

2006

**HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE (HSAC) GULF OF MEXICO
OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REVIEW**

HSAC Members: April 23, 2007

Please find attached the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) "2006 Gulf of Mexico Offshore Helicopter Operations and Safety Review". The membership support and response from 18 helicopter operators for this review is not only appreciated, but vital in establishing a meaningful report. Continued support is encouraged for the future.

The 2006 Gulf of Mexico oil industry helicopter accident rate per 100,000 flight hours was 1.48 with a total of 6 accidents (3 single engine, 2 medium twin, and 1 light twin) compared to a 23-year annual average accident rate of 1.87. The fatal accident rate per 100,000 flight hours during 2006 was 0.25 with one fatal accident (2 fatalities) compared to a 23-year average of 0.66.

During 2006, improper pilot procedures accounted for 3 (50%), technical faults accounted for 2 (33%), and passenger control 1 (17%) accident.

In the last 5 years, there have been 45 accidents of which 15 were fatal (33%), resulting in 35 fatalities and 45 injuries. The leading causes, not all inclusive, of accidents in the last 8 years have been:

- 18 engine related**
- 12 loss of control or improper procedures**
- 9 controlled flight into terrain or**
- 8 each tail rotor failure and helideck obstacle strikes**

Note - Although night flight accounts for less than 3% of the GoM flight hours, in the last five years, the 4 night accidents accounted for 9% of the total accidents and 31% of total fatalities (11 of 35 total). 2 of the 4 events were fatal.

HSAC has published a number of Recommended Practices to address these issues and they can be reviewed at www.HSAC.org. We are optimistic that by sharing this information with all operators and other oil industry group's, safety initiatives may be developed and implemented to reduce accidents and incidents.

**Bob Williams
Industry Liaison Committee Member**

GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONAL DATA SUMMARY

NUMBERS by TYPE HELICOPTER

YEAR	SINGL ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET	PASSENGERS CARRIED	HOURS FLOWN	NUMBER OF FLIGHTS
2002	411	77	121	16	625	3,088,865	402,632	564,362
2003	410	66	118	13	607	2,574,810	381,273	1,345,075
2004	387	60	100	14	561	2,329,064	361,514	1,270,863
2005	424	48	99	18	589	2,625,322	389,544	1,310,736
2006*	367	59	124	25	584	2,762,317	406,564	1,246,172

* Data extracted from voluntary input of 12 helicopter operators in the Gulf of Mexico

GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONAL DATA DETAILS

HOURS by TYPE HELICOPTER						OPERATIONS by TYPE HELICOPTER				
YEAR	SINGL ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET	SINGL ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET
2002	284,226	26,610	83,556	8,240	402,632	1,251,945	99,117	195,883	17,417	1,564,362
2003	275,580	22,161	76,948	6,584	381,273	1,102,644	67,399	163,869	11,163	1,345,075
2004	263,258	20,436	69,479	8,341	361,514	1,048,858	65,704	144,545	11,756	1,270,863
2005	275,225	21,386	80,787	12,146	389,544	1,062,942	65,076	162,476	20,242	1,310,736
2006	283,304	25,118	79,207	18,935	406,564	984,612	78,074	153,822	32,059	1,246,172
2007	280,683	27,617	81,895	20,602	410,797	1,019,611	90,109	153,402	31,019	1,294,141

GULF OF MEXICO HELICOPTER FLEET OPERATIONAL DATA

Averages Per Helicopter	2004	2005	2006	Averages Per Helicopter	2004	2005	2006
Passengers per Day per 5 Day Week	8,958	10,097	10,624	Annual Hours Per Aircraft	644	662	696
Flights Per Day	3,482	3,591	3,414	Flights Per Aircraft	2,265	2,227	2,134
Average Flight Duration in Min.	17	8	20	Passengers Flown Per Year	4,152	4,461	4,730

As a service to the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) membership, this Gulf of Mexico Offshore Helicopter Statistical Report is compiled annually from information

	Technical			Pilot Procedure Related											
Single Eng	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Light Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Med. Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hvy Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
99-05 Ttls	17	7	1	11	3	7	5	8	1	4	2	6	3	7	4

FIVE YEAR GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT DATA Injuries

Year	Number Of Accidents	Injury Classification					Aircraft Damages				Aviation Accident				
		Aircraft	Categor	Severity	Classification	Rates	Fat	Min	Substantial	Tot	Acc	Fat	M	Occupan	100k
#	#	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
Acciden	Fatal	Relate	Pax	Cre	Injured	Fat	Min	Substantial	Los	Acc	Fat	M	Occupan	100k	100k
ts	d			w		al	or	al	s	Hrs	100	Hrs	100	Flt	Stages
2002	6	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	4	2	1.4	0.2	0.21	0.38	
2003	15	7	3	17	8	13	12	3	2	10	3.9	1.8	2.93	1.12	
2004	10	4	2	16	6	7	15	0	3	7	2.7	1.1	3.99	0.79	
2005	8	2	2	16	7	18	5	0	4	4	2.0	0.5	1.21	0.61	
											9	5			
											3	4			
											7	1			
											5	1			

2006	6	1	1	4	3	5	2	1	1	4	1.4	0.2	0.48	0.48
5 Yr. Avg.	9.0	3.0	1.8	10.8	5.2	9.0	7.0	0.8	2.8	5.4	2.3	0.7	1.76	0.68
											8	5		
											4	9		

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