

Police Aviation News

©Police Aviation Research

Number 131 March 2007

IPAR



EUROCOPTER'S HELI-EXPO STAR

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
Showing the way
Turning the blades
Airborne Law Enforcement Association
European Law Enforcement Association
Sindacato Personale Aeronavigante Della Polizia

www.bobcroweaircraft.com
www.bms-inc.com
www.wescam.com
www.mrcbroadcast.com/
www.powervamp.com
www.skyforceobserver.com
www.turbomeca.com
www.alea.org
www.pacenet.info
www.uppolizia.it

LAW ENFORCEMENT

FRANCE

GENDARMERIE: AgustaWestland has commenced legal proceedings to contest the way that Eurocopter were awarded a contract to supply seven EC145 helicopters to the Gendarmerie. The Italian manufacturer is suggesting that the tender was written too tightly round the specification of the EC145, thus being anti-competitive by not allowing any other helicopter type to be considered. They are seeking the entire order to be made void.

The contract for seven aircraft, announced in late August 2006, has since been expanded by three further options which might take the fleet to 15.

This appears to be a tit-for-tat measure in the wake of EC discussions with the Italian Government over why they did not go out to contract for helicopters in their own country. Italy has apparently defended their own selections of Agusta products by claiming that they are military rather than civil aircraft. EC laws for each are different. [RH]

Ed: This protest and legal proceedings just reflects a constant round of similar activity being undertaken by each of the manufacturers in turn to take the gloss off each others sales. The most recent previous attempt was an attempt to challenge the sale of EC120s to the US Border Patrol. I am not sure who started this 'game' but I guess the lawyers are more than happy that it continue. The customer pays in the long run of course.



COVER IMAGE: After a less than satisfactory dalliance with the MD Explorer the Suffolk County Police has reverted to operating the BK117 type with this EC145/BK117C2 N3PD slated to be the star of the Eurocopter stand at the HAI Heli-Expo in Orlando March 1-3. [Cal Meeker]

JAPAN

The latest two examples of the Agusta 109E Power helicopter for the National Police Agency - JA02PC and JA03HP - were due for delivery in February. These follow JA13PC/11686 delivered to Shizuoka in December and JA109M/11687 to Kasumininome in January. [DG]

NEW ZEALAND

Police in the islands are seeking to replace their current road spikes amid fears the existing equipment creates danger to both officers and the public.

A tender was issued after the road crash death of 14-years old Pehi Tahana in a police chase involving the spikes. Pehi lost control of a stolen Holden car he was driving shortly after running over spikes placed in the path of the car. The car crashed side-on into a van travelling in the opposite direction.

The present spike device has to be pulled across the road in front of the offending vehicle – requiring the officer to actually cross in the path of the vehicles. Once the vehicle has passed, they have to pull it back to ensure the chase car and other vehicles do not drive over it. The action poses real health and safety risks.

A decade ago – again in the wake of a fatality - a report into pursuit procedures recommended that NZ police bought British-made Stinger spikes, which were lighter and more compact than those in use and were able to be deployed without the officer crossing. With the exception of one county the Stinger was not adopted so 208 of the older type remain in service on over 1600 police vehicles.

The new tender is not written around the Stinger and is open to any device that is considered to be quick and easy to deploy.

Police expect to have evaluated proposals by April 12.

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

The Government of the Turks & Caicos Islands introduced to service a fleet of five helicopters last month. The five will undertake a number of roles including law enforcement, medical, mosquito control and transportation. Rather than purchase the helicopters the Government has turned to a contracted fleet brought to the islands by US based Silver State Helicopters. This is the first non-US contract for the six years old Silver State.

The company has more than 230 helicopters and is the largest flight training academy with over 2500 students.

Four of the helicopters will be stationed in Grand Turk, whilst the blue and white police role equipped Robinson R44 will be based in Providenciales. [Caribbean News]

Ed: Silver State has a number of law enforcement air operations under its wing in mainland USA and a significant number of the principals in the company have a law enforcement background. Jerry Airola the President of the company is a former Police Officer from California, Tim Nelson the Law Enforcement Air Support Coordinator, is a former Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officer and current Deputy Sheriff with the Merced County Sheriff's Office. Nathan Todd, one of the General Manager's is a Sgt. Watch Commander for the Merced County Sheriff's Office. Dan Corsentino is the sheriff in Pueblo, Colorado.

Law enforcement aviation in the islands had previously been administered by the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office. That operation undertook a wide range of tasks, including counter narcotics work, conservation, fisheries, disaster, medical and the detection of illegal immigrants, which involve discreet and unscheduled flying. There was also a search and rescue commitment. Liaison with other British counter drug organisations based in the Caribbean, the US Coastguard and DEA [as part of Operation Bahamas Turks & Caicos].

The aircraft—a Piper PA31-350 is known to have been operated for police purposes under a nominal [\$1] lease arrangement from the US Government. Historically the British Government provided an RAF pilot on secondment on a two year posting [complete with family] in support of the same operation. A local engineer also acted as crewman. The post was civilianised under broadly British lines [including the need to have a PAOM [Police Air Operations Manual] and it was known to be difficult to fill at times.

UNITED KINGDOM

NATIONAL: You just get your head around one acronym and along comes another. PITO is dead, long live NPIA.

The new baby is the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the new team is based on the 4th floor of the Department of Trade and Industry building 10-18 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0NN with an official commencement date of April.

There are currently a number of national organisations that contribute to improving the way forces work across policing. The work they carry out ranges from policy, guidance and policing best practice to leadership and development and the provision of national IT systems and services. The organisations that currently carry out this work are drawn from Centrex, PITO, the Home Office, ACPO, the APA, and HMIC.

The Chairman of the NPIA Peter Holland CBE DL was appointed last year. A journalist by profession [he was at Reuters for 23 years] his police connection is that he is on the Boards of both Centrex and the Police Information and Technology Organisation (PITO) two that NPIA will engulf. He has been a member of Hertfordshire Police Authority, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and awarded the CBE for services to policing in the New Years Honours 2005.

The stated intent of NPIA is to produce an organisation that can be seen as better coordinated than the previous range of providers. If it works out it is hoped that there will be less overlap and duplication of effort. www.npia.police.uk/150.htm The general E-mail is npia2@homeoffice.qsi.gov.uk

GREATER MANCHESTER: Underlining the old adage that you should never assume, Greater Manchester has selected the MD Explorer as the replacement for its current Explorer G-GMPS. The Editor understands that it was a hard fought open contract procedure. Despite the support difficulties faced by the Explorer in the recent past MD won the contract on price and support.

No details are known of the contract or delivery schedule ahead of the Home Office funding announcements but it is believed to be a 2008 delivery. [IPAR]



METROPOLITAN POLICE: It is rumoured that, contrary to earlier information, the Lippitts Hill site is to be developed to enhance its suitability to operate the new helicopters. A year or so ago there was a strong pressure for the Metropolitan Police to abandon Lippitts Hill Camp in favour of a move to RAF Northolt to the west of London. The site has long suffered from being too small and marginal for unrestricted helicopter operations. Fifteen years ago the situation required the force's previous Bell 222 fleet to fly light to a nearby airfield [Stapleford] to pick up more fuel and a crew on summer days. The arrival of the AS355N fleet largely overcame that problem.

Compounding the operational difficulties, in 2000 the area surrounding the site was transferred from Metropolitan Police control to that of the Essex Police. That was just a matter of political perception that now appears to have been dismissed.

Lippitts Hill, a former military camp owned by the police since 1960 was chosen for air operations in June 1967 on its undoubted qualities. Outside the London ATC area it remains well placed to the North East of the Capital just a few minutes flying time from the centre.

Recently the sliding doors of the two hangars have been replaced by bi-fold doors that will better suit the new EC145 fleet and there are plans to set up a runway that will finally re-

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

solve the operating difficulties. This latter feature requires agreement from the local planning department. To date the finance for it [presumably in the forthcoming Home Office round] and a planning application have yet to enter the public domain.

If all of these moves come to pass the amount of investment and work involved in them will secure the future of the site for the next decade.

WEST MIDLANDS: Unlike in the US where at times it seems every action undertaken by the police is directed at seeking out and stopping the illicit growth of cannabis and getting major publicity from each plant cut down British police aviation involvement in seeking out 'hot houses' is a relatively rare event.

Recently however the air unit in Birmingham have been promoting their operations in seeking out the excessive heat emitted by grow houses by the use of their FLIR camera.

Commercial-sized cannabis growing factories have sprung up in unimposing residential streets in recent years. But the police helicopter is now being regularly used to pinpoint heat being given off by the super-strong lights needed to cultivate the plants. Police have seen an explosion in the number of cannabis factories set up in houses in the West Midlands.

Drugs barons get people to pose as respectable families in order to rent out properties but then convert rooms into giant greenhouses with cannabis plants growing in virtually every room. To avoid massive electricity bills they often bypass the meter. The helicopter makes regular sweeps of the roof-tops in the hunt for the tell-tale heat sources. The images are then used secure search warrants.

Earlier this year, police seized £250,000 from one property and found several hundred cannabis plants with a street value of nearly £250,000. In another case they recovered £300,000 worth of cannabis – 1,000 plants - being grown in 14 rooms. Two Vietnamese men were later jailed for three years for cannabis production. [Mail]

In the wake of the picture in last months edition of a visiting EC135 from Central Counties

using the empty facilities of West Midlands Police they have again taken delivery their MD Explorer G-WMID. The aircraft returned from Specialist Aviation Services after maintenance with the extended tail boom upgrade now being fitted to all police operated Explorer aircraft. It is understood that the modification has not yet been fully certified pending the clarification of some outstanding issues..

West Midlands Police will soon be taking delivery of a new Eurocopter EC135P2i, the first Pratt & Whitney powered EC135 in the UK. They plan to retain the Explorer as a second aircraft. [RC]



UNITED STATES

NATIONAL: Thousands of police forces in the US have recently taken delivery of some 380,000 pieces of discounted military kit from the Department of Defense. The range of material is mainly related to ground based policing but a significant sector – from night-vision-goggles to helicopters relates directly to aviation.

About 16,000 US departments obtained equipment during 2005, worth some \$124m (£63m). The Department of Defense released an analysis of each state's second-hand trading during the 2005 financial year. This listing revealed a trade in military equipment that included smaller items ranging from helmets to rifles at no cost barring that of delivery to the recipient where larger items such as weapons, vehicles or boats, come at a fee, but one much lower than charged on the open market.

Buck County, Pennsylvania, bought two armoured vehicles to protect their officers during hostage negotiation stand-offs saving local taxpayers around \$140,000 [£70,000] on commercial costs.

As reported within the pages of PAN in the past, several 1970s helicopters found a new lease of life in law enforcement - either flight ready or a spares provision. This particular report mentioned the Bell OH-58s delivered to the Jefferson County Sheriff in Birmingham, Alabama and saving them the need to find \$1M for a commercially sourced machine.

The programme is run by the Defense Logistics Agency, a branch of the Department of Defense. It was set up in the 1990s to transfer surplus military parts to police for anti-drug and anti-terrorism operations and followed on from earlier arrangements.

FEDERAL The US government is pushing ahead with developing MQ9 Predator B UAVs to patrol the vast land border with Canada.

The US Department of Homeland Security are working with the FAA to impose flight restrictions around a North Dakota air base where the new UAV will be tested. The same base is expected to become the home of a National Guard UAV air wing, flying the less sophisticated Predator A in a few years time.

Airspace restrictions will be imposed over Grand Forks Air Force Base, ND mainly during the night. These will primarily apply to small planes operating below 18,000 feet so will not affect airline traffic. AOPA the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association is set to oppose any new restricted airspace created solely for UAV border patrols.

One Predator B, built by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, flies over the south western border around Libby Army Air Field at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. Customs and Border Pro-

tection will have four UAVs by the end of the year, the second joining the one already flying in the south west in April, the third will be delivered to Grand Forks by October. The final scheduled delivery should see one deployed to Florida for testing in a maritime role employing a sea-view radar to assess its look-down capabilities. This suggests looking for Go-Fast boats.

Customs and Border Protection will obtain certificates of authorization to operate (the Predator B) in certain corridors in the national airspace for the purpose of border patrols. These are seen as mainly in the evenings and at night in places with little existing air traffic with no stated intention of migrating their use to metropolitan areas.

The accident rate of UAV's is currently stated to be 100 times higher than that of manned aircraft according to a Congressional Research Service report dated November 2006. The same report concludes that the cost of operating a UAV is more than double the cost of operating a manned aircraft, because of the logistical support and specialised pilot and maintenance training required. [USA Today]

FEDERAL: President Bush's Fiscal Year 2008 budget has included elements securing America's borders through a US Customs and Border Protection [CBP] budget request for an increase of \$2.43 billion, a 31.4% increase over FY 2007. CBP's FY 2008 budget totals \$10.2 billion.

Border Patrol staffing increase provides an additional \$647.8M for 3,000 Border Patrol agents and associated costs. \$28M of this funding will provide for 151 pilots, air crew, and specialists to support the increase in operations at primary and satellite air sites.

Under Air and Marine Operations there is a provision of \$30M for the expansion of CBP Air and Marine facility infrastructure. This includes administrative facilities, as well as hangars along the Southwest Border, require improvements, additions or replacements to adequately protect the aviation fleet.

Air fleet upgrade funding provides \$4.6M to upgrade CBP Air and Marine's fleet avionics bringing aircraft up to current standards. This relates to sensor and mission system retrofits.

An additional \$36.7M is provided to maintain an operational readiness rate of 80% or greater for the 267 aircraft fleet. <http://www.cbp.gov/>

CALIFORNIA: In November 2004 Law Enforcement Officers from Stockton announced they were starting a new Non-Profit Air Support Unit for cities in the San Joaquin County. The move was an appeal to other agencies with helicopters or equipment they might donate to the cause. The group already had the promise of a 4,000 sq ft hanger donation and some pilots. The appeal worked and the operation started up in 2005 using a DoD surplus Bell OH-58 N380FD financed by the loans of well wishers. Stockton Metro Air Support set up service agreements with Stockton Police Department and the Fire Districts of Escalon, Lathrop-Manteca, Woodbridge, Liberty, Ripon and Clements.

On January 31 2007 it was announced that the crime-fighting surveillance helicopter that has flown the operation for 18 months was up for sale. The Stockton Metro Air Support Inc. needed to repay \$230,000 in loans that already had already been extended by anonymous sponsors who made the original purchase of the aircraft possible. Although sponsored, the group failed to increase the level of donations to the expected income.

By the time the decision to shut down had been made the helicopter has been used for about 90 hours of flight in Stockton, Lodi and San Joaquin County and has helped in two dozen arrests. www.metroair1.org/

CALIFORNIA: San Diego PD Air Support Unit was accepting bids for their 1993 Bell 206BIII N705SD Ser# 4291 and 1993 Bell 206L4, N706SD ser# 52056. All proceeds from the sale of these helicopters' go back to the Air Support Unit to fund the recent purchase of the four new AS350B3s. Bidding closed last month.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words!



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](#)

The JetRanger N705SD became available for collection on February 23 but the LongRanger is not scheduled to be available until the middle of this month. It will have an additional 16 hours of flight time on all the components, and it will have a fresh 100 hour inspection.

In both instances the FAA registration numbers N705SD and N706SD must be relinquished by the new owner and reserved for the San Diego Police Department with the FAA within 180 days of taking delivery of the aircraft.

FLORIDA: In Palm Bay the Police Chief William Berger wants to operate his own UAV in the face of opposition from both the FAA and a national pilots' association.

Chief Berger's craft is one of those small hand-launched models - his costing some \$30,000 and weighing just 8-pounds [3.5kg] - but clearly akin to just a model plane. He sees it as nothing to do with the FAA.

Having talked to the FAA Berger found that there was a yawning gap between his perception of operating the Cyberbug UAV and the FAA stance.

So far the FAA has put nothing in writing despite a request for the agency to formally say whether the unmanned plane can fly.

The plane is not for patrol, its being used on a case-by-case basis, and it will be mostly used in the rural area and won't be operated near an airport.

The chief's plan to use the UAV has drawn protests from the 410,000 member strong Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association [AOPA]. The group contacted the FAA and believes the Cyberbug represents a potential hazard to small airplanes and low-flying helicopters in the skies above Palm Bay.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department ran afoul of FAA rules after attempting to put its own unmanned vehicle into service last year. Their unmanned vehicle remains grounded.

CyberDefense Systems, a St. Petersburg-based company that markets the Cyberbug said the UAV flies below 400 feet and would not interfere with flight patterns. [Florida Today]

Ed: The Cyberbug has flown with other police operators before. It was successfully deployed last April 17 in Maryland for the Charles County Sheriff's Office to monitor the 12th Annual Southern Maryland Blessing of the Bikes event held at the Charles County Fairgrounds in La Plata. It was this event that the Merseyside Police in the UK cited as being a good reason for them to take up with a UAV – see the November 2006 edition. Interest in UAV's is certainly catching on.

GEORGIA: Broadcast Microwave Services, Inc. (BMS), a manufacturer of both analogue and digital portable and fixed microwave transmitters, receivers, and accessories, have announced that the City of Atlanta has installed a complete microwave downlink system utilizing BMS' 2nd generation digital COFDM product line.

BMS President Graham Bunney said, "This is a state of the art digital transmission system that has many applications in law enforcement and homeland security. These types of systems will be force multipliers for today's resource strapped security communities".

The Atlanta Police Departments' installation consists of two complete 6 GHz digital microwave systems including an Omni Helicopter System featuring a TAA-101 Omni Actuator and COFDM Heli-Coder II transmitter, a ground auto-tracking antenna receive site featuring a COFDM Decoder II receiver, and 3 Briefcase-Viewer II receiver's for portable video monitoring.

Along with the helicopter installation, BMS coordinated the installation of the auto-tracking central receive system & the fixed point to point microwave system on the Georgia-Pacific Building to route the downlink video from the Georgia-Pacific Building to the Police Headquarters for maximum viewing performance. BMS also provided the training necessary to the helicopter personnel and Atlanta Police dispatchers in the operation of the system.

The systems are designed for critical decision-makers who need to quickly assess and respond to vital safety and emergency situations. The City of Atlanta's airborne helicopters are equipped to deliver real-time wireless video from a pilot's aerial point of view directly to both the headquarters and the personnel at the scene of the incident. The live video provides an accurate and complete description of an incident in progress for better decision-making and reduced risks.

Please visit BMS at Booth #3908 at the HAI Heli-Expo for more information. You can also E-mail BMS at sales@bms-inc.com or visit www.bms-inc.com.

KANSAS: Last month City officials and the Topeka Police Department introduced the department's newest helicopter - a Robinson R44 Raven II N402PD costing a reported \$675,000- into service. It was officially unveiled at Philip Billard Municipal Airport a few days after being delivered from the Robinson factory in Torrance, California by helicopter unit Sgt. Mike Boucher. The helicopter was purchased through Robinson dealer Schreib-Air out of Wichita.

Half of the purchase money was received in an insurance settlement following the November 2005 crash near Manhattan of a police department Schweizer helicopter.

The Raven II has the latest FLIR system and a slaved 15m-candle power searchlight. The Raven II replaces a Bell OH-58C helicopter that is being turned over to the state.

This is believed to be N69400 69-16264 that will join another ex-Topeka Kiowa N27400 72-21235 with the Kansas Highway Patrol.

The department has retained one Schweizer 300C – a type that has been in operation with Topeka for nearly 30 years. Boucher says that over the years the Schweizer's performance has suffered as a result of adding an increasing range of role equipment.

Police and city officials plan the addition of a second Raven II later this year – a move that is already funded and may see the final departure of the Schweizer from Topeka police service.





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

NEW JERSEY: In an attempt to turn around raging gang and drug problems the City of Newark has added a number of different working practices to its law enforcement solutions, among them the introduction of a searchlight equipped DoD surplus Bell OH-58 [N12NP 73-21906]. Newark PD has stated that it intends to add a further helicopter shortly. [CBS]

OHIO: Pilots in the Ohio State Highway Patrol's aviation section are helping drive down the number of traffic fatalities in Ohio. Preliminary 2006 data show at least 1,236 deaths occurred, down from 1,328 in 2005. By the end of this year, the patrol aims to reduce the fatality rate on Ohio roads to fewer than one per 100m miles driven as part of a programme it launched in 2004 - LifeStat 1.0.

The fifteen pilots in the unit give up their road based cars to fly the grey Cessna 182 aircraft marked state Patrol most days of the week. They operate from three airports to cover 10 districts across the state. The patrol's main hangar is in Columbus, at Don Scott Field on the Northwest Side.

Last year, the patrol's air division logged 29,786 "enforcement contacts" with troopers on the ground. Most of the observed violations lead to tickets written by road troopers directed by radio instructions from the air element. Speed checking is undertaken by stopwatch checking by the pilots.

Not all operations relate to daylight traffic enforcement. The unit has a FLIR unit and has used it to undertake night fugitive searches. In support of other agencies not equipped with aircraft. State Highway Patrol aircraft fly slightly higher than the Columbus police helicopter unit, with which they often work in tandem. [Columbus Dispatch]

Because of rising insurance costs, The Thurston County Sheriff's Office is getting rid of its helicopter service, and may use the savings to create a dog unit.

Last year, sheriff's used the helicopter - contracted through Northwest Helicopters - just 12 times, seven of those trips were for community work, three times SAR and twice it was used for criminal cases.

At the same time, the office's insurance costs rose from \$18,000 in 2005 to \$30,000 in 2006, Kimball said. The sheriff's plan still includes the possibility of calling in a helicopter in instances of real emergency—with the military or one of Seattle's TV news stations being the cited options. [Olympian]



Extreme Tactical Surveillance ...

www.mrcbroadcast.com

Click here
to become the leader in your field ...

MRC



AIR AMBULANCE

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Hopes for an air ambulance service dedicated to the country fade as the Health Services Authority (HSA) Board has decided against looking further into it.

The former CEO, Craig Brown, had spearheaded the initiative to bring in dedicated air ambulance service, the tendering process was completed, and an air ambulance service and was just apparently waiting for approval by the Board. Then Brown was terminated in October.

Now the current incumbent has declared that the HSA was not now going to pursue an exclusive air ambulance service. Now it continues to use broker services to transport emergency patients to the US or Jamaica for trauma patients. All the air ambulances have to come from the US, which means it is a minimum of two hours before they arrive in the islands.

Ed: Within days of this announcement there was a growing media pressure for a its reversal. The high number of serious traffic accidents since the New Year renewed concerns within the community to get a dedicated air ambulance on the Island.

Even the Earl of Wessex, HRH the Prince Edward on visit to the Cayman's was reportedly appalled at the high number of road injuries and lamented on why young people should be allowed to drive fast cars.

EUROPE

TEAM DRF: In 2006 the air rescue alliance TEAM DRF undertook more missions than ever before. Altogether, the air rescuers started on 36,499 missions, 2,091 missions more than in the year 2005.

On board of specially equipped helicopters the TEAM DRF pilots, emergency physicians and paramedics started on 26,549 emergency missions in Germany, Italy and Austria. In addition, the TEAM DRF transported 9,094 intensive care patients between clinics and repatriated 856 patients from 102 countries to their home countries for further medical treatment.

FINLAND

A report published last month by a Finnish government working group has stated that the government should wholly fund the country's medical and rescue helicopter operations by 2010.

Currently the helicopter operations, together costing €17.6M, are funded through a partnership arrangement involving the Slot Machine Association (RAY), the interior minister, the Social Insurance Institution of Finland (Kela) and the university hospital districts.

There are six medical and rescue helicopters in the country, with bases in Sodankylä, Varkaus, Vantaa, Turku, Vaasa and Oulu.

UNITED KINGDOM



DORSET & SOMERSET: Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance are hosting a Royal Visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on 15th February at The Fleet Air Arm Museum RNAS Yeovilton to launch their new generation aircraft a Eurocopter EC135. The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance has been busily fundraising for the last 2 years to enable them to upgrade the existing Bolkow 105dbs helicopter to the new generation aircraft.

Director of the charity Nicola Howkins says " It is a very exciting time with the launch of the new aircraft together with the visit from HRH The Princess Royal. The people of Dorset and Somerset have been instrumental in raising the much needed funds, to enable the charity to progress to the new generation aircraft

EAST ANGLIA AND ESSEX: Since the merger of the Ambulance Trusts in the region the former East Anglian, Essex, Hertfordshire. and Bedfordshire. trusts have now merged into the 'East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust.' The chief executive, Chris Carney, has outlined his vision of having three helicopters servicing the region. The Trust has met with the principles at each of the East Anglian Air Ambulance and Essex Air Ambulance and it was agreed that Anglian would look at servicing Bedfordshire and Essex would consider servicing Hertfordshire.

Anglian produced a consultation document, press release and a consultation area on their web site outlining the alternatives and asking supporters for their thoughts. There was a tremendous response and 93% of supporters backed an extension into Bedfordshire. The Trusts operator , Sterling Aviation, are currently looking to secure a suitable second helicopter with a view to have bases located at Norwich, RAF Honington and RAF Wyton for the two aircraft to then cover Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk.

A fundraising campaign in Bedfordshire should launch in April with the intention of supporting the second aircraft at its RAF Wyton base from June. All of this is still a little sketchy as they have yet to secure the helicopter or sign of a lease for a new forward operations centre at RAF Wyton.

Over in Essex Air Ambulance plans are advanced to cover Hertfordshire but in this case it is assumed that the existing EC135T2 G-SSXX will operate the service alone from the existing Boreham, Chelmsford base. Effectively where possible the three aircraft will undertake the service in all the counties between them with occasional assistance from surrounding operations like London HEMS much as occurs today.

An amateur helicopter pilot Rob Forsyth, of Rushden, is heading up a new Herts Air Ambulance Appeal Committee. He hopes the fund-raising appeal will take off to provide a dedicated service for the county. Forsyth runs Marketing International with offices in Buntingford.

Initially, the campaign is to raise enough money for Hertfordshire to use the Essex air am-

balance, which costs £105,000 to operate for seven days a week during daylight hours and attends an average of up to five call outs each day. Mr Forsyth hopes that the county can eventually raise the £3.5M needed to buy its own helicopter.

GREAT NORTH: One year after sustaining near-fatal injuries in a climbing accident, Cumbria's air ambulance pilot Jim Martin, 48, is expected to return to the pilot's seat. Jim suffered broken bones in his leg, arm and pelvis. Until the accident Jim was the pilot of the Pride of Cumbria Bolkow BO105 rescue helicopter operated by Great North Air Ambulance from the Carlisle area. He is now flying the same Bolkow from the new Northumbria base.

KENT: The air ambulance charity is promoting its expansion of services to Surry and Sussex by the means of a television advertisement. The new advert is running in the counties that the fundraising is aimed at but it can also be viewed on the youtube website via this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWRTM2z3tVM>

WARWICKSHIRE & NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: Sloane Helicopters, based at Sywell Airport near Northampton, have recently renewed a five year contract with the Coventry based Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance to supply an upgraded aircraft [G-MEDS—right] to the 24-hour operational service.

The HEMS service has operated the Agusta 109 Power on daylight only operations since it was started up. The aircraft vendor Sloane Helicopters also used the same air-

frame for out-of-hours [night IFR] medical operations including organ transfer. The HEMS service has now undertaken more than 3,500 missions. [Northampton Chronicle/IPAR]



UNITED STATES

FLORIDA: Air Methods Corporation has announced that Sacred Heart Health Systems, based in Pensacola, Florida, has selected Air Methods to assume operations of its AIR-Heart air ambulance service serving Northwest Florida and parts of South Alabama. The Sacred Heart helicopter programme was transferred to Air Methods as part of its community-based operations. This represents the first expansion of Air Methods' community-based model into Northwest Florida and was effective January 1, 2007.

AIRHeart currently serves communities across Northwest Florida from bases in Walton County and Marianna, Florida, and expects to expand its services as an operation of Air Methods using a mixed fleet consisting of twin-engine BO105 and EC135 and single-engine EC130 helicopters.

IOWA: The Grinnell Regional Medical Center has been fined \$4,000 for a safety violation that contributed to the death of an employee who fell off a helicopter landing pad while clearing snow.

The Medical Center allowed Randy Criswell to operate a tractor on January 15 on the snow clearance duty, he died when the tractor plunged over seventeen feet [7.5m], cleared a five-foot steel safety net, and hit the ground.

Hospital officials say they have now prohibit ride-on motorized devices and require at least two workers at all times.

NOW: Police Aviation News
Skype VoIP: bryn.elliott

Higher Definition.
Leading-edge 1080p HD

MX-15 True HD

1080p

720p

Standard NTSC

Comparison of MX-15 True HD Output Formats

L3
communications
WESCAM

www.wescam.com
1.800.668.4355

SEARCH & RESCUE

AUSTRALIA

The Federal Government has funded a new rapid response helicopter to patrol the Northern Territory's northern coastline. The helicopter, believed to be a Eurocopter BK117, will be based mainly out of Darwin but will have a broad surveillance beyond NT. The initial airframe is said to be slated for replacement by a new EC145/BK117C2.

Helicopters Australia has been awarded a \$25M tender and the aircraft is expected to be in the air by early next year.

In associated moves an Eurocopter AS350B3 will be appearing in Customs colours replacing the Bell 206L4 LongRanger as the backup ship for the Bell 412 currently operated.

GERMANY

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR: The German Ministry of the Interior, one of Eurocopter's largest civilian customers worldwide, took delivery of the first pair of a total of sixteen EC135 air rescue helicopters at Eurocopter's Donauwörth plant on January 31, 2007. Over the next two years, twelve air rescue sites will be equipped with these aircraft. The EC135 will replace the BO105 helicopters that have been in service up to now.

This contract brings the total sales of Eurocopter aircraft into the German airborne emergency services to 84. The German Ministry of the Interior (BMI) and the German Federal Police, which belongs to the BMI, operates 10 Alouette II, 25 EC135, 15 EC155, 11 Puma and 7 Super Puma -- for police operations and national security missions and 16 BO105 for air rescue operations.

As the latest generation of civil defence helicopters, painted in bright orange livery, the EC135T2i will gradually replace the BO105.

The BMI fleet are to feature increased payload, increased take-off power and improved performance at high altitude and high temperatures. They are fitted with a night vision goggle compatible screen cockpit, GPS navigation system, rapid-change, lightweight medical equipment, double hook cargo system certified for transporting patients and – a world-first in air rescue – the “HELLAS” active obstacle warning system.

The EC135 has become established in international air rescue as the most successful lightweight twin-engine helicopter of the new generation. About 250 EC135s are currently in service for SAR or EMS in 20 countries, which equates to a market share of around 80% in this class. Of these, about 150 are in use in Europe, being deployed on missions on land, at sea and in mountainous regions under all manner of weather conditions – flying under instrument flight conditions as well as visual flying conditions. A total of over 530 EC135s have been delivered worldwide since they were launched in 1996.

INDIA

COAST GUARD: The Coast Guard of India is all set to go in for a major expansion of its fleet with the acquisition of 15 ships and 23 aircraft to give it “deep water” capability. The expansion is part of a 15-year plan (2007-22) that envisages these acquisitions to include

multi-mission maritime aircraft, twin engine helicopters and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles). [Financial Express]

India's National Disaster Management Authority has ordered twelve Dhruv helicopters for use in civil SAR operations – primarily reacting to natural disasters. The helicopters will be medically equipped with stretchers, ventilators and other equipment. These moves are in addition to the recent commercial EMS operations recently set up. [Flight]



JAPAN

Field Aviation company, Inc. of Toronto has been awarded a contract to convert three Bombardier de Havilland DASH 8-300 turboprop aircraft into Maritime Patrol/Search and Rescue aircraft for the Japan Coast Guard. Sojitz Corporation of Japan is the prime contractor to the Japan Coast Guard for this project and will acquire the three completed Q300 turboprops from Bombardier Aerospace. The aircraft will be modified by Field Aviation at its Toronto modification centre and will feature a mission interior, large conformal observation windows and air drop capability.

Latest technology surveillance sensors will be installed, including a 360° surface search radar, stabilised sensor, and mission/communications systems. The aircraft modifications will commence in November 2007, and all three aircraft will be delivered before the end of 2008.

The Dash 8 was first modified for the Maritime Patrol role by Field in 1995, when three aircraft were delivered to Surveillance Australia [image above] which provides airborne surveillance of the Australian EEZ. Two additional Dash 8 MPAs were delivered to Australia in 2000, and Field is currently modifying additional aircraft that will see the Surveillance Australia fleet grow to ten Dash 8s by the end of 2007.

Other customers for Field's Dash 8 Maritime Patrol/Surveillance Aircraft modifications include US Customs and Border Protection, where the first of a fleet of Series 200 MPAs entered service in 2005; and the Swedish Coast Guard, which will receive three Series 300 MSA/SAR aircraft in 2007.



MALAYSIA

The new Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) will buy three Eurocopter Dauphin helicopters and three AgustaWestland AW139s to establish a surveillance and SAR air wing. The helicopters also will perform aerial boarding, interdiction and coastal patrols, permitting the MMEA to gain the fullest potential of its resources.

The agency will buy new vessels and repair and refurbish many of the 70-plus craft it inherited from five Malaysian maritime agencies along with a ship it recently received from the Japanese government.

The three Eurocopter helicopters will be based in Subang, where Eurocopter has a regional maintenance centre, and will fly missions over the Strait of Malacca. The larger AW139 helicopters will be based in Kuantan and will fly over the country's eastern region and coast. The agency is negotiating terms for the initial six; it intends to add nine more of both types in the near term.

The agency also will buy fixed-wing amphibious aircraft — likely either the Bombardier 415 and Russia's Be-200 — for wide aerial surveillance, SAR, enforcement, interdiction, pollution and environmental control duties in Malaysia's vast maritime area, he said.

The agency also plans a set of Sabah coastline surveillance radars called the Sea Surveillance System. [Defense News]

NORWAY

It was supposed to be the Nordic helicopter flown as standard by each of the Scandinavian countries but cracks soon began to appear in the plan when some of the partners found that 'standard' did not fit in with their plans. The NH90 was the airframe of choice but even among the nations that stuck to the formula one country decided they wanted a deeper fuselage. Denmark opted for the EH-101. The latest crack in the plan that did not work out to plan is that the Norwegian Ministry of Justice announced on February 5 that Norway would not use its option to buy 10 SAR versions of the NH90 helicopter to replace its SAR Sea Kings.

RUSSIA

EMERGENCIES MINISTRY: This year the Emergencies Ministry is ready to start operating unmanned air vehicles [UAV]. For the time being the flights will be experimental, but from next year radio-controlled aircraft will help deal with the consequences of emergencies. In order not to disturb the special services, the experimental flights will take place at an altitude of 200 m. Photos taken at that height come out well. The contract for delivery of the UAVs has been signed with a Russian firm, although this is an exception rather than the rule. Developers of unmanned air systems say that their usefulness has not yet been fully appreciated in Russia. [RBK TV, Moscow]

		ACPO - APA 2007 International Policing Exhibition and Summer Conference	
	Conference 19 - 21 June 2007	Exhibition 20 - 21 June 2007	
	Midland Hotel Manchester	G-Mex Manchester	
The Biggest and Most Influential Policing Event of the Year			

INDUSTRY

In mid-February the **Yuma Proving Grounds** in Arizona were the site of a major International demonstration. Although the location was in the USA the potential customer and many of those demonstrating their products were not locals.

The Government of Jordan were conducting comparative trials of a whole range of technologies intended to strengthen Border Surveillance in Jordan and that included a range of aircraft and aircraft systems.

The reason that the demonstrations were being conducted in Yuma appears to have been a mix of the quiet secure location and the large number of US companies present bidding for the contracts.

Galileo Avionica, a Finmeccanica company, was awarded with an €20M contract- as part of the Australian Customs Coastwatch programme for the aerial surveillance of Australia's maritime areas. The system is based on the ATOS, Airborne Tactical Observation and Surveillance System. The 12 year contract signed with prime contractor Surveillance Australia Pty Ltd (SAPL) will include the provision for 12 Surveillance Information Management - ATOS to be installed in Dash-8 aircraft and helicopters along with a fixed ground station, two mobile ground stations, training, computers, work stations, technical assistance and spares.

ATOS is already installed on the ATR 42MP operated by the Italian Treasury Police and Coast Guard and, in its Light Version, on the Piaggio Aero P166-DP1 aircraft used by the Italian Treasury Police based at Pratica di Mare.



The Federal Aviation Administration issues certificates to pilots, mechanics, and many others in the aviation community. These certificates have never had photo identification on them and the FAA is proposing to add a picture of the certificate holder following a period of consultation.

The **National Intelligence Reform Act** of 2004 [Public Law No.108-458] was signed in December 2004. It requires the FAA to develop a system for the issuance of pilot licenses that are resistant to tampering, alteration, and counterfeiting; are capable of accommodating a digital photograph, biometric measure, or other unique identifier; provides a means of ensuring its validity; and revealing whether any component or security feature of the license has been compromised. The FAA started issuing prototype certificates to FAA certificated employees and contractors in February 2006 to prove the concept.

L3 Communications has announced that its Communication Systems-East division has received a sole source contract award from the US Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for 250 of its Talon in-line network encryptors. TSA will deploy these units for testing at undisclosed airports in the United States. Talon is L-3's latest innovation for securing internet protocol (IP) data transmissions.

The BAPCO Annual International Conference and Exhibition

2007
BAPCO
The Public Safety Communications and IT Event



25 - 26 APRIL 2007, BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE, ISLINGTON LONDON, UK

Skyquest Aviation has moved. The company supplies airborne surveillance systems, rugged digital video recorders, multi-function LCD video and mission displays, moving map systems, DGPS, microwave link systems, gyro-stabilised camera platforms and cargo hook cameras.

Skyquest marketing, accounts & commercial offices moved on 7th February 2007. The new address is Units 19/20 Woodlands Farm, Spring Lane, Cookham Dean, Berkshire SL6 9PN UK. Telephone: +44 1628 471926, Fax: +44 1628 476053.

Skyquest's factory address; the address for equipment servicing & returns remains unchanged as: - Skyquest Service Department, 21, Hornsby Square, Southfields Industrial Park, Laindon, Essex SS15 6SD, UK Telephone: +44 1268 490700. All email addresses remain unchanged. www.skyquest.co.uk

AgustaWestland has announced the appointment of OSS Air as its designated Service Centre for its commercial range of helicopters. Additionally OSS Air will co-ordinate all commercial sales and marketing activities in India for Sharp Ocean of Hong Kong who have a distribution agreement for AgustaWestland commercial helicopters in India, Sri Lanka and The Maldives.

This makes OSS Air a one-stop service provider for AgustaWestland in India. They will co-ordinate marketing, maintenance and charter operations exclusively for AgustaWestland commercial helicopters. This unique advantage, which is not offered by any other international helicopter manufacturer in the region is helping AgustaWestland to greatly increase its presence in the Indian civil helicopter market.

OSS Air carries an inventory of tools, spares and consumables for routine maintenance of the A119 Koala and A109 Power, and will soon be providing the same service for the Grand and AW139 helicopters.

Specialist Aviation Services announces the launch of its EASA approved CVR/FDR modification for the Bell 412.

Working in collaboration with launch customer, Gulf Helicopters in Qatar, the first SAS-produced kit is now successfully in operation. A further ten kits will be delivered to Qatar for installation in the Gulf Helicopters fleet over the next few months.

The design is based around L3's FA 2300 'MADRAS' unit and as SAS's Technical Director, Phil Johns explained, "This STC offers Bell 412 operators world-wide an economical solution to comply with new operational requirements and we see an opportunity for many more kits over the next few years."

The UK-based Specialist Aviation Services Group designs and installs bespoke avionics and role equipment solutions for both military and commercial operators of utility helicopters. For more information visit www.specialist-aviation.com.

At the recent Aero India exhibition (Bangalore, India), **Turbomeca** confirmed its close links with India, in particular with its milestone Ardiden 1H turbo-shaft engine programme (called Shakti in India) designed for HAL's (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's) Dhruv helicopter.

In January 2003, Turbomeca and HAL signed a contract which covers the co-development and co-production of Ardiden 1H engines, and is accompanied by the expected production of more than 300 Ardiden 1H / Shakti engines.

11% of development will be carried out in India by HAL. The first 60 engines will be produced by Turbomeca in France. The production, assembly and tests of the following engines will be progressively transferred to India.

After its first run on the test bench in October 2005, the next major step for the Shakti will be the start of in-flight testing in India, during the next weeks with the first deliveries of production engines will take place during the autumn 2007.

Exhibiting at HAI are **Sky Connect**. Sky Connect will unveil new cockpit satcom dialers that are compatible with night-vision (NVG/NVIS) equipped aircraft. As more operators adopt



NVG/NVIS to enhance tactical operations, Sky Connect enhances their strategic operations with automated tracking, secure voice telephony, and dedicated text messaging. The company will introduce and display the new NVG dialers for the first time at Booth 1110. The products have been eagerly anticipated by Sky Connect’s air medical, law enforcement, and offshore oil operators, and offer important benefits for these missions. The Mission Management Unit (MMU) NVIS Dialer enables users to call stored numbers (by name) or any as-needed phone numbers. Users may also pre-program text messages to quickly send flight plans, patient status, or aircraft status, for example. Dialers are designed for use in cockpits where components must meet strict guidelines for illumination during the use of night-vision goggles and both may be immediately integrated for use in night-vision equipped cockpits. Sky Connect offers a range of satellite-based tracking, text messaging, and telephone systems for airborne, ground-based, and marine applications in both the commercial and government markets. Sky Connect provides automated flight tracking with true worldwide coverage.



Images: the MMU Tracker [top] and the NVG Dialer.

In a recent fire safety equipment test use of the **Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System [LUCAS]** was found to be unsuitable in certain conditions of use. LUCAS is a gas-driven mechanical cardiopulmonary resuscitation device. If oxygen is used as the driving gas in a confined environment, there is a potential fire hazard. 24% oxygen is considered the threshold for increased risk.

Three trials were conducted using different cabin ventilation settings to determine the rise in oxygen concentration in the MD902 Explorer helicopter operated by Kent Air Ambulance during use of the LUCAS.

With the aircraft at rest the oxygen concentration rose rapidly, but during flight, using realistic cabin ventilation settings and durations of use, the oxygen concentration failed to reach the 24% threshold.

It was concluded that while the operation of LUCAS is safe for normal-duration flights in a helicopter in the MD902, EC135 and BO105 class it is potentially unsafe to operate in a static environment. [Emergency Medicine Journal]

A man fired last fall from his internship at a **Bell Helicopter** factory in Canada says he was unfairly dismissed from the company due to his heritage.

Jamie Vargas was born in Venezuela, one of several countries -- along with China, Cuba, Haiti, Iran, Lebanon, Syria, and Vietnam -- whose citizens are banned by US law from working in companies that develop military weapons. The regulation applies regardless of whether those persons also hold Canadian citizenship.

Vargas says Bell told him poor work performance was the reason for his dismissal. He maintains he had no problems until the security rules came into play.

As reported previously Bell Canada had to reassign 24 employees to comply with US security restrictions, and that it asked for an exemption from the new rules, only to be turned down by US authorities.

Construction of a joint Jordanian-Russian project for manufacturing KA-226 helicopters in the Kingdom is expected to start mid-2007.

The facility will be built within the confines of Queen Alia International Airport by OPK Oboronprom Middle East.

Last year **OPK Oboronprom JSC** signed a licence agreement with Jordan under which the joint venture is authorised to produce and then sell the KA-226s in Jordan and other countries in the region.

The KA-226 is a light helicopter. Its modular design enables helicopter use in various configurations: Passenger, transport, search-and-rescue, emergency medical services, patrol and fire-fighting.



News that a company was developing an unmanned helicopter to rescue people from high altitude – Everest – has been largely met with incredulity by industry professionals.

Trevor Rogers, president of the Auckland-based **TGR Helicorp**, has proposed a vehicle apparently conceived in science fiction. Most helicopters are not designed to operate much above a height of 14,000 ft [4,300 m] and those that do, have to be modified.

Mr. Rogers claims that his team had developed an unpiloted full-size helicopter called the Alpine Wasp, capable of flying autonomously at altitudes higher than the summit of Everest - 30,000ft more than 9,000m has been quoted - and able to carry two sick or injured climbers to safety.

The diesel powered lightweight composite built Alpine Wasp will be tested at altitude in the

New Zealand Alps this spring. If all goes well, the Alpine Wasp will be stationed from in a hangar in the town of Namche Bazaar on the route to Everest from 2008.

Rogers claims that the craft will use virtual reality systems located at its base in Namche Bazaar and can even fly in fog close to the mountain to perform rescues. Climbers will be fitted with a tracking device in order to locate them, and once they are found the helicopter will lower a cable for hoisting. They will have to clip themselves on to the cable to be lifted off the mountain.

The Everest Rescue Trust web site can be found at www.rescueoneverest.org

London in British Columbia will become corporate home to the largest helicopter fleet in Canada. **Discovery Air** has signed a letter of intent to buy Victoria, B.C.'s VIH Aviation Group Ltd. and its fleet of 60 helicopters, joining 70 it already owns after buying Great Slave Helicopters last year.

The deal is worth about \$150 million for VIH, he said.

Great Slave is a light-to medium-duty service working in Northern Canada, doing medical and exploration work while VIH operates on both coasts, doing heavy-duty forestry work along with search and rescue.

FlyingTV provided the defining images of the Suffolk avian flu outbreak on Saturday 3rd February.

Helicopters G-PIXX and G-PIXL were on scene for BBC News over the weekend. On Saturday G-PIXX captured the defining images - an open truck being loaded with 2600 dead turkeys alongside the shed where the outbreak occurred (screengrab attached). BBC News later licensed this shot to other media outlets in both moving and stills formats.

On Sunday they were tasked to Staffordshire to get shots of an abattoir (screengrab attached).

Once these were on tape, G-PIXX flew south and we used our unique long distance transmit facility to fire the images straight to BBC News Centre in London W12. with no need for a satellite truck, the images were transmitted from north of Northampton - a distance of over 60 miles straightline. This saves time and money for BBC News. <http://www.flyingtv.co.uk/news.html>



Frasca International will be demonstrating two helicopter flight simulators at Heli-Expo in Orlando. One simulator will be located at Frasca's booth (#1238) while the second simulator will be located at the Bell Helicopter booth (#1333). The simulators will be networked together allowing each to be seen in the others visual system for interactive flying. Frasca website at: www.frasca.com

PremiAir, part of the Sir Robert McAlpine Group, has taken over the management of the London Heliport at Battersea. The contract was awarded by von Essen Hotels, who acquired the freehold site from Weston plc. The deal includes an exclusive new seven-storey boutique hotel with 70 rooms under construction adjacent to the heliport that will also house the heliport's new terminal, reception and business meeting room areas. This news follows the recent announcement by von Essen that it was taking over the former Rocco Forte Château de Bagnols near Lyon.

Located on the south bank of the River Thames between Wandsworth and Battersea bridges, the London Heliport provides landing, parking and refuelling services and is the capital's only commercial heliport.

Statistics published last month by the **Royal National Lifeboat Institution** (RNLI) show 2006 was its busiest year, continuing a climbing three-year trend.

Last year saw RNLI lifeboats launch a total of 8,377 times – the highest annual number to date, and rescued 8,015 people – only the second time in the RNLI's history that this figure has passed the 8K mark.

The RNLI's 2006 statistics show just how many people need a lifeguard while enjoying the beach – 63 lives were saved and 10,331 people assisted by RNLI lifeguards during the summer season on the 62 beaches in the south of England that operate using the RNLI Lifeguards service. [fishupdate]

SRT Helicopters will showcase its mission-specific training programmes for the first time at Heli-Expo (Booth 454).

Owned by Christian Gadbois, SRT is the only helicopter training company to exclusively employ working rescue professionals, provide disaster response services and use an integrated approach to training so that pilots and crew members learn how to work together effectively. Gadbois, a former US Army Special Forces medic, believes it's important to augment factory training with more team-oriented approaches that prepare pilots and crews for specific missions.

Based at Meadows Field in Bakersfield, California SRT flies a mix of Bell, Eurocopter, MD and Schweizer helicopters, students learn and hone their skills at SRT's 5,000 square-foot hangar facility and classroom, an off-site hoist-training tower, and a military law enforcement ranch. Training for desert operations occurs at Edwards Air Force Base. The nearby mountains and Pacific Ocean provide venues for high altitude and water training.

For more information, contact: Christian on +1 661-393-4567 srt@um.att.com web site www.srthelo.com

Activa Solutions, one of the UK's most prominent suppliers of call recording solutions to UK emergency services have announced the release of the Veritel XQ NCHS version, to the UK market.

Veritel XQ has been extensively used in the commercial sector over the last 18 months. Its function being to evaluate and report on Contact Centre call handling competencies and skills, as well as to highlight non-compliance and areas for development.

The new NCHS (National Call Handling Standards) version is fully tailored to meet with Home Office and ACPO guidelines. This supports the monitoring and improvement of both soft and hard skills within the emergency response and public information centres.

The Veritel XQ is aimed primarily at UK Police Forces, however it can provide equal benefit to all emergency service control rooms and contact centres, whether it be a combined or independent force.

The XQ software is seamlessly integrated with Activas' own Veritel call recording platform, though may also be used in conjunction with any existing voice recording system provided by any other manufacturer.

Designed in conjunction with one of the UK's leading Police Forces, the XQ NCHS works on an 'out of the box' basis. Thus providing valuable measurement data and reports, in a single unit, to ensure thematic compliance with Home Office guidelines.

Additional information about Activa Solutions and its complete product line can be accessed on the website www.activa.co.uk

Representatives from Integrated Coast Guard Systems (ICGS) have presented testimony on the **Integrated Deepwater System** program before the Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard.



The industry partners noted the many achieved milestones of Deepwater including the HH-65C helicopter re-engine project now nearing completion with 68 of 95 helicopters delivered and the extension of the Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) contract. This Jacksonville, Florida based operation has been extended into a fifth year. The eight MH-68A helicopters are equipped with airborne use of force and have had a significant impact on illicit drug interdictions.

ICGS is a joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. ICGS was awarded the Deepwater contract in June 2002 and has been renewed through to January 2011. <http://www.icgsdeepwater.com/>

In the wake of the recent news that Greater Manchester Police in the UK had pinned its faith in a continued recovery for the MD product line by re-ordering the Explorer the major marketing effort by UK and Dubai based Action Aviation has continued in its area of the World market [Middle East, India, Sri Lanka and Scandinavia].

Although primarily identified as a commercial market sales organization **Action Aviation** was recently supporting marketing efforts for the twin-engined multi-role Explorer helicopter at the 8th Annual International Defence Exhibition 'IDEX' 2007 in Abu Dhabi last month.

Unlike the Dubai Helishow they were not co-located, MD Helicopters showcased the MD product line at the helicopter static pavilion and Action Aviation had their own stand. [AI Bawaba]

On the negative side of the coin **MD** continues to improve a product line that was largely under-funded by the previous owners and continues to unearth some awkward technical challenges.

The latest is as a result of an Emergency Airworthiness Directive (AD) is prompted by the discovery of a cracked lateral mixer output link assembly (mixer link), part number (P/N) 600N7636-1, on an in-service MDHI Model MD600N helicopter. Cracks were also found on two additional mixer links which were being held as spares. Undetected cracks in the mixer link could result in failure of the mixer link and subsequent loss of control of the helicopter.

The interim AD issued by the FAA was for operators to check their MD600s visually and by way of an eddy current inspection before flight as the manufacturers sought to investigate the cause of the cracks and determine the next move.

The sting in tail of the current AD is that even spare parts are suspect and therefore any need to replace the on aircraft parts will have to be with 'new' parts upon which the same testing has been freshly applied.

ACCIDENTS & INCIDENTS

2 February 2007 Bell 407 VH-??? Westpac Life Saver Rescue Westpac 3 based at Tamworth, New South Wales. Five people escaped injury when a rescue helicopter came down in a heavy landing on its way to a car accident in north-west NSW.

The aircraft came down 10km from Warialda on its way to a motor accident near Warialda, and had had some type of engine failure. All five rescue staff on board the Tamworth-based helicopter walked away unscathed. There were no patients on board at the time.

Post accident images show an apparent write-off, with the aircraft laying on its right side minus the tail boom.

4 February 2007 Eurocopter AS350B3 N3817A. Air ambulance CareFlight of Missoula, Montana operated by Omni Flight. While in cruise flight in route to scene call, crew experienced a loud noise followed by leftward yaw. Pilot declared an emergency and successfully landed aircraft with out incident. [Concern]

6 February 2007 Beechcraft Super King Air 200 N45MF. Air ambulance of Benefis

avionics
www.avionics-event.com

Headline Sponsor
AIRBUS

Take a closer look at the world of avionics

The only major exhibition dedicated PURELY to AVIONICS.
In just 2 Days, over 70 exhibitors will demonstrate the very latest technologies and solutions from across the globe.
The 5th year will feature a major exhibition and 3 conferences:

Civil Conference **Military Conference** **COTS/Embedded Conference**

7-8 March 2007 | Expo XXI Amsterdam
www.avionics-event.com

Contact: Gafeth Watkins
g Watkins@simplygrouppltd.com
Tel: +44 (0)208 542 9090
Fax: +44 (0)208 542 9191

HELI-EXPO 2007

World's Largest Helicopter Gathering

Orlando, Florida March 1-3

HELI-EXPO is the largest tradeshow dedicated to the civil helicopter industry - more than 16,000 industry professionals, over 500 exhibiting companies utilizing more than 225,000 net square feet of space, complete with helicopters on the show floor! See your current customers, reconnect with former customers, and meet new customers. HELI-EXPO is a networking haven. Come join us and take advantage of this unparalleled opportunity in this unique industry!

Helicopter Association International
1635 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Tel: (703) 663-4646 Fax: (703) 703-683-4745
www.rotor.com

Mercy Flight Great Falls Montana. The Beech crashed late at night some 15 miles north-west of Gallatin Field Airport in Montana. Three people on board the Benefis Healthcare MercyFlight – a pilot, a registered nurse and a paramedic – were killed. The Beech left Great Falls en route to Bozeman for patient transport. Within three hours all were dead.

Members of the Gallatin County Search and Rescue team and Central Valley Fire Department found the wreckage while it was still burning. Gallatin County Sheriff Jim Cash says that the rescue efforts were hampered by the location of the accident, which is some 15 rural miles away from Gallatin Field.

Killed were Vince Kirol, 58, the pilot; Darcy Dengel, 27, registered nurse, and Paul Erickson, 33, paramedic. Kirol has been flying for 40 years. He has been an air ambulance pilot for 13 years and a Mercy Flight fixed wing pilot for 12 years.

10 February 2007 Cessna Citation II N435UM Air ambulance University of Michigan Survival Flight operated by MarLin Air, Inc. Just after lift off from Marquette, Michigan with a multiple trauma patient on-board, the crew was informed by the pilots that the landing gear was in the "locked down position" and would not retract. A decision was made among the medical crew and pilots to continue the transport after it was determined that it was completely safe to do so and that a lower altitude and slightly slower transport time would have no adverse effect on the patient outcome. Contingency plans were developed at that time taking under consideration fuel and distance to transport the patient with little or no delay in the overall transport. On inspection it was determined that there was a malfunction with the

SAVE THE DATE!

2007 AIR MEDICAL TRANSPORT CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2007
TAMPA, FLORIDA
WWW.AAMS.ORG

THE #1 combined clinical and aviation conference!

AMTC 07
STRIVE SHINE SOAR

squat switch_ that registers weight on the landing gear thus overriding the ability to retract the gear. Due to ice buildup, the switch was frozen and subsequently registered weight on the landing gear despite being airborne. The malfunction was quickly identified and repaired. The aircraft was back in service shortly thereafter. [Concern]

15 February 2007 Agusta A119 N196FB. City of Phoenix Police Dept. Main rotor struck tailboom during training sortie resulting in substantial damage. No injuries. [FAA]



Image: The same aircraft at the 2006 HAI Heli-Expo

17 February 2007 Beech King Air 200 N200EW. Air ambulance of MedFlight of Columbus, Ohio.

The King Air was landing at Eagle Creek Airport, Indianapolis, returning a specialty team following a completed patient transport. Upon landing the aircraft slid left and went off the runway resulting in damage to the aircraft and landing gear. [Concern]

THE OLDER PILOT

There are moves to raise the age for retirement of pilots to 65 years but that does not cover all operations. Currently there are no plans to raise the retirement age limit of helicopter pilots flying SPIFR [the majority UK police pilots for instance] and there are moves by them to seek to remedy this.

In an industry facing a desperate shortage of experience there has so far been little in the way of a serious attack on the situation via BHAB and BALPA.

The older pilots – the ones with all the experience continue to retire at 60 to ensure that some crew is not faced with a dead pilot at the controls. It can of course happen with a pilot aged 55 but the CAA currently just stick to 60 almost out of habit. Putting the most at risk pilots out to grass solves a perceived problem.

On the other side of the coin many in industry are happy to fly with any pilot able to pass the medical and all the other capability checks to assure the ability to fly single pilot public transport.

Meanwhile there is a petition building to the Prime Minister to Instruct the Civil Aviation Authority to permit Single Pilot Public Transport Operation up to age 65 subject to a valid medical. This will run until August at <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/SinglePilotAge/>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Police Aviation News and Shephard Conferences again invite readers to submit any ideas they may have for

The programme for the forthcoming Police Aviation Conference 2007 to be held in Amsterdam in November.

If you want to present a paper or want someone to address a potential subject in the programme please get in touch with the Editor as soon as possible.

ANNUAL AWARD?

Many publications present awards to individuals and crews annually. It has been proposed that Police Aviation News might award a trophy for the best or most memorable person or crew drawn from the airborne emergency services at the Police Aviation Conference each year. The selection process would be driven by readers. With an ever growing number of organisations and magazines it seems at times that the World is full of awards that need to find a recipient year on year, so why generate another one? Perhaps the need to go for a presentation within a set annual framework devalues the award from the outset? Maybe an award given out only when the occasion demands?

What do YOU think? Please tell the Editor - in confidence if you wish.

PEOPLE

In England and Wales the Merseyside **Chief Constable Bernard Hogan-Howe** is to be the next Chairman of the ACPO Aviation sub-Committee replacing Chief Constable McWhirter. Bernard Hogan-Howe was born in Sheffield. He has an MA in Law from Oxford University, a diploma in Applied Criminology and was awarded an MBA in Business Administration from Sheffield University.

He joined South Yorkshire Police in 1979 where he worked as District Commander, Doncaster West Area and also headed departments in traffic policing and a team responsible for implementing a comprehensive reorganisation of South Yorkshire Police. He has experience in crime investigation and strategic leadership of major public events, public disorder and organised crime, particularly involving the use of firearms.

In 1997, he joined Merseyside Police as ACC Community Affairs before taking responsibility for Area Operations in 1999.

He moved on to the Metropolitan Police Service as Assistant Commissioner in July 2001 before returning to Merseyside as Chief Constable on 25 September 2004.



Art Laguna, 52, a reserve deputy pilot from Placer County (CA) Sheriff's Office, was among five US security contractors killed after their company's MD 500E helicopter crashed in central Baghdad last month. Laguna helped establish the sheriff's office air wing in 1995 and spent hundreds of hours volunteering to train the department's pilots.

This years **HAI awards** – to be presented in Orlando, Florida in March include the following from the airborne emergency services: -

Igor I. Sikorsky Award for Humanitarian Service: Crew of a Moldovan registered Mil Mi-8 helicopter ER-MHH (Alexey Ostapenko, Oleg Pazynitch, Alexander Ivlev, Senior Constable Barry Shepherd, and John Funnell), operating for Heli Harvest Ltd., Howick, Auckland, New

Zealand

On March 17, 2006, six wildlife rangers from the Department of Conservation were trapped after a volcanic eruption on Raoul Island, located in northern New Zealand. An earthquake accompanied the blast. Without hesitating, the Crew of Helicopter ER-MHH went straight into rescue mode.

After installing long-range tanks to their Mil Mi-8 helicopter, the crew set out flying five hours, 1,000 km across the South Pacific Ocean.

On arrival the crew conducted a search within the active crater area, located the trapped rangers, secured a landing spot, and hoisted the five survivors to safety. The crew then flew the survivors back to New Zealand that same night.

The Heli Harvest crew showed tremendous bravery and a calm demeanour during an extremely stressful situation. This assignment was a major change from their day job, which consists of harvesting 11,000-pound logs, firefighting, and construction work the Australasian region. The five crewmembers include, pilots, Alexey Ostapenko and John Funnell, flight engineer, Oleg Pazynitch, engineer, Alexander Ivlev, and crewman, Senior Constable Barry Shepherd.

Agusta Community Service Award:

New York City Police Department Aviation Unit, Brooklyn, New York

On January 2, 2006, a four-seat single-engine airplane crash-landed into the Hudson River. The two men were in the water for 10-15 minutes. The first pilot was scooped up by a rescue basket and



the rescue crew chiefs began to administer first aid while flying him to Jacobi Hospital. The United States Coast Guard (USCG) spotted the second pilot and hoisted him into their aircraft.

Six months later, on July 5, 2006, the NYPD Aviation Unit responded to another call about a female body floating in the Harlem River. The victim was too exhausted to grab the floatation device. One crewmember stepped out onto the landing skid tube and grabbed the female while another crewmember maneuvered the aircraft. Five feet from shoreline, officers determined they could not get any closer due to debris and the danger of losing the female. One of the crewmembers jumped into the water and swam the woman to shore. The New York Daily News named these crewmembers as "heroes of the month."

This year, the NYPD Aviation Unit logged 4,000 flight hours, completed over 9,900 assignments, and 593 Air Sea Rescues, including the rescue of a windsurfer. They routinely make courageous rescues at great personal risks. Their professionalism, devotion to duty, and community service is an inspiration to all.

Eurocopter Golden Hour Award: Crew of HH-65C CG6553 (Lieutenant Brian S. Waring, Lieutenant Patrick M. Lineberry, AET2 David S. Fanelli, AST1 John D. Isbell), United States Coast Guard Air Station Savannah, Savannah, Georgia

On January 18, 2006 this crew flew through severe thunderstorms and 25-foot seas to rescue the crew of the tug Valour. The boat was being battered by 70-knot winds and was taking on large amounts of water.

MD Helicopters Law Enforcement Award: Monica McIntyre; Law Enforcement Pilot (retired), SkyKnight Program, City of Lakewood, California and Sheriff's Department, Huntington Beach, California

Recently retired, Ms Monica McIntyre is lauded as being the first female law enforcement helicopter pilot in the US. She served the City of Lakewood, California as a Sky Knight pilot for the Sheriff's Department for 25 years. Sky Knight was the world's first regularly scheduled day/night law enforcement patrol program. McIntyre also flew two years for Hughes Aircraft as a corporate 222-helicopter pilot and two years for Island Express Helicopters. McIntyre logged over 15,800 rotorcraft hours during her career.





The International Exhibition for General & Sport Aviation
June 8-10, 2007 - Wycombe Air Park, UK

Robert E. Trimble Memorial Award recipient, Mr. Ken Eichner.

Eichner is the founder of TEMSCO Helicopters (Timber, Exploration, Mining, Survey, Cargo Operations). He is an Alaskan aviation pioneer pilot who has spent his career navigating through the high altitude and mountainous terrain of Southeast Alaska. Eichner received his Commercial Certificate in 1960, followed by a Rotorcraft rating in 1962.

Eichner helped form the Ketchikan Volunteer Search and Rescue Squad (KVRS). He went on to found TEMSCO Helicopters with one PA-12 floatplane and one Hiller UH-12C. Previously, Eichner ran a bus company. Eichner himself made many rescues, a list that demonstrates his bravery, commitment, and personal sacrifice during the course of his career. His personal invention, dubbed the 'people netter' continues saving lives everyday.

EVENTS

Visitor registration for the **International Policing Exhibition** in Manchester from 20-21 June has officially opened on-line at www.acpo-apa.co.uk.

Join your colleagues from the police service and those working alongside police organisations, authorities and the criminal justice system at this free-to-attend event. The exhibition showcases the latest equipment, technology and services that are currently available and in the pipeline for fighting crime and bringing criminals to justice.

Free Seminar Programme for All Visitors

NPIA - following the merger on 1st April 2007 of the National Centre for Policing Excellence (Centrex) and the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO), the newly formed National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) will be presenting the Agency's key functions and objectives.

Confirmed exhibitors include: ACPO Procurement • Aegis Engineering • AES • Aire Group • AlertBox Ltd • Anite Group • Arqiva • Association of Police & Public Security Suppliers • Association of Police Authorities • Blackstone's/Oxford University Press • Bluestar International Ltd • Bluestar Software Ltd • British Association for Women in Policing • Bristol Uniforms • BT • Canford Audio • ChaseJustice • Child Victims of Crime • Civica Systems • CP Cases/Amazon Cases • Crown Computing • Crown Prosecution Service • Damia Group • Emergency Services Times • Enline • Equanet • Exptel • Forensic Science Service • Forensic Telecommunication Services • Fortek Computers • Geoff Smith Associates Ltd • Government Business Magazine • Home Office • Hunter Apparel • i2 • Intramark • Jane's Police Review • Jones and Bartlett Publishers • Keela • Key Forensic Services Ltd • Kim Software Solutions • Lexmark International • Martin Yale International • MC Products • National Senior Careers Advisory Service (Home Office) • NDI Technologies • NICE Systems • Niche Technology UK Ltd • Northgate Information Solutions • NPIA • Northrop Grumman Information Technology • Openhouse Products • Panasonic • PEPS • Point Blank Body Armour • PDMS • Police Associates Register • Police Mutual Assurance Society • Police National Legal Database • Police Oracle • Police Professional • Policing Today/ACPO UK Police Directory • Research in Motion • RIG Police Recruit • SBL • Seyntex • StarTraq UK • Steria • SunGard Vivista • telent • Toye, Kenning & Spencer Ltd • UKAS • Unisys • Viking Communications • Whatman International • Williams Medical Supplies

The International Policing Exhibition will be held at G-Mex (Manchester Central) in Manchester from 20-21 June. Open to all ranks, colleagues and associates. Visitor registration for the Policing Exhibition is open online at www.acpo-apa.co.uk or call +44 20 7973 4674.

If your role is in communications and planning in emergency services, public bodies or local government you should attend the free-to-attend **BAPCO Exhibition** from 25-26 April.

'Tomorrow's World: Managing Expectations' is the theme for this year's Annual Conference, organised by Brintex on behalf of the British Association of Public Safety Communications Officers, at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London. The 2007 programme aims at addressing how organisations with responsibilities for public safety and civil contingencies are facing a growing number of

www.policeaviationnews.com



challenges, from the increasing threat of natural disasters and man-made scenarios to organisational changes, that will impact on how services are delivered in future.

The BAPCO Conference will run alongside the BAPCO exhibition which is internationally recognised as a showcase for top-level communications systems and equipment. Many leading suppliers to the public safety sector choose this event as the place to launch new products to users, buyers and specifiers.

A number of new suppliers are exhibiting at the 2007 event including Microsoft, Manx Telecom, Penine Telecom, Xantix Systems, Radio Hardware Supplies, Red Box Recorders, and Northrop Grumman Information Technology.

Online visitor registration is open at www.bapco.co.uk for visitors who would like to sign up to attend the BAPCO 2007 event. The exhibition is free of charge and open to all professionals with responsibilities for public safety, civil contingencies, information management, business continuity, mobile data management and systems integration.

Air ambulances may not yet have made their mark in Ireland as yet but for one day a year there is the next best thing in the **Helicruise**. Slated for June 22, 2007 the Bubblegum Club Helicruise 2007 is an air and activity day aimed at the sick children of Ireland. Sick children – including the terminally ill - from twenty different hospitals around Ireland [both North and South] will be air lifted to the Lakes of Blessington near Dublin for a great days events laid on by the Bubblegum Charity the operators will then fly them back to hospital again – all at the personal cost of the pilot/operator. The Helicruise started off being undertaken in cooperation with a relative few private helicopter owners in Ireland but from recent publicity this may well grow exponentially this year.

This is the fifth year this has taken place with the helicopter count going up each year. Last year they attracted over forty helicopters and they expect over fifty this year [48 last count] ranging from R44, through the Bell 206, 222, 407, EC120, 135, A109 and S-76. [pprune.org]



DIARY

1-3 March 2007 Heli-Expo 2007. Orange County Convention Center, International Drive, Orlando, Connections Housing will be coordinating the housing for HELI-EXPO 2007. The Rosen Centre is the headquarters hotel. Reservations should be made quickly as their rooms will sell out very quickly! Go to www.heliexpo.com and click on Housing.

7-8 March 2007 5th Avionics Exhibition & Conferences in Amsterdam – This is the only event in Europe to focus purely on core electronic technologies, essentially based within the cockpit. As well as an established exhibition the 5th show, sponsored by Airbus, now features;

1. *Civil Avionics Conference*
2. *Military Avionics Conference*
3. *New COTS/Embedded feature*

The Simply Group Ltd abroadbent@simplygrouppltd.com www.avionics-event.com

7-8 March 2007 5th Annual Aero Engine Parts: Repair or Replace? Conference. Crowne Plaza Dublin Airport Hotel, Dublin, Ireland. Online booking is now available for this Conference. For more information, to register your place and book on-line, visit <http://www.aviationindustrygroup.com/index.cfm?pg=228&archive=false&offset=1> There are free places available at this conference for representatives of non-service provider airlines' engineering and maintenance / powerplant departments (those airlines not offering third party maintenance or aircraft / engine leasing services). If you think you are eligible for a free place, please contact the organisers directly for a promotional on-line booking code. Aviation Industry Conferences, Main Tel: +44 207 931 7072, Fax: 7186 Email: ruthm@aviation-industry.com

27-29 March 2007 Global Security Asia is the leading Homeland Security Conference and Exhibition covering the Asia Pacific / ASEAN region to be held in Singapore. The event is hosted by the Singaporean Ministry of Home Affairs, together with 10 supporting agencies such as the Singapore Police Force, Civil Defence Force, Internal Security Department and Australian Trade Commission. Global Security Asia 2005 attracted 5,321 visitors from 48 Countries, more than 400 conference delegates from 24 Countries, 188 exhibitors from 18 Countries and 44 VIP delegates from 20 Countries. For further information please log on to: www.globalsecasia.com.

2 - 3 April 2007, SAR 2007 USA at the Ritz Carlton, Tysons Corner, Washington DC, USA. SAR 2007 will take an international approach to the truly global issue of saving the lives of those in distress, regardless of location or circumstance. Details on the web site at www.shephard.co.uk/sar

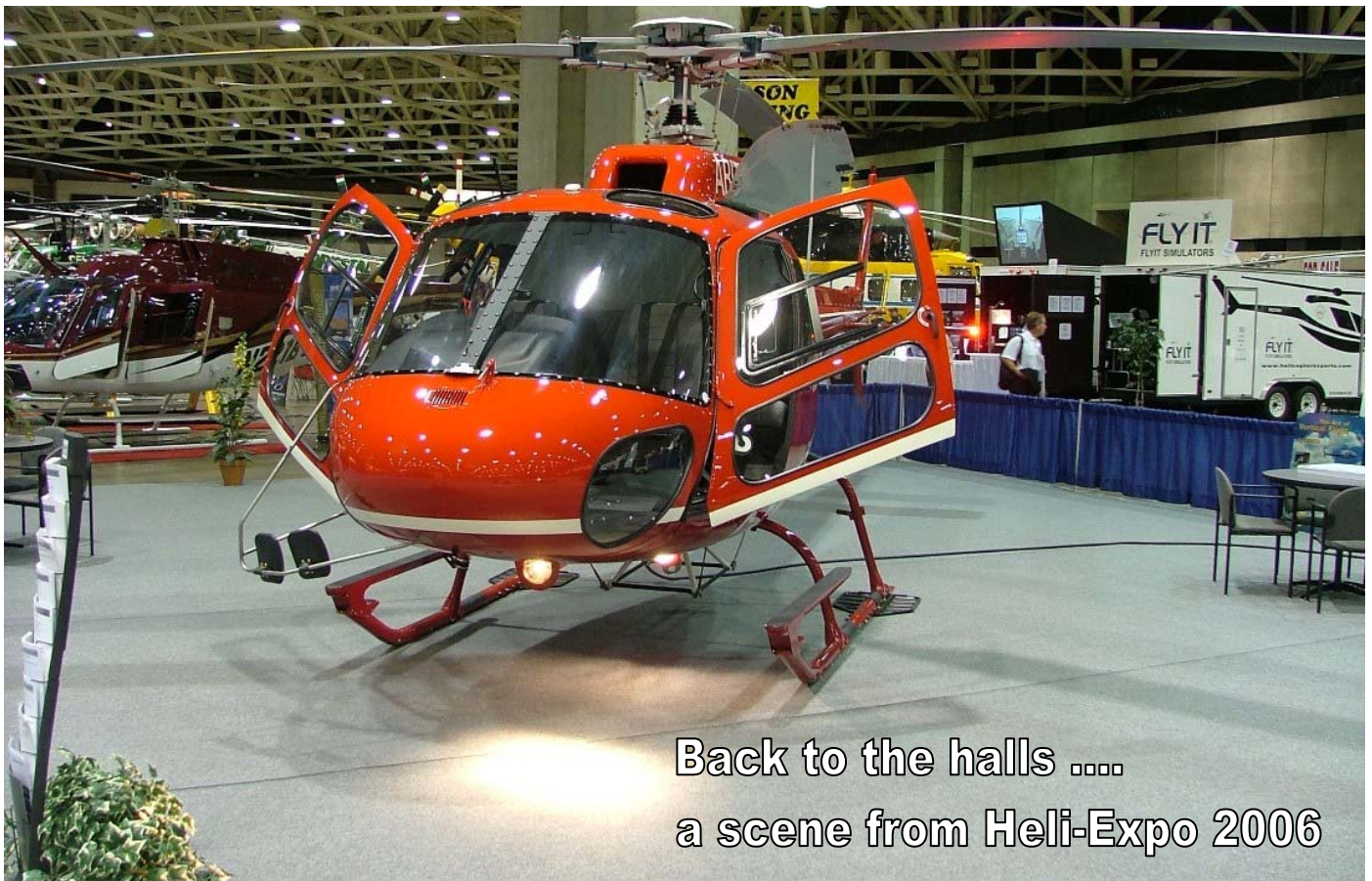
21 April 2007. The American Heroes Air Show, Austin, Texas. This event begins the 2007 season of American Heroes. Everyone is invited to this admission free event which is dedicated to educating the public, the media and elected officials as to the unique capabilities of helicopters in law enforcement, fire service and EMS as well as homeland defense and national security. Please visit www.heroes-airshow.com for updated information.

22-24 April 2007. IACP European Executive Policing Conference 2007 The 24th European Executive Policing Conference 2007 is being held at the Krasnapolsky Hotel. This 5-star hotel is located on historic Dam Square, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The theme of the conference is "Future Challenges in Policing" and will focus on the role of modern technology in traditional police work, what it takes to be a police officer in today's world, and what the future holds for police work. It does not include a specific aviation element. For registration, lodging, and conference information, please visit: <http://www.icap-amsterdam2007.nl/main.html> Contact Paul Santiago on santiago@theiacp.org

27-29 April 2007 Euro-Avia Cannes.

Taking place at the Cannes-Mandelieu Airport. A GA event covering private and leisure aircraft. New and Second hand sales – Equipment Accessories Services - Insurances - Financing. The aim of this event is to bring together the leaders in GA to display the latest innovations. Entry is restricted to industry professionals, pilots, clients and potential buyers. Aircrafts: private and leisure aircrafts ; aerobatics, business planes, helicopters, aerial work, kit planes, amateurs, ULM- Microlight and VLA - Very Light Aircraft, aerostation and all

services and equipment: engines and propeller manufacturers, avionic, cabin lay-out, accessories / spare parts, maintenance, security, air traffic control, weather forecast, pilot equipment, petroleum/lubricant, tyres, piloting and navigational aids, piloting schools, simulation and training material, multimedia/simulation, federations/associations, insurance/financing, specialised press, authorities/institutions. www.eur-avia.com



Back to the halls
a scene from Heli-Expo 2006