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UK Police Funding - 2006-07

Dutch seek new KLPD Tenders

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

ALBANIA

With aid from the German Government, the Albanian Defence Ministry and Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH have recently signed a contract for the delivery of 12 modernised BO105 helicopters. The €10M contract will be spread over a period of 3 years and includes pilot training.

The ex-military helicopters are a Government to Government gift and will be modernised in the EC Donauworth plant into the BO105E4 version offering a performance equivalent to the civil BO105CB4. The helicopters will also be operated by the Interior Ministry and the Health Ministry. According to Flight the split will be six to each department.

Conversion and completion to the new role will see the integration of law enforcement, EMS and SAR equipment. The aircraft will include VIP transport among their mission capabilities. The acquisition of the helicopters is part of Albania's ongoing drive to modernise its armed forces and satisfy the conditions for NATO membership. The first deliveries will be made in the last three months of 2006.

The conversion of other BO105M VBH helicopters from the German Armed Forces is also under consideration with a view to future sales. [ECD]

Ed: Located on the east side of the Adriatic Albania covers an area of 11,100 sq. mls/27,748 sq km. There are some 5,000 internal security police, 7,500 Border Guards. [1984] and has an air force which has operated a helicopter fleet including AS350, a Bell 222UT and the Harbin/Mil Mi-4 helicopters in the past. Currently fifteen Italian military surplus AB205 and AB206 helicopters are in the process of being delivered.

CHINA

SHENYANG: The first police helicopter in Shenyang completed its first flight on April 16. This is the first city to use a police helicopter in Northeastern China.

Following on from the item in last months PAN from images released it is clear that the helicopter is a dedicated police Eurocopter EC135P2 now wearing G- series markings [G-214007?]. The helicopter belongs to CGAC (Citic General Aviation Company) a subsidiary of the offshore COHCo and has been hired by the police on a two years loan basis. This is the second police registered EC135 in China.

At the end of this month the helicopter commences security work at Shenyang's World Horticulture Exposition. [Media/NEN]



GERMANY

HESSSEN: The Police of Hessen have recently taken delivery of its third EC145 D-HHEC.

The first of the trio was delivered in 2002 and was the first German operator to put the EC 145 in service. The Hessen fleet are equipped with a searchlight, an external loudspeaker, a cargo hook, a roping device and have a moving map and sensor turret.



Hessen's first EC145



Much of central Europe has suffered from flooding in recent weeks. German Chancellor Angela Merkel watches flooded areas as she sits in a Border Guard [BGS] Puma helicopter on her way to the northern German town of Hitzacker April 9. [Guido Bergmann]

JAPAN

Japan's national police will soon open a new competition for four light twin helicopters. AgustaWestland delivered three A109s to the national police agency last month, swelling its A109E fleet to seven. The agency has secured funds in 2006 for four more light twin-engine helicopters, including one that was originally to have been acquired last month with supplemental fiscal 2005 funding.

The new four-aircraft tender will be released soon, specifying deliveries next March. The lowest bidder will be awarded a contract at the end of June. AgustaWestland will again offer the A109 while Eurocopter is expected to offer the EC135 and Bell the 430.

NETHERLANDS

KLDP: The Dutch Ministry of Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations (Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties) have formally started a new tender process to acquire eight helicopters for the police service [KLPD]. They have given up the intention to

seek a single type to meet all their requirements and are now seeking six small and two large machines after the abortive attempt to acquire a new fleet of eight 'one size fits all' MD 900 Explorer helicopters.

The new tender is necessary because one year ago an existing contract for the purchase of eight helicopters was dissolved after the manufacturer MD Helicopters was unable to meet its delivery obligations – although the company identified as being in default on the contract was cited as the local agent Helifly NV.

Industry has almost one year to get its tenders in - by March 2007 - and to be able to meet delivery of all aircraft within 24 months.

Meanwhile the KLPD has acquired an additional helicopter from Eurocopter in Germany. A BO105 formerly with the Nordrhein-Westfalen Police, Bo105 D-HNWJ (c/n S.777) has been D-HTSC recently but will be delivered to the Netherlands as PH-RPZ. [KLPD/IPAR]



SOLOMON ISLANDS

Last month severe civil unrest in the islands led to a number of police forces in surrounding countries despatching police officers by air to assist the hard pressed local force.

The Solomon Islands is an archipelago in the southwest Pacific Ocean about 1,200 miles northeast of Australia. The centre of the unrest, the capital Honiara, is located on the Island of Guadalcanal. The Solomon Islands are a parliamentary democracy within the British Commonwealth.

Australia sent some 180 troops and police to the Solomon Islands to help quell rioting and looting sparked by the election of a new prime minister in the troubled South Pacific nation. Chinese families living above their stores jumped for their lives from burning buildings and swam across a nearby river to escape rioters. There were some minor injuries.

Many ethnic Chinese covered on boats in the harbour, too scared to return to the ruins of once-prosperous businesses.

The unrest centred on the claims of some rioters that the new government of Snyder Rini would be heavily influenced by local Chinese businessmen and the Taiwan government, which the Solomons recognizes diplomatically. The Chinatown district of Honiara was mostly razed in the violence.

Looting, stone throwing and other acts of civil disobedience left the local police 'not doing anything. They are just standing on the side of the road directing traffic.'

The Australian government deployed 110 troops in four C-130 Hercules aircraft in the aftermath of the main disturbances and a further 70 police were scheduled to be sent to back a 280-strong unit already in the Solomons as part of a long-standing peacekeeping operation set up in 2003. The Solomons, a chain of 992 islands covering 520,000 sq miles of ocean, teetered on the brink of collapse in 2003 when armed gangs fought over Honiara.

Australia led a multinational force into the Solomons to restore peace in what was the biggest military deployment in the South Pacific since World War Two as part of new interventionist policy in the region over concerns of terrorism.

Other nations also added to the police presence in the islands. A new contingent of 25 New Zealand soldiers and 30 police arrived in the capital aboard a Boeing 757 and under helicopter security cover.

A team of 20 riot control officers from the Fiji Police's Tactical Response Unit have joined the Australian and New Zealand soldiers and police already deployed in Honiara. The men, equipped with side arms and full riot protection, were transported on board a Royal New Zealand Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft.

Further underscoring the Commonwealth reaction among the Southern Hemisphere nations twenty-five policemen from PNG were also flown in.



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So far 29 police – including three New Zealanders and seventeen Australians – are known to have been injured in the rioting.

In addition to the airliner and military transport resources assigned to the insertion of police into the islands the Australian Governments Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) has contracted civil helicopter support from HeviLift [PNG] and Bristow Helicopters. [media Reuters]

Ed: Later in the month the Prime Minister stood down and this was seen as defusing the volatile situation. It remains to be seen whether this actually settles the region.

In the past police air support [primarily transportation] has been assigned to local airlines. One Hughes OH-6A was acquired from the USA for police use in 1997 but it was never made operational.

PAKISTAN

Pakistan has urged the United States to provide ten helicopters and two planes for its interior ministry.

Brigadier Cheema the Director General of the Interior ministry crisis management team arrived back in Pakistan from a meeting set up to plan the combating of terrorism. The US has agreed to train elements of law enforcement agencies in anti-terror techniques but there is no sign that the request for hardware will be met [GEO]

PANAMA

On April 16 a Panamanian air force helicopter pursued and shot down a light aircraft suspected of hauling drugs bound for the United States. Two persons were on board, one died and the other was injured.

Suspicion fell on the aircraft whilst it was on the ground at an undisclosed regional airport close to the border with Costa Rica. The aircraft was challenged as it was preparing for take-off but it took off.

Shots were fired at the light airplane from the pursuing helicopter and it came down in a banana plantation.

POLAND

German and Polish special police commandos undertook combined anti-terror exercises at a military base in Wedrzyn, about 50 km east of the German-Polish border early last month [April 7].

The helicopter borne exercises saw officers from Polish city of Szczecin and Germany's states of Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern working together in with a view to increasing compatibility likely to be useful in the forthcoming FIFA 2006 World Cup.



Reims F406 Land & Sea Surveillance

SWEDEN

On April 10 two bank robbers fired on a police helicopter with automatic weapons in Stockholm. Police were alerted to a raid on a Nordea bank on the island of Lidingö. Nobody was injured in the robbery.

The robbers drove to the eastern side of the island and boarded a motorboat and headed for the island of Fjäderholmarna.

A police helicopter flew directly to Lidingö after the robbery. During the chase the robbers shot at the helicopter but neither of the two officers on board were harmed. It has not been confirmed if the shots actually hit the helicopter.

The boat was stopped at Djurgården where police seized the two men, aged 36 and 34 barely half an hour after the robbery. [The Local]

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss procurement agency, armasuisse, and Eurocopter signed a contract for 20 EC635 helicopters in April. Under the Swiss Light Transport and Training Helicopter (LTSH) program, 18 EC635 for utility and advanced training missions and two EC135 for VIP/parliamentarian transport missions have been ordered to replace an existing fleet of Alouette III helicopters. The Alouette fleet is regularly used in police markings in support of the civil police.

Deliveries of the helicopters will take place between the beginning of 2008 and the end of 2009. The first four machines will be delivered from Eurocopter Deutschland's facility in Donauwörth, while the next 16 aircraft will be assembled and delivered by RUAG in Alpnach, Switzerland. RUAG will also be responsible for level O, level I and level D maintenance of the Swiss Army's EC635s/EC135s throughout their service life.

The Swiss Army is the second customer for the EC635 following the Royal Jordanian Air Force which also uses the type on law enforcement missions. [EC]

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UNITED KINGDOM

RESTRUCTURING: The plans of the Home Secretary Charles Clarke to restructure the majority of UK police forces continue to meet opposition.

There have been a number of forces agreeing to the changes but there are significant numbers showing dissent. While Clark claims that the majority of police areas have indicated support for change even his own numbers suggest otherwise.

Even though Norfolk Police Authority has volunteered to merge it seems no-one wants them! The absence of a similar request to merge from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Police Authorities means that this merger is unable to proceed on a voluntary basis. Similarly North Yorkshire Police Authority has volunteered to merge but no one in Humberside, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire seems to want in, so again this merger is unable to proceed on a voluntary basis. Essex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire are still squealing and the West Country forces are similarly unresolved – the Home Office has yet to announce its preferred options in that region.

So much for a majority being in agreement!

Currently the Home Secretary has given written notice to all the police authorities, local authorities and chief constables in the affected areas of his intention to merge the police force areas in his chosen format, setting out the reasons for proposing the merger and specifying the general nature of the provisions to be made.

The police authorities, local authorities and chief constables now have until August 11, 2006 to submit any objections to the proposed mergers and the Home Secretary 'will carefully consider any objections received.' [Media/IPAR]

Ed: As Charles Clark is the prosecutor, judge and jury that might not greatly divert his intention to lay the necessary draft orders for approval by Parliament in the Autumn with the new forces coming into being from 1 April 2008.

What might yet make a significant difference to the eventual outcome is severe political pressure on Clark from other areas of his duties that have certainly diverted his attention and may yet see him removed from office.

HOME OFFICE: The current Home Office consultant Police Aviation Advisor, Max Kenworthy, retires later this year. The Home Office has commenced the process of seeking a replacement by advertising in the European Journal and the general media for the post.

The appointment will be initially for a period of three years with an option to extend by an additional two years.

The selection process will be by formal tender followed by interview, and is open only to companies and not to individuals. The successful consultant will be the prime source of advice to the Home Office on police aviation matters, liaising extensively with Police Forces, the CAA and others associated with police air operations. He/she will be an experienced helicopter pilot and hold a current ATPL/H and have at least two years' recent experience at management level either in, or closely associated with police aviation or other emergency services. In view of the need for independence and objectivity, short-listed tenderers shall not be current suppliers of aviation related goods or services (including consultancy services) to Police Forces, nor be a supplier wishing to tender for contracts of this nature in the future, or have associations with such companies that are likely to compromise impartiality.

An advertisement seeking expressions of interest has recently been published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). Those wishing to receive a copy of the OJEU Contract Notice may download a copy from the PITO Procurement website: www.pito.org.uk/procurement All expressions of interest must be received by May 15 in order to be considered for tender shortlisting.

Ed: I think it's fair to say that not many individual would fit this requirement!

CHESHIRE: Details in news reports that the Constabulary is to adopt new camera technology on its BN-2 Islander aircraft are being dismissed as speculative by the police.

The storyline centred on the imminent arrival of a new L3 Wescam MX-15 camera fit on their BN2 [G-CHEZ] and its capability. The *Cheshire Chronicle* highlighted a capability of pinpointing a registration number from thousands of feet in the air using a new generation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology.

The paper raised concerns that the cameras will be a further example of 'spy technology' being brought to bear on motorists although a police spokesman had stressed that the primary purpose of the camera's use in Cheshire is dealing with criminals, rather than using it for catching speeding drivers.

Ed: The piece in the observer migrated to the Nationals and Cheshire On-line and seemed to forget what was technologically sensible. Although an expensive means of deploying it, ANPR can work quite well from a hovering helicopter and might indeed be used for speed enforcement and scanning long lines of traffic – if it were economic. Undertaking a similar bulk scanning task using a fixed wing is even less rewarding. In this role ANPR could sensibly only pick out selected crime targets for scanning. The resultant desire to dramatize led to the inaccurate reporting that Cheshire Police were dismissing.

In response to HO funding last year [£288,000 for new propellers and equipment] the aircraft is to receive a long-overdue upgrade to the existing Leo-4 camera technology sometime this month. It will not significantly alter the use of the police plane in any way but will greatly improve its capability.

CHILTERN: The matter of the new police air support unit base for Chiltern remains unresolved. Beyond last month's story there has been no reaction from the airport authority – indeed they declined to answer all questions on the matter. It does seem clear though that

the long laid plans to move the Luton Airport based helicopter unit across the airport are now history and that the unit will need to find a completely new site to operate their EC135T2 from. It has been suggested that the departure timescale is now far shorter than the original quoted. The unit may have to leave Prince Way this year.

Coincidentally the HO has just announced part-funding of the new hangar and office block of £266,000. The money is allocated to Thames Valley, the lead force of the three force, two aircraft operation. [IPAR/HO]

EAST MIDLANDS: The unit currently operates an EC135T1 helicopter and has just received HO funding allocation of £1.37M towards the £4.326M cost of a replacement EC135T2 helicopter in the latest round of additional air support funding.

No official announcement has been made by the police forces concerned confirming the final aircraft selection and specification. [HO]

GREATER MANCHESTER: The Home Office has granted £15,000 as part-funding to the GMP for improved security fencing at the police air support base. GMP operate their MD Explorer from Barton Aerodrome and their recently repainted BN Defender from Manchester airport. Since early this year the aircraft has forsaken its blue and white colour scheme for a low visibility grey and white.

Meanwhile, the *Manchester Evening News* has published figures it obtained under Freedom of Information legislation show running costs for operating the two aircraft rose significantly last year compared to 2004. The quoted figures are that the rise was from £600,000 to £652,000 last year.

The increasing cost of fuel and maintenance charges, coupled with a greater number of flights as the Air Support Unit



Dave Billinge

cooperates with a greater number of jobs, is being blamed for the rise.

Despite GMP making cuts worth more than £14m as part of a budget crisis – and losing some 216 posts in natural wastage, slashing dog units and specialist teams the air unit will remain.

An increased number of arrests, the value of property found and public reassurance have demonstrated value for money.

In 2005 the unit spent 2,097 hours in the air and carried out 5,269 tasks compared to equivalent 2004 figures of 1,926 hours and 4,689 tasks. The unit has 11 staff, who provide cover 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. [MEN]

Ed: Comparing the Manchester figures with those of the South & East Wales Police operation [overleaf page 10] appears to provide a massive contrast in accounting and underlines the good value GMP tax payers are receiving. Two modern police owned aircraft flying in excess of 2,000 hours cost £652,000 [just £311 per hour] and the leased 'first generation' S&EW AS355F2 flew just 330 hours for Gwent Police at a cost over £383,000 [£1,160 ph].

HUMBERSIDE: As part of a mid-term technology upgrade for their MD900 Explorer G-HPOL Humberside Police have selected the Honeywell Skyforce Observer MKIII Moving Map and task system. This year the HO is providing £243,000 towards this and other improvement work.

Observer MKIII is a high resolution, intuitive to use mapping system that can provide highly detailed mapping for the corporate or EMS/Paramilitary user in the VFR environment. In

addition, as a Task Management System it is capable of creating a paperless cockpit for an airborne observer in the military, police, emergency or utility environment through the use of user defined databases. This facility allows text and picture images to be stored and retrieved at the touch of a button, whether the information be details of helicopter landing sites, daily orders or operational procedures. With a built in flight logging capability for post flight analysis, Observer is a management tool that can be used to ensure the cost efficient use of an aircraft resource.

Future upgrades will include an AIS Shipping Transponder interface and Military Grid Reference System (MGRS) co-ordinate input.

Observer MKIII is approved to ETSO C113 / EASA.210.423. No other mission management system is as highly specified or qualified. Contact Skyforce Avionics +44 1243 783763 E-mail info@skyforce.co.uk. [H/IPAR/HO]

SOUTH & EAST WALES: The cost of the helicopter service to Gwent Police was under £400,000 last year.

Figures released to a local newspaper under the Freedom of Information Act showed that the leased AS355F2 helicopter clocked up 74 direct arrests and assisted in 35 others. As well as the arrests, it was used 111 times to search for vehicles taken without consent, and as a result 12 vehicles were recovered.

The helicopter, run jointly between Gwent and South Wales Police, was used a total of 672 times between April 2005 and March 2006, flying just 330 hours at a total cost of £383,657.25.

Use of the helicopter is split between Gwent and South Wales, with Gwent having roughly 30 per cent of the use. This year Gwent increased its flying time, with 25 additional hours. The two forces are currently in the process of purchasing a new helicopter that should be in use within 18 months, and be quieter and more cost effective. [Argus]

Ed: These figures relate only to the 30% Gwent share of the operation.



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WEST MIDLANDS: It is likely that the West Midlands Police will announce their new helicopter order this month.

In an article carried in their own newspaper last month the chosen design remained open in spite of the public domain police authority document of last year naming the selection of the EC135. To further distort the selection the article used an EC145 as an illustration.

Interestingly the article suggests that the 'existing helicopter could potentially be kept as a spare aircraft for force use.' The current airframe, MD900 Explorer G-WMID, is well known for having availability issues and this could be a way of defraying the likely low value this type of helicopter currently represents. [News Beat/IPAR]

Ed: Since this was published the Home Office have confirmed funding of a little over £1.5M towards the cost of an EC135 costing over £3.7M, the engine selection remains unresolved. In an unusual move the HO has pre-announced that it has deferred some of the funding to next year. Only a total of £4.38M is being provided to air support this year – recently the total has been a tidy £5M. Some £1M of the announced West Midlands funding is being deferred to next year – 2007-8 - along with £0.699M of funding for the third Metropolitan Police EC145.

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA: A Mexican man, Antonio Eretza-Flores, has been sentenced to more than three years in prison for throwing rocks at a US Border Patrol helicopter in July 2004.

Eretza-Flores was sentenced to 38 months after pleading guilty to aggravated assault on a federal agent and illegal re-entry after a deportation.

He was a passenger in a vehicle filled with illegal entrants that was being chased by a Huachuca City police officer. US Border Patrol agents joined in and Eretza-Flores threw four rocks at one of their helicopters after he fled into the desert when the vehicle became disabled.

One of the rocks went between the helicopter's main rotor blades and almost hit the door. The pilot had to make an emergency evasive manoeuvre. [Tucson]

WASHINGTON: The Snohomish County Sheriff's Dept., Air Search & Rescue Unit based in Everett since being formed in 1973 undertakes an average of nearly three rescues each week. Ten years ago the unit had seven US Army surplus machines – a mix of Bell UH-1 Huey's and Hughes OH-6As.

One of the Hughes [N13SD] crashed as a result of engine failure in late November 2002 and has been grounded since.

Now it is reported that the wrecked machine was due back in service in April, more than three years after it made a hard landing in the front yard of a house. Although it was not badly damaged and nobody was injured it has taken this long for the county to raise and spend some \$500,000 to fix and upgrade the 40-year-old military surplus helicopter. [Seattle Times/PAN]

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AIR AMBULANCE

INDIA

The BM Birla Heart Research Centre is about to launch the Air Ambulance Facility, the first in Kolkata and in Eastern India. BM Birla Heart Research Centre has tied up with an organisation called Rescue Services to provide this facility to the people of the city. The helicopter facility based at Dum Dum Airport will be available for patients of BM Birla and the Calcutta Medical Research Institute. [Express/Standard]

SWEDEN

Jämtland county's new SA365N ambulance helicopter SE-JIC has been delivered to its new home base at Göviken Heliport in downtown Östersund. The helicopter is the second one in Sweden (after the Gotland based EC145 recently noted) to carry the standard European EMS colours of yellow and green.

The aircraft was imported to Sweden from the US in early November of 2005. It was acquired by the air ambulance company Lufttransport AB to meet the need of a more powerful EMS helicopter in the county of Jämtland. It replaced an earlier SA365N SE-JCK that had operated in the same service for a decade. The new machine takes over a newly awarded five years [plus a two year optional extension] contract from January 2006.

The new aircraft was previously operated by Pennsylvania based STAT MedEvac. It was shipped to Sweden and went through an extensive EMS modification process at Bromma Air Maintenance in Stockholm. It features a NVG configured single-pilot-IFR cockpit with a highly modern moving map display attached to the ambulance dispatcher system. An SX-16 searchlight is fitted in the tail cone.

The unit flies approx 850 to 900 emergency calls annually and carries a core crew of three – pilot, nurse and HEMS crew. [Nordic Rotors]

UNITED KINGDOM



DEVON & CORNWALL: Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal opened Devon and Cornwall Constabulary's and Devon Air Ambulance's new Combined Air Operations Building last month.

The new building located at Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter is a partnership ven-

ture between Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and Devon Air Ambulance Trust, a charity which funds the Air Ambulance.

The Air Ambulance previously operated from Exeter Airport, but moved to Middlemoor in November 2005 to maximise cost-saving potential. The new building will replace the previous accommodation occupied by the air support unit although currently some elements remain in the old accommodation. One pilot, two paramedics and an engineer from the Air Ambulance are now based at Middlemoor and the duty police crew occupy the new building.

Chief Superintendent Bob Pennington, Head of Force Operations, which covers the air operations unit, said: 'This move has further strengthened our links with the Air Ambulance and enables us to share ideas of best practice about facilities and engineering to maximise performance.'

Captain Ian Payne, Manager of Force Air Support, said: 'There are obvious efficiencies in the use of ground equipment and base facilities, like hangers, where costs can be shared.

'The Force will help keep the Air Ambulance's costs to a minimum, so that public donations to the charity go further, by leasing part of the new air operations unit building and supplying aviation fuel at competitive prices. We are delighted to be able to help the charity and keep their costs down.' [DAA/DCP]

In the same week the DAAT was celebrating the allocation of a new registration G-NDAA being applied to its second helicopter based at Belle Vue Airfield near Torrington exactly one year after the Bolkow 105DBS helicopter was first deployed in North Devon.

When the decision was taken to operate a second helicopter DAAT were in unknown territory. Uncertain demand was cautiously addressed via a six month, five day a week, trial.

One year on and over 580 missions later, the service is here to stay and this led to the application of the helicopters new identity of 'G-NDAA' (**N**orth **D**evon **A**ir **A**mbulance).



EAST ANGLIA: The air ambulance services new Eurocopter BK117C1 air ambulance G-OEMT [c/n 7538] is in service and being displayed to crowds of people across its operational area. Visits to Peterborough, Cambridge and Ipswich were scheduled into the working up period. The bright yellow BK117 is newer, faster, better equipped, and has more interior space than the existing Bolkow 105. Anglia One, as the new helicopter will be known, costs £110,000 a month to keep in the air, money raised entirely through donations and the successful Friends of East Anglian Air Ambulance Lottery.

It is normally based at RAF Honington, near Bury St Edmunds, and covers the counties of Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk with its availability extended beyond that of the current machine to of 24 hours a day, 365 days a year operated by a team of four pilots, 15 paramedics and six volunteer doctors. General HEMS operations will remain on the current basis.

The two year old helicopter had previously been German registered D-HMEC and used as an air ambulance in Italy. [Media]

YORKSHIRE: Air ambulance paramedics in Yorkshire are now trained to use clot-busting drugs to improve the care for heart attack patients.

The procedure can dissolve a clot in a blocked artery if applied quickly enough, and improve the outcome for patients.

The treatment is most effective when given soon after the onset of chest pain. Treating patients before arrival at hospital can save valuable time, and minimise the extent of damage to the heart.

The two-day training was carried out by Yorkshire Air Ambulance Paramedic Tony Wilkes, who is also a registered cardiac nurse, having previously worked at Pontefract General Infirmary's Coronary Care Unit, and Chris Croden, from West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service.

Tony said: "This procedure can be a life-saving intervention which will be of particular value to people suffering a heart attack in locations which are a long distance from hospital, or difficult for land ambulances to access, such as golf courses.

"The advantage of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance is the speed in which we can reach locations, even isolated areas such as the Yorkshire Dales, North Yorkshire Moors and Peak District."

The air ambulance is equipped with a 12-lead Electro-Cardiograph (ECG) which provides Paramedics with the information to make a diagnosis and administer the drugs.



Yorkshire Air Ambulance Paramedics Tony Wilkes, left, and Paul Bradbury with the 12-lead Electro-Cardiograph which enables them to diagnose a heart attack .



HRH The Duke of York accepted an invitation to become the Honorary Chief Pilot for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. On his visit he met volunteers, patients, fundraisers and supporters at the Air Support Unit based at Leeds Bradford International Airport.

Whilst opening the Yorkshire Air Ambulance's new computerised Dedicated Air Desk, he unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Dedicated Air Desk – the first of its kind in the country – consists of live links to Yorkshire's four ambulance control rooms, enabling a faster and more effective deployment of the life-saving helicopter.



UNITED STATES

TEXAS: Travis County EMS/Rescue in Austin, Texas, has accepted delivery of their second new SPIFR Eurocopter EC145 helicopter from Metro Aviation, under contract to American Eurocopter. Both aircraft, replace EC135s and are identically equipped for emergency air-medical and rescue operations. Each is equipped with a cargo hook and external hoist. [Metro]

FIRE

UNITED KINGDOM



DORSET: A fire service is to become the first in the UK to airlift its crew to specialist rescue missions under a new scheme.

Two teams of Dorset Fire and Rescue firefighters will be flown to emergencies that need specialist rope or water rescue techniques using the county's MD900 Explorer police helicopter.

The specially-trained teams, based at Poole and Weymouth, can request the helicopter to fly them to remote parts of the county to get to emergencies faster. The aim is to get experts on scene as quickly as possible to avoid police officers or members of the public attempting unsafe rescues.

The firefighters will be airlifted to emergencies such as people trapped in mud, ice or fast-flowing water. The joint initiative, between Dorset Fire and Rescue Service and Dorset Police, is the first scheme of its kind in the UK.

A number of fire services across the country use their police force's helicopter for urban search and rescue missions, but this is the first time fire crew will be airlifted for specialist water and rope rescues. [Standard]

A few days later the Secretary of State for Transport Alistair Darling launched the UK's Maritime Incident Response Group (MIRG), the first specialised fire and rescue service for dealing with incidents at sea.

MIRG will form an integral part of the United Kingdom's search and rescue response. It will also have the air-borne capacity to react to incidents anywhere in the country, not just at sea.

MIRG comprises 15 Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) teams strategically located around the country, with about 50 fire fighters in each team. Each team has been specially trained to tackle fire in the marine environment and is equipped with the lighter, more compact equipment required when travelling by helicopter to the scene of an incident. The teams will not only fight fires but also deal with chemical hazards and free trapped personnel.

In addition, the teams' specialised training, allied to a helicopter capability, will provide a valuable, additional resource for the emergency services across the rest of the UK. Each team will be reinforced with paramedics who will also be trained in the unique conditions that they will face.

This new service, one of the first of its kind in the world, is the result of a major cross-governmental project involving some of the principal organisations behind the UK's civil resilience, supported by almost £3m of funding from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency

POLICE AVIATION CONFERENCE

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and the Department for Transport.

The Maritime Incident Response Group is a cross-government project which includes the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), the Fire & Rescue Services (FRS), the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA), the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), and the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Following recent agreement with the NHS, paramedics will soon be able join the MIRG units following similar appropriate training.

MIRG comprises 15 Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) teams strategically located around the country.

Highland Islands
 Jersey
 Hampshire
 Cornwall
 Mid and West Wales

East Sussex
 Lothian and Borders
 Northumberland
 Humberside
 Lincolnshire

Guernsey
 Kent
 Strathclyde
 North Wales
 Suffolk



John Asbury CEO of the MCA with Alistair Darling and Peter Dymond Chief Coastguard.

PART 2—NOW ON LINE

Long awaited, the second part of the complete history of Police Aviation is now on-line at the *Police Aviation News* web site under 'on line resources.'

This second part takes the story on from the dawn of the Second World War in 1939 through to the mid-1960's when helicopters were beginning to be accepted as the aircraft for the police task.



1939



1964

www.policeaviationnews.com



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SEARCH & RESCUE

CHINA

China Rescue Service [CRS] and Eurocopter has signed the purchase contract of 2 EC-225 rescue helicopters in Beijing. In the coming 5 years, CRS intend to buy 10 more helicopters and 4 fixed-wing aircraft to add to a current mixed fleet of eight AS365N, EC155B, S-76C helicopters and a float equipped Ce208 Caravan.

Three all-weather 14000KW vessels with helicopter landing pads are now under construction. More 6000KW and 8000KW rescue vessels will be built in the future. [CRS]

JAPAN

COAST GUARD: A competition has been launched to select a new medium twin-engine SAR helicopter.

Having secured funding to acquire three land-based medium SAR helicopters – the first stage of a programme to replace its fleet of almost 30 Bell 212/412s. AgustaWestland, Eurocopter and Sikorsky have begun providing information on their AW139, EC155 and S-76 models. The coastguard is expected to release a tender soon and award a contract by the end of June specifying deliveries in March 2007.

The AW139 and S-76 are favoured and the competition is seen as critical because the winner is likely to be contracted later to supply up to 24 more SAR helicopters.

With AgustaWestland delivering the first AW139 to the Tokyo Metropolitan Police last month Japanese agent Mitsui Busan in February speculatively ordered 12 AW139s to ensure the Coast Guard has the delivery slots it requires if it also selects the type.

The coastguard already operates three S-76s to meet a separate requirement and last month awarded a contract for a further S-76 to replace one that crashed. The additional S-76 will be delivered next March and was acquired without a competition, despite protests from other manufacturers, using funds from a supplemental budget for fiscal year 2005.

UNITED KINGDOM

A competition to select a service provider to operate the UK's search-and-rescue (SAR) helicopter force is to be launched next year.

The project will seek to replace military helicopters from the RAF and Royal Navy, as well as chartered civilian helicopters operated on behalf of the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) from 2012.

A joint MoD and Department for Transport (DfT) integrated project team at the Defence Procurement Agency proposed the private finance initiative (PFI) solution last year. This year expressions of interest are being sought from industry before a full-blown competition is launched formally next year that could be worth up to £1 billion (\$1.75 billion) over 25 years.

Plans for UK SAR harmonisation could see a private sector contractor provide between 30 and 40 helicopters to provide SAR coverage from up to a dozen sites around the UK coastline. Under the 25-year pbh contract, the UK government would pay for use of the helicop-

ters, which would remain in civilian ownership and on the civil aircraft register. [Flight]



Further down the search ladder a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been jointly signed by Peter Dymond, Chief Coastguard on behalf of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and Arnold Parker, Head Gaffer of Sky Watch Auxiliary Air Service.

The MOU details the capability of Sky Watch Auxiliary Air Service and the arrangements for reporting incidents to HM Coastguard and the occasional use of Sky Watch assets by HM Coastguard for coastal and close inland search operations. Direct links are being established between the Managers of twelve Coastguard Rescue Co-ordination Centres and the Sky Watch pilots in their areas.

This MOU is a major step forward for Sky Watch because it brings the first official recognition of Sky Watch as a potential resource for UK Search & Rescue purposes. [sw]

Sky Watch is not the only 'upstart' provider of SAR in the UK. In some parts of the UK including the south coast and the west the Association of Search & Rescue Hovercraft [ASRH] operates its own SAR hovercraft under the umbrella of a charity.

The Association's third branch was formed to provide a service at Burnham on Sea following the death of a youngster trapped in the treacherous mudflats that surround the area in June 2002.

Following an appeal launch by ASRH and a sustained campaign by the *Western Daily Press*, sufficient funds were raised to purchase a six seat BBV6 hovercraft, trailer and support equipment. The craft, The Spirit Of Lelaina, was designed by Bill Baker and built by Magnus Ivanoff from N. Stavsudda Handel AB in Sweden.

Burnham has a second smaller rescue hovercraft to act as back-up and expand operations to include river rescues. www.asrh.co.uk



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UNITED STATES

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) USAF search operation commands the world's largest single engine piston fleet, and has further expanded by ordering another sixteen new 182T Skylane aircraft from Cessna Aircraft.

The 182Ts will be used on reconnaissance missions for homeland security, SAR and disaster relief, and counter-drug reconnaissance.

The CAP has 58,000 volunteers dedicated to serving the Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force operating 540 Cessna's. The additional 182Ts will take the total of this model to 58, with plans to add more this year. www.cessna.com

ON THE SHOP FLOOR

Bell Helicopter announced the completion of its 747th production model Bell 412 last month. According to some though the completion is actually the 750th Model 412. The first three 412s flown were conversions of the earlier 212 and are said not to count towards the total.

The three Bell 212 received a 4-bladed rotor system, a new transmission and several more upgrades to create the first Bell 412 prototypes.

No matter how many are accepted the real number 750 cannot be long delayed. Bell's worldwide fleet of 412s have logged more than three million airframe hours performing missions including SAR, firefighting, EMS and passenger transport in often very austere conditions.

Ed: But it probably suits Bell's purposes better to get the party started early to bolster its chances with the forthcoming LUH competition. The pressure remains on and at a recent US Army Aviation Association of America [Quad A] in Nashville, Tennessee it was suggested that the Army is re-thinking its LUH strategy. It looks like they may be about to move a major portion of the programme into the next fiscal year and reducing the delivery requirements for this year.



Bell 412 LUH at Quad-A [Meeker]



THERE ARE OTHER MANUFACTURERS...



The MD, Agusta-Westland and Eurocopter submissions to LUH at the Quad-A show last month.

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The **Cessna** 172 Skyhawk turned the age of 50 last month. The Cessna model 170B tail-dragger added the patented Land-O-Matic tricycle landing gear in 1956, and the venerable 172 was born. Since then, nearly 40,000 Skyhawks have been produced, making it the highest-volume commercial airplane ever made.

The rising cost of product liability and skyrocketing insurance costs forced Cessna to halt production of all Cessna single engine piston aircraft in 1986. The 172 was one of the last airplanes off the single engine production line, 30 years after it had been introduced. More than 200 changes had been made to the 172 by 1986.

The General Aviation Revitalization Act was signed in 1994 and allowed Cessna to re-enter single engine piston production at a new factory located in Independence, Kansas. The first Independence-built 172 Skyhawk rolled out of the production facility in November 1996.

Archetype, Inc. has been selected as the supplier of GPS/GSM-based vehicle tracking devices as well as the network backbone architecture for the new StarChase tagging and tracking pursuit management system being introduced to the law enforcement market this year.

The patented StarChase system was developed to alleviate the need for dangerous, high-speed chases resulting from suspects fleeing from law enforcement. It uses an electronic tracking tag that is ejected from a compressed-air launcher and adheres to the suspect vehicle upon contact. The tag, embedded in a specially formulated epoxy-adhesive compound, contains Archetype's StarLert ST-1 GPS/GSM device. The ST-1 transmits the vehicle's position coordinates through GSM cellular networks to a secure server. The server then pushes location-based information to authorized users via a password and SSL-protected Web portal.

StarChase successfully completed proof-of-concept trials in July 2005, and initial beta tests are being conducted by the Los Angeles Police Department this year. According to Sawyer, StarChase expects to offer the system commercially by the end of the year. Sawyer added

that StarChase will also introduce a new covert tracking module and a hard-wired tracking module, both of which will also be based on the Archetype GPS/GSM and back-end network infrastructure.

Dart Helicopter Services has announced that Air Evac Lifeteam of West Plains, MO, has made a corporate decision to outfit their fleet of 74 Bell 206L-Series with Dart landing gear including *Round-I-Beam*TM Skidtubes and *Heli-Access-Steps*TM.

Air Evac has been field testing the Dart landing gear since late 2004 and, based on the performance and quality of the product, have now decided that the I-Beam construction is ideal to meet their operational needs. Air Evac's plans to replace its existing gear with the Dart product as needed.

Dart Helicopter Services LLC is a private sales & marketing company whose primary focus is creating sales networks for aerospace manufacturers who are looking to benefit from Dart's global marketing network. www.darthelicopterservices.com

Bennett-Davis-Nakazawa (BDN), a unique marketing firm that specializes exclusively in serving aerospace industry clients, has earned a prestigious Gold Quill Award of Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). Gold Quill is widely regarded as the world's premier awards competition for business communications.

BDN and its client Sikorsky Aircraft earned top honors for a comprehensive print advertising campaign that promotes a range of Sikorsky products and services in both the civil and military helicopter markets. The campaign includes more than 40 adverts developed and designed by the Mesa-based company.

The Sikorsky campaign, "There are those who fly. And those who fly Sikorsky," was one of 56 submissions selected from 1,170 entries for elite awards of excellence. Seventy-two other entries received second-tier awards of merit.

BDN is a full-service advertising, graphic design and public relations firm founded in 1999. BDN is the only firm of its kind to specialise exclusively in serving aerospace industry clients. [BDN]

Eurocopter has announced another milestone in the development of future rotor technology. Following the first successful flight of a BK117 helicopter with an adaptive rotor system in September 2005, last month saw the maiden flight of the newly developed 5-blade "Advanced Technology Rotor" fitted on an EC145 test helicopter. This rotor is designed to be ideally suited for 4-ton class helicopters.

The development of advanced technology rotor systems goes back to the hingeless main rotor with composite blades, used by the BO105 and BK117 models, followed by the bearingless four-blade rotors used by the EC135, and now sees its latest development, the ATR 5-blade rotor.

Key characteristics of the new bearingless ATR is its extremely compact and light-weight rotor hub and its use of modular components. These design innovations result in improved flight characteristics and a more comfortable ride in comparison to the existing EC145 rotor, while also yielding cost and weight benefits. [EC]



Acrohelipro Global Services Inc., a subsidiary of Vector Aerospace Corporation is making a significant financial and resource investment for tooling and test cell upgrades to accommodate assembly, inspection and testing of the CT7-8A engines for the Canadian military. The CT7-8A powers the newly purchased Sikorsky S92 (Cyclone) helicopters for their Maritime Helicopter Program (MHP).

The **NTSB** has recommended to the FAA that it requires MD Helicopters, Inc. (MDHI), to conduct additional tests to enable the full analysis of all critical load cases for tension-torsion [TT] straps installed in the anti-torque fan of MDHI model 500N series, 600N, and MD900 helicopters, including load cases that create regions of transverse shear or compression in the fiber-reinforced areas of the straps.

During the non-destructive inspections of TT straps installed in anti-torque fans in MD900 helicopters and any other models requiring x-ray inspections, require that the x-ray film be examined for indications of both progressive fiber fractures and for longitudinal cracks in the straps, and require that any in which progressive fiber fractures or longitudinal cracks are found be removed from service.

Las Vegas based Silver State Helicopters has taken delivery of the first of six **Frasca** TruFlite HTM helicopter simulator equipped pilot training trailers at their facility in Spring, Texas. Two additional simulator equipped trailers will be delivered to San Diego, California and New Branfels, Texas and the remaining three will be delivered to other locations in the near future. The trailer units will be used for pilot training at various locations as needed.

Silver State Helicopters has ordered a total of twenty-two TruFlite HTM simulators from Frasca International, Urbana, Illinois since the launch of the device in 2003. Eighteen of the devices have been delivered.

The Frasca unit can be configured to represent a variety of helicopter types including the Robinson R22 and Schweizer 300. www.silverstatehelicopters.com

Having for many years built French helicopters under technology transfer and more recently produced the indigenous Dhruv Advance Light helicopter, State-owned **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited** has for the first time successfully assembled an American Bell 407 helicopter.

HAL assembled the helicopter in a day and a half and delivered it to Karnatka's VSL mining company. The significance of the event lies in Bell's current bid for the Indian Army's contract for 197 helicopters to expand its aviation wing.

Bell, along with Eurocopter, has been shortlisted for the contract and the American company's 407 helicopter has successfully completed, technical evaluation including winter trials in high altitude areas of Ladakh and summer tests in the Pokhran range in the Thar desert.

Army Aviation, which at present equipped with the ageing French Alouette helicopters is proposing to Purchase 60 helicopters outright and assemble the rest 137 in the country at HAL.

[FLIR System, Inc](http://www.flir.com) is soliciting video submissions for this year's FLIR Vision Awards. You can download an entry form from the ALEA website. Winners will be awarded on July 20 at the ALEA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Footage from each of the winning entries will be shown during the party.

If you've captured more than one great incident on tape, multiple entries will be accepted. Just fill out a separate form for each entry. Please include a brief description of the mission. The deadline for submissions is Friday May 19, 2006.

For more information contact brian.spillane@flir.com **FLIR System, Inc.**, Western Regional Manager.

With the British Optica coming back from a factory in Texas and the Australian Seeker mov-

ing onward and upward from two sites the small 'helicopter replacement' fixed wing market is now getting full.

German Aircraft GmbH is pushing its own solution to the market in the US and have a subsidiary as the authorized distributor in the United States and Canada for the new Sky-MAXX light aircraft.

Seven years in development **Sky-MAXX** was designed as a low-cost alternative for missions normally assigned to helicopters. Designed for operation in a rugged environment and seven years in development it is a two seat, dual control, all metal, high wing, pusher with STOL and fast cruising abilities.

It is being marketed to the professional, police and military sectors for aerial surveillance, patrolling, photography and imaging.

German Aircraft GmbH is a European manufacturer of ultralight and light sport aircraft based in Cologne info@german-aircraft.de The US subsidiary German Aircraft US, LLC is based in Oxford, Mississippi www.germanaircraft.us



Dart Helicopter Services has expanded the kits and accessories that it now offers for the AS350 and AS355. In addition to its established line of AS 350 / AS 355 products such as skid tubes, bearpaws, flightsteps, cargo baskets, spacepods and baggage extenders Dart has doubled the items available by adding such as an avionics console, pilots Hi-Back seat, harnesses, baggage compartment volume increasing kit, utility rack, visors, vents etc.

Iridium Satellite, KDDI Network & Solutions (KNSL) and Pioneer Navicom jointly announce the completion of successful air trials and initial deployment of an automatic helicopter tracking system by the Japanese Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA).

The system, developed by Pioneer Navicom, Inc., automatically transmits GPS position coordinates to ground stations and uploads destination point, routes and text messages to the aircraft through the Iridium satellite network. It enables ground controllers to monitor the location and movement of the aircraft in real-time across a moving map display, with a similar picture also available to the pilot.

The Pioneer Navicom auto-tracking system includes an AirCell ST3100 Iridium satellite terminal integrated with an Airmap AMS 3000S moving map display. In addition to automatic flight following and messaging, the system can also provide two-way voice communication between air and ground.

The Iridium-based system was installed on a new AS365N3 helicopter and rolled out late last year. During the initial, two-hour ferry flight between Osaka and Tokyo, it transmitted flight following data every four seconds through an Iridium circuit-switched data channel.

The Bournemouth based **Pilatus** PC-12 distributor for the UK, Ireland and Spain will be exhibiting two of the Swiss manufactured Pilatus PC-12s at the Aero Expo exhibition to be held at Wycombe Air Park in June.

The UK and Spanish PC-12 centres are Europe's top selling distributors of these \$3.6M aircraft. Bob Berry and Aleida Restrepo, Director of Sales Spain and Stuart Metcalfe, the UK Sales Director, actively encourage customers to build a close rapport through factory visits and become involved in the scheme design and interior fit out from the beginning.

Bell Helicopter's full size TR18 Eagle Eye tiltrotor UAV demonstrator crashed on April 5 after losing engine power whilst in the hover. It suffered significant damage. The Eagle Eye is an element of future technology for the US Coast Guard's Deepwater programme. [Flight]

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

7 April 2006 Bell 206B JetRanger N96NW. Public Use. The helicopter sustained substantial damage after impacting terrain while conducting low level operations near Sprague, Washington. The aircraft was registered to Olympic Jet Incorporated, of Olympia, Washington, and operated by Northwest Helicopters, also of Olympia. The certificated commercial pilot and his two passengers were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the local Public Use flight, and a flight plan was not filed. Damage to the helicopter included the mast separating, the engine partially separating, and the tail boom twisted and bent. [NTSB]

9 April 2006 Eurocopter AS350 A-Star N. California Highway Patrol. The pilot, Pete Gaviteto, was obliged to undertake an emergency run-on landing in the early hours following what has been described as hydraulic failure. Gaviteto and Flight Officer Mark McAuley eased the helicopter down ending their routine aerial traffic rounds at the Napa County Airport. [Media]

13 April 2006 Bolkow BO105LS-A3 N202LF Eagle III [Brown County Rescue Services/Brown County Sheriff's Dept.] Wisconsin. The pilot, the only person aboard, was killed when the helicopter struck the ground just 25 yards from the pad at its operating base in the 1700 block of East Allouez Avenue in the town of Bellevue.

The helicopter was on a test flight when it experienced mechanical problems and was seen to 'plummet, with its rotors still spinning.' Another reported seeing the machine 'spinning around in circles about 500 feet in the air.' A man was seen to stumble out of the wreckage about 20 feet from the destroyed helicopter and fall. Rushed off in an ambulance he died later. [FAA/Press-Gazette]

13 April 2006 Robinson R22 N887BC. Chelsea Police. The city of Chelsea's police chief and a captain of the city's fire department [who was also a reserve police officer] were killed when their helicopter crashed while they were searching for a man who ran from a traffic stop.

Police Chief Riley Scott Sumner and fire Capt. Matt Tuttle were aboard Tuttle's private red helicopter when it went down whilst flying a steep search pattern about five miles west of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Tuttle had volunteered the use of his helicopter after hearing that police were searching for the man. The motorist ran off after being pulled over on Interstate 94 and was discovered to have warrants for his arrest. [Media/FAA]

18 April 2006 Piper PA-31 Navajo N554DJ. US Virgin Islands Justice Department. The aircraft carrying prisoners from the island of St Croix to St Thomas suffered a double engine failure and made a crash landing into the sea about eight kilometres from St. Thomas. All seven people aboard were able to get into rafts and be rescued and no one was seriously injured. [media/FAA]

21 April 200 Eurocopter AS350B3 N911AA. Alaska State Trooper. Aircraft substantially damaged when it crashed in unclear circumstances whilst conducting a search at Kenai, Anchorage, Alaska. [FAA]

PEOPLE

The Sussex Police Helicopter unit based at Shoreham Airport on the south coast is to have a new Unit Executive Officer. Inspector **Cliff Gayle** retired last month.

Cliff served for 31 years in Sussex Police working in many roles before spending the last 8

years with Air Operations.

He chaired the MD902 User Group initially within the UK expanding it to a European Group late last year. He was also the South East Air Units representative on the ACPO Technical & Training Working Group.

As befits a veteran rugby player he could be relied upon to enliven all meetings and became a good friend to many in the air operations world.

He will be continuing in employment outside the police service to support his four teenage children through University. He hopes to spend some time restoring his collection of classic Volvo cars, breeding cold water fish and continuing to play and support rugby. He is also involved locally in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards for young people.

The new Sussex UEO is **Simon Pettett**.



Readers may recall the announcement of the retirement of **Jim Di Giovanna** from the LA County Sheriff's unit on April 5. They do things a little different in the USA and just to underline that fact it is certainly worth showing this image from his 'paid entry' retirement party. [CM]

The Texas Department of Public Safety's [DPS] first pilot, retired Texas Ranger **Max Westerman, Jr.** died on March 9, 2006. His funeral was held in Austin, Texas, on March 13.

Ranger Westerman joined the DPS Highway Patrol in 1937. He spent four and a half years in the USAAC flying cargo aircraft during World War II and rejoined the DPS in the mid-1940s and was promoted to Texas Ranger around the time that the department purchased its first Navion airplane he was the Senior Pilot-Investigator and Chief Pilot in 1951. He worked continually for the DPS until his retirement in August of 1977.

He never flew again because he had decided that he had already used up all of his good luck flying for the DPS. [ALEA]

Alistair McGill, until last year the Chief Pilot of London's Air Ambulance [Virgin HEMS] has died suddenly. Alistair resigned from the post and left on September 12. He took up a post with a business operator based at Blackbushe in Surrey – Starspeed Ltd – and was still with them when he died suddenly on a golf course.

Alistair was born in Woolwich, London in December 1951 educated at Cheltenham College. He was trained by the British Army during 9 years service and first joined HEMS as an assistant ops officer in 1996. At the time of his death he was an ATPL [H] with instrument and night ratings and was a CAA type rating and instrument examiner with in excess of 4,500 helicopter hours.

A memorial service will take place on Tuesday May 2 at St Mary's Church, Streatley on Thames, at 2.30pm. The family have invited those who wish to celebrate Alistair's life to attend the local manor afterwards and details will be given with the Order of Service at the church. The family have requested no flowers but those who wish may donate to HEMS.



Wing Commander Ken Wallis MBE celebrated his 90th birthday last month by taking a 90 year old friend flying in one of his autogyro's.

Wallis, famous for his James Bond film 'Little Nellie' has broken and held many rotorcraft

records, invented and refined many autogyro designs and invented slot car racing among other things. His machines were used on special search missions by industry, the Home Office and a number of UK police forces 25 years ago.

It is said that he has made a date with his friend to have another flight in ten years time.

FLY! THE LONDON AIR SHOW

Three days of last month were set aside for the Fly! Show at Earl's Court.

Primarily a family orientated event aimed at bringing out fathers and sons as well as city based pilots seeking new equipment its mix of computer games and light aircraft was enhanced by the presence of a 1939-45 War Royal Navy Fairey Swordfish [right] and the Defence fleet of modern but 'plastic look alike' fighter airframes.



Potentially the main winners among the exhibitors were the pilots shops, equipment suppliers and model builders. Bravo Delta Models have recently decided upon the production of a wider range of models and in addition to meeting the needs of the private owner are now offering bespoke hand-crafted models to the military and emergency services. The first fruits of this expansion of the market is a Royal Naval Sea King [below].



The potentially hot news from this indoor exhibition set in the heart of London is that it is contemplating moving out of the Capital city and setting up at an outside location— Silverstone in Northamptonshire being the current preferred option. Although access is good from London it would severely strain the credibility of retaining any name link with the city.

It is early days yet and the next Fly may well still be at Earls Court, the organisers are just looking at the options and discussing them with existing exhibitors.



FUTURE EVENTS

2-4 May 2006 GPEC [General Police Exhibition & Conference] The 4th GPEC takes place in Leipzig; More than 460 exhibitors from 26 countries in 4 continents already registered at the end of March. A broad programme of events (international police conference / workshops / meetings) underline the character of GPEC.

A show for decision-makers, procurement officers, technicians, tacticians, instructors and end users from police, border guard, the prison service, customs and government services. GPEC® is a closed exhibition and not open to the public. The organisers will grant access exclusively to visitors from authorities after pre-registration and presenting on site a personal service ID card of an official authority or country www.policeshow.com info@wehrstedt.org

3-5 May 2006 EBACE2006, Geneva, Switzerland. The European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) and the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) announced that EBACE showcases hundreds of Exhibiting Companies from around the world and covers nearly 22,000 square meters. At nearby Geneva International Airport, more than 50 aircraft, including nearly every major business aircraft design in current production, will be on display in a special 18,000-square-meter Static Display area.

EBACE2006 is poised to be the strongest show in the event's six-year history. More than 9,000 Attendees are expected (more than 3,000 are already registered), and the indoor exhibit floor is sold out, with more than 1,200 booth spaces reserved by 288 Exhibitors.

EBACE2006 will also offer informational sessions featuring industry veterans and covering a wide variety of topics. Experts will discuss new aircraft technologies, and recognized authorities will consider the impact of legislative and regulatory changes for safety, security and environmental protocols. Several notable industry and government figures will speak at EBACE2006, including: Sir Ralph Rob-

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ins, the recently retired Rolls-Royce CEO; Bo Redeborn, EUROCONTROL director for air traffic management strategies. Edward W. Stimpson, former US ambassador to the International Civil Aviation Organization. <http://www.ebace.aero>

This month's **Berlin Air Show** International Aerospace Exhibition and Conference – ILA – from May 16-21 takes place every two years at Berlin-Schönefeld Airport includes a number of conferences spread over the week long Trade and Public event. www.ila-berlin.com

ILA2006 will feature more than 85 national and international conferences - many more than ever before. Details are at: <http://www.ila-berlin.de/ila2006/konferenz>

Items from the list include one on the Tuesday from the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM of Russia) discussing the use and capabilities of the Beriev Be-200 in the forest fighting role. That will be conducted in Russian and English

On the Wednesday [May 17] there is the German - Arab Border & Coastal Surveillance Conference ILA 2006 organised by The German Aerospace Industries Association (Bundesverband der Deutschen Luft- und Raumfahrtindustrie e.V., BDLI) and the Arab-German Association for Commerce and Industry (Arabisch-Deutsche Vereinigung für Handel und Industrie e.V., GHORFA), The conference (on restricted invitation only), will provide a opportunity for attendees to have extensive briefings on state of the art systems beneficial for governmental organisations. Today's Coastal & Border Security highly demanding challenges will be addressed as well as a podium discussion arranged to exchange views on existing possible threat scenarios.

The conference will focus on critical topics for Coastal and Border Surveillance, and benefits of the network-centric approach for new generations of Border Systems based on modern secured Information & Communications technologies. In Arabic and German.

On Thursday Rotorblatt will be hosting European HEMS & Air Ambulance Committee: Annual General Meeting

The inaugural **Dubai helicopter show** held in 2004 attracted over 2,500 industry visitors representing 20 countries.

The Dubai Helishow 2006 will be conducted at the East Hall and will consist of Indoor Exhibits, VIP Suite, Restaurant and Prayer Room with access to the chalet line and static helicopter display area outside. There is the opportunity to demonstrate helicopters to potential buyers. A separate area will be designated for visiting aircraft adjacent to the static display to allow easy access to the exhibition.

A one-day military and civil helicopter conference will take place during the event. The conference program will be designed to address the specific issues of the Middle East with speakers drawn from around the world utilising their expertise on a variety of topics in order to benefit the helicopter industry in the region. Event website at <http://www.dubaihelishow.com> for further information.

DIARY

3-5 May 2006 EBACE2006 in Geneva, Switzerland. For more information about EBACE or to view photos from earlier events visit the official web site at: <http://www.ebace.aero>

4-6 May 2006 Helicopter Safety Forum, Dallas, Texas USA. FlightSafety International to be held at the Marriott Hotel DFW South, Dallas / Fort Worth, TX.

6 May 2006 The American Heroes Air Show Canton Georgia. Since 1993, the admission-free American Heroes event has been dedicated to educating the public, the media and elected officials as to the unique capabilities and dynamic role of helicopters in law enforcement, fire service, public safety, homeland defense and national security. With different event elements being added over the years, the Heroes event has become more than just an exciting air show to profile helicopters. The 'Code 3 Career Fair,' which brings together recruiting teams from law enforcement, the military; fire and public safety agencies to discuss career opportunities with event guests. The SAR SITE1 event element introduces the community to many of the finest Search & Rescue teams from mountain, urban, swiftwater, canine and Combat / SAR organisations. The event provides free presentation space to these groups interested in fund-raising and membership development opportunities. A Family Preparedness Fair delivers information, products from private vendors and resources from public agencies for families and businesses to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, natural disasters and homeland defence incidents. Flight demonstrations, concessions, aviation vendors along with helicopter rides at some sites along with entertainment and special awards. FREE Admission. Contact: Mike Grier Email: FLIIFR@aol.com Interested in landing the American Heroes Air show in your own community? Log on to our website at: www.heroes-airshow.com



Be On Scene when the nation's premier Helicopter – Only, admission-free aviation event delivers the Heroes your family can really look up to at communities around America

8-10 May 2006. ALEA Northeast Safety Seminar at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains, NY. The hosts are the Westchester County Police Aviation Unit. In addition to a comprehensive educational program this year's venue is ideal for those members wishing to bring their spouse's. The seminar site is located close to excellent shopping and entertainment venues and is less than 30 minutes by car or train from Manhattan. <http://www.alea.org/public/seminars/ne/index.htm>.

8-11 May 2006 May Series 2006/07 at the NEC Birmingham. International Police Expo 2006, IFSEC 2006, Safety & Health Expo and The Facilities Show. International Fire Expo returns from May 21-24 2007. With the ACPO event being drawn off from Birmingham

to Excel in London the organisers have re-jigged the event as the International Police Expo 2006, CMP Information's renamed international policing and public security event will take place from 9-11 May at the familiar venue of the NEC. The police event is aimed at all management levels of the policing community, and will provide a forum for visitors to share the latest information on current issues affecting the modern police service, with particular emphasis on operational aspects. www.police-expo.co.uk +44 20 7921 8068.

9-10 May 2006. Border Security 2006, Warsaw, Poland. Key speakers include individuals from the Polish Border Guard, Israel, UK Home Office and Estonia. Subjects include Strengthening Border Security through Comprehensive Border Management Reform, Developments in Border Security Research in the Fight Against Terrorism. *Organiser:* Marcus Evans Defence defence@marcusevansbb.com www.marcusevansbb.com/bordersecurity

16-21 May 2005 Berlin Air Show International Aerospace Exhibition and Conference. Interest in the International Aerospace Exhibition, which takes place every two years at Berlin-Schönefeld Airport, is higher than ever, as has been revealed by the excellent level of advance bookings by exhibitors from every sector of the aerospace industry. Among the factors that have boosted demand have been the renewed efforts to improve existing sections of the ILA and the introduction of new exhibition sectors, which are intended to make participation in this trade fair even more effective by appealing to a number of different target groups. The ILA2006 will be held from 16 to 21 May, starting with three Trade Visitors' Days (16-18 May), followed by three open days for the general public. www.ila-berlin.com

20 May 2006 American Heroes Air Show. Odessa, Texas. See entry above for 6 May event. Contact for this event is: Martin Jackson Email: MartinLJackson@aol.com Log on to website at: www.heroes-airshow.com

23-25 May 2006 ACPO APA Conference and Exhibition in London. ExCel Centre. Hosted by Brintex on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities. Previously part of the May series of events at the NEC Birmingham this is now a stand-alone event at ExCeL, Docklands, London. The top specialist suppliers to the police, security and public sector will promote their presence at the show and a host of leading suppliers will demonstrate the latest technology and products. ACPO-APA's London location is set to attract a high attendance from the Metropolitan Police Service, Home Office and representatives from central government and transport authorities. PEPS have organised the regional procurement managers' meeting to take place at the event. In addition, the ACPO Procurement Group and PEPS will be holding an exclusive Question & Answer Panel Session on Procurement for Suppliers to the Police Services during the exhibition. Exhibitors will be able to discuss procurement issues and ask for feedback on the best way to tender for a contract or simply how to improve relations with procurement personnel. www.acpo-apa.co.uk.

24-27 May 2006 Asia Pacific China Police Logistics & Equipment Trading Fair 2006 at the Beijing Exhibition Centre Beijing, P. R. China. Asia-Pacific's most important police equipment exhibition. No longer exclusive for Chinese buyers. Key decision-makers and buyers from the Asia, Africa, America, Europe and Middle East countries will be invited. Police equipment and service providers with advanced technologies from developed countries and economic products from the developing countries. Olympic Security & Anti-Terrorist Section became a hot topics in this expo. Conference related will be held together with the expo. Experts from over-

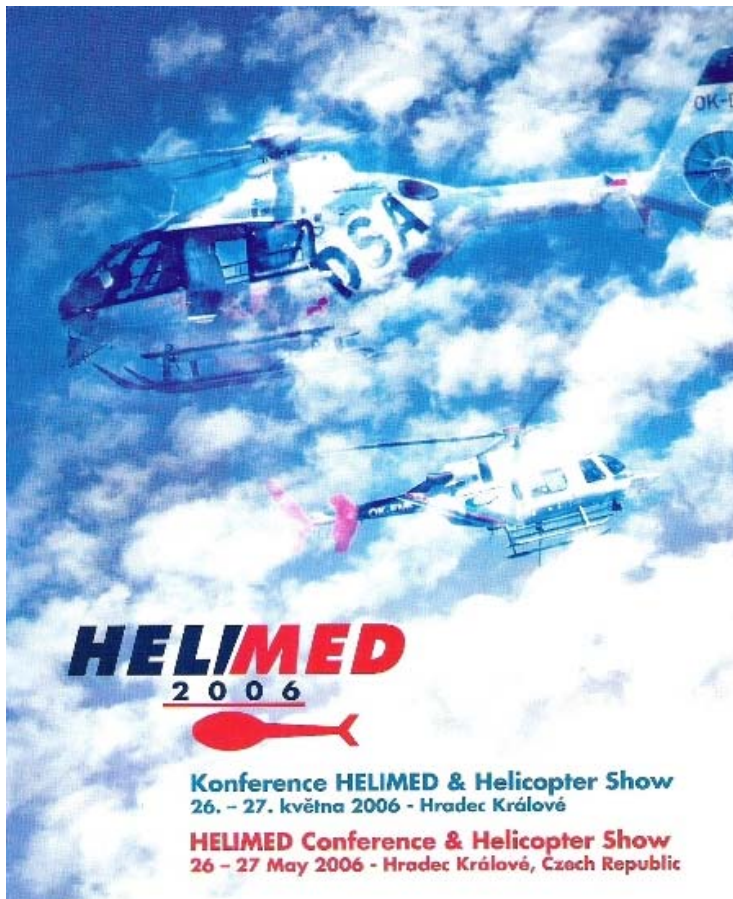
www.policeaviationnews.com



seas police department, former Olympic organiser, anti-terrorist equipment suppliers and professional insurance agents will be presented to share and exchange with each other. Enterprise Associates International, 30 Pennyford Court, Henderson Drive, London, NW8 8UF Tel/Fax: +44 20 7289 6982 E-MAIL: eai@btopenworld.com

26-27 May 2006 Helimed CZ 2006. An Annual HEMS show at Hradec Kralove. A relaxed 2 days of flying and static displays, as well as a chance for a get together (Saturday nights hanger party is quite good...) ALFA-HELICOPTER, spol. s r.o., Příkop 838/6, 602 00 Brno. telefon: +420 545 175 944 fax: +420 545 175 943 email: office@alfahelicopter.cz

31 May – 1 June 2006. Heli-Pacific. The Royal Pines Resort, Queensland, Australia. A civil and military helicopter event in Australasia. The 2006 event will offer a larger exhibition a wider conference programme, comprehensive workshop schedule and a static aircraft display – Australian Army aircraft will be on display Exhibitions, Sponsorship and Static Display Enquiries: UK and International Hervé Bavazzano +44 1628 606980 Email: hb@shephard.co.uk, Australasia Heli-Pacific Dedicated Line +61 2 9526 1522 Fax: +61 2 9526 1779



Czech Police Bell 412 at Helimed 2004

Front cover image of the former REGA Agusta A109K now serving Air Transport Europe in Eastern Europe as OM-ATE. Taken at the Helimed 2004 event in the Czech Republic. Helimed CZ 2006 takes place later this month. The Annual HEMS meeting and air show takes place at Hradec Kralove.