

## HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE

Hotel Acadiana, Best Western

May 15, 2003

MINUTES

### INTRODUCTION – DAVID MILLING, HSAC CHAIRMAN

- The meeting began at 09:00. Dave Milling welcomed everyone, reminded all that HSAC was in its 25<sup>th</sup> Year, thanked Bell Helicopters for the static display in honor of the occasion at the previous evening's social hour, and indicated that HSAC would expand the celebration in Houston in the fall.
- After the round table of introductions, Dave welcomed Rick Burt, Cougar Helicopters, who, as Chairman of the HAI Offshore Committee, would be conducting his meeting immediately following the HSAC Meeting. With him from HAI was Glenn Rizner who updated the membership on the continuing efforts underway to fund the surveillance, weather, and communications for the GOMEX.

### SAFETY TOPIC

- This period was devoted to recognizing pilot Roger Whitley, Air Logistics, who was instrumental in the successful rescue of two passengers before they succumbed to hypothermia. Roger received awards from Mike Chapman, FAA, and John Sartor, BHT.
- Cliff Mitchell, ERA, brought everyone up to date on Area Agreements Maps and the initiative proposed by Carlin Craig, PHI, to share weather information in the GOMEX. Cliff is retiring, so we took this opportunity to thank him for has many contributions and wished him well.

### CASEY LOWERY, El Paso, HSAC VICE-CHAIRMAN

- Nominations of candidates for Chairman and Treasurer are due by the next meeting in Houston. Please insure that they are forwarded to Casey.
- New Web Master, Kirk Harrison, was complemented for his excellent work on the HSAC Website.
- The HSAC By Laws have been edited to better align with current technologies, etc. Any objections to the changes are to be forwarded to Casey before the next meeting. No objections are being counted as votes of approval.
- Welcomed two new members – Taylor Energy and Anadarko.

### JOHN DAVIS, Evergreen, HSAC Treasurer

- Reminded all that HSAC is a non-profit organization that is currently funded by donations of \$500.00 annually. Because of this support, HSAC no longer requires \$20.00 per participant formerly collected at each meeting.

BILL STILES, Shell Oil Company, CHAIRMAN - HSAC / FAA INTERFACE

- Bill Pritchard, an engineer with Shell in their New Orleans offices, gave an excellent overview of how helideck strength is determined for structures in the GOMEX. SHELL has been instrumental in maintaining the Area Agreement Maps. Placement on the website will be beneficial to all operators in the GOM.
- Introduced Don Day, FAA.

DON DAY, FAA, Fort Worth Region

- Described his involvement during the searches that were carried out after the Shuttle disaster. He stated that the helicopter was by far the best means to find the debris.
- Reminded everyone of the upcoming Part 135 rewrite meetings.
- Reminded everyone that the FAA is placing more emphasis on Surveillance that should later prove to be a magnet for improved Communications and Weather. *However, we all know that Communications and Weather are a GOMEX priority.*
- Don visited in Washington, D.C. to convey the requirements needed to better serve the helicopter industry for IFR operations in the GOMEX.
- HAI's Ann Carroll has been lobbying on our behalf.

GARY TUCKER, Air Logistics, CHAIRMAN - STANDARDIZATION & SAFETY

- Gary was unable to attend the meeting and dispatched Michael R. Suldo of Air Logistics on his behalf. Michael delivered an excellent presentation on his company's most recent Safety Initiative. It uses a point system that measures mission critical points of data that - when added up as a whole - should not be in excess of given parameters. As the numbers increase, then more Operational Control is required from management. In affect, it gives management support to the pilot when he / she must turn down or delay a flight for safety considerations.

RICK OEDER, ERA – CHAIRMAN - GOVERNMENT LIAISON

- Introduced JIM HICKS who stated that all was looking good from his vantage point. There were no launches to intercept HSAC related aircraft. "Keep up the good work."
- Rick reviewed our industry preparedness response that he had written and that would be included with the other submittals from the Transportation Workgroup under the stewardship of Tidewater Marine. As previously described, this group was one of many that were organized by the USCG as a result of the Maritime Transportation Act, effective November 25, 2003. Gary described the layers of heightened security requirements that would be implemented by the offshore

helicopter community as national security conditions change. It was well received.

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GARY GUERRERO, Chevron-Texaco, CHAIRMAN - HELIPORTS & AIRWAYS

- Gary's personal efforts to lobby the Louisiana delegates for communication and weather in the GOM were rewarded at the previous day's Gulf of Mexico Workgroup meeting when John Breaux's representative visited and conveyed Breaux's support for targeted federal funds.. Mary Landrieu is also a supporter.
- The updated Helideck Design Guide has been forwarded to API for their final review and acceptance.

KELLY TEAGUE, FAA & MARK FONTENOT, Air Logistics  
CO-CHAIRMAN - GULF OF MEXICO WORKGROUP

- As Co-Chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Working Group, Kelly & Mark lead this group that meets on the previous afternoon, prior to the regular HSAC meeting. It evolved from the IFR Committee, and its current focus remains primarily on surveillance, communications, and weather. "In 1996 and through the cooperative efforts of the FAA, Oil Companies, and the Helicopter Operator, the HSAC IFR Working Group was able to revamp IFR procedures in the Gulf of Mexico in just 18-months. Although efforts have stalled on enhancing Communication, Weather and Surveillance in the GOM, we all must continue to persevere."

TOM SUHRHOFF, ExxonMobil, CHAIRMAN – INDUSTRIAL LIAISON

- The Gulf of Mexico Safety Statistics for 2003 reflect an upward trend in incidents and accidents.
- In addition to flight safety, we might think about forming a task group that would focus on sharing and discussing best practices for aircraft maintenance.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Steering Committee is reviewing whether three (3) meetings annually are sufficient to sustain HSAC momentum. The option exists to return to four (4) meetings annually in 2004.

NEW BUSINESS

- John Davis gave out framed letters of appreciation to BHT, Sikorsky, and American Eurocopter, recognizing them for their past and continued support.
- The third HSAC meetings for 2003 are scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Houston, TX.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Celebration!

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
David P. Milling, Chairman, HSAC