along with Dr. Martinus Spoor, a cardiac surgeon, transplant donation specialists Richard Chenault II and Ricky LaPensee and Marlin Air pilots Dennis Hoyes and Bill Serra. [Concern/media]

5 June 2007 Bell 206B N912SP. Georgia State Patrol A helicopter being used to spot marijuana fields crashed in northwest Georgia. The helicopter crashed on a hill in some trees in Polk County several miles from the Alabama line and started a fire, which was later

contained. Three officers were injured. They managed to escape the wreckage and hobble away just before the chopper caught fire and exploded. They were transported to Atlanta hospitals with broken bones and other non-life threatening injuries. The crew were pilot, Corporal David Doehla, Polk County sheriff's Captain Kelly McLendon and retired patrol pilot Joe Wayne Zebeau. [media]

6 June 2007 Hughes 369D N48MP. Public Use. Department of Fish and Wildlife employee sustained serious injuries when his headset cord became entangled on the skid of the leased helicopter. He was lifted off the ground and when the cord broke he dropped into a tree at Troy, Oregon. [FAA]

8 June 2007 Eurocopter EC155 Government Flying Service helicopter parked on the apron at Hong Kong International Airport flipped on its right side after being buffeted by strong winds, the main rotor was smashed but no one was injured. The airport reported gusts of up to 129 km per hour when the accident happened at about 10am. The four-years old Eurocopter was on standby for emergency service. Although the MRB was wrecked the damage to the main airframe has been reported as slight, nonetheless the helicopter involved is likely to remain out of service for a few weeks. [The Standard]

10 June 2007 Helicopter. Iran. A rescue helicopter crashed in Marez in an area of south-eastern Iran hard hit by a recent cyclone. No casualties were reported. [IRNA]

12 June 2007 Helicopter. Orange County Sheriff's Office, Florida. During an operation assisting the police in Ocee the helicopter made a precautionary landing after the crew smelled burning rubber. It was later flown back to the airport for investigations. This was reported as being the third time an Orange County sheriff's helicopter had a problem in the last three months. [media]

12 June 2007 Eurocopter AS365N2 N293SV. Air ambulance of Life Flight, Toledo, Ohio operated by CJ Systems. After landing at an accident scene for an anticipated patient hot load, the #1 engine chip light illuminated. The aircraft was shut down on scene. Another aircraft was called to transport the patient. [Concern]

13 June 2007 Mil Mi-8. Mongolian Defence Ministry. The helicopter carrying firefighters and equipment crashed into a mountain killing 14 of 22 aboard. It disappeared en route to a forest fire in north central Mongolia but the crash site wasn't found for a few days after some confusion in reporting it missing held back the search. The dead included two of the three pilots. [Media]

20 June 2007 Cessna 185C, N391M. US Forestry Service. Aircraft experienced a gear collapse during an engine-out emergency landing near Kalispell, Montana. The airline transport pilot, who was the sole occupant, was not injured, but the aircraft, which is owned and operated by the USDA Forest Service, sustained substantial damage. The aircraft departed Kalispell City Airport about 30 minutes prior to the accident, was being operated in visual meteorological conditions. The pilot was practicing a simulated engine-out approach to a grass airstrip, and when the aircraft reached a height of about 100 feet above ground level (agl), the pilot moved the throttle forward, but the engine rpm did not increase. The pilot then pushed the throttle full forward, but the propeller continued to only windmill. The pilot was not able to put the aircraft down on the grass strip that he had been aiming for, and he therefore made an emergency landing in a nearby field with high vegetation. Although the initial touchdown was successful, during the rollout the aircraft turned sideways and the gear collapsed.

24 June 2007 Agusta A109 Mk II N109FN. Air ambulance CALSTAR 4 based at




Ukiah, California. The aircraft was responding to a scene call in a remote area. During final approach to the ground, The tail rotor struck a small bush resulting in damage to both tail rotor blade tip caps. The pilot felt a slight vibration in the tail rotor pedals when the tail rotor struck the bush. The landing was completed without further incident. The post flight inspection revealed the damage to the tail rotor tip caps. The flight was terminated and the patient was transported by another air ambulance. [Concern]

25 June 2007 Eurocopter EC135P1 N911SV. Air ambulance of HELP Flight [St. Vincent Healthcare] based at Billings, Montana and operated by Metro Aviation Inc. During cruise flight approximately 15nm west of Billings, the crew heard a loud bang followed immediately by failure of the #1 engine. The Pilot completed the emergency engine shut-down procedure and landed without incident at the Billings airport. [Concern]

26 June 2007 Helicopter. Spanish Protección Civil helicopter Crashed operating in the fire fighting role at Abanilla. The crew survived. [Media].

PEOPLE

Jerry Airola, president of Silver State Helicopters has appointed **David Oglesbee** as vice president of special operations for the company. Oglesbee will help develop the commercial market for Silver State Helicopters. In particular, he will use his previous experience in the law enforcement aspect of the rotorcraft industry to focus on the commercial development of search and rescue, law enforcement and emergency medical services for the company.



Prior to joining the Silver State Helicopters' team, Oglesbee was the vice president of sales and marketing for MD Helicopters Inc., a turn-around helicopter manufacturing company. He was solely responsible for the organization of sales and marketing efforts within the corporation.

Oglesbee has also served in various positions related to law enforcement sales and activities for Bell Helicopters, served as chief pilot for both the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Marion County Sheriff's Office in Florida and was a commissioned officer in the US Army. Oglesbee earned his degree in Aviation Operations and Management from the University of Dubuque, Iowa.

Silver State Helicopters was founded in 1999, and is a full-service commercial helicopter operator with Flight and Air Traffic Control Academies. Operations include Search and Rescue, Air Ambulance, Aerial Tours, Photography, Law Enforcement Air Support, Agriculture and Fire Fighting. www.silverstatehelicopters.com.

DUBAI 2008 HELISHOW

The third edition of Dubai Helishow - the International Helicopter Technology & Operations Exhibition

11th - 13th November 2008

East Hall, Dubai Airport Expo, Dubai, U.A.E.

Online Registration:
www.dubaihelishow.com





**PARC ARBORPORT
WEST WALES. JULY 11-12**

Ten of the world's most innovative unmanned micro aerial systems are set to fly at PAUS 2007 - including ducted fan systems from SELEX S&AS and Honeywell with a hover and stare capability. ParcAberport has hosted a UAS flying demonstration and exhibition each year since 2004 with new capabilities, platforms and systems on show every year. It is now Europe's premier UAS event.



It may be some time before the UAV/UAS make their mark in the emergency services arena but it is not for the lack of trying by industry! They come in all sizes and that includes the choice between some that squeeze into a super hangar and those that fit in a briefcase like this example from AV Inc in the USA seen at the Paris Air Show last month www.avinc.com

DIARY

11-14 July 2007 ALEA Annual Conference & Exposition at the Orange County Convention Center, Hall A-2 Orlando, Florida. The annual get-together of the Airborne Law Enforcement Association. A very American affair it nonetheless seeks to embrace Global law enforcement. Other than perhaps this publication it is the only organisation that wishes to bring together law enforcers from across the World. An event to visit at least once in your life! www.alea.org