

2007

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

HSAC Members: March 18, 2008

Please find attached the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) "2007 Gulf of Mexico Offshore Helicopter Operations and Safety Review". The membership support and response from 15 helicopter operators for this review is not only appreciated, but vital in establishing a meaningful report. Continued support is encouraged for the future.

The 2007 Gulf of Mexico oil industry helicopter accident rate per 100,000 flight hours was 1.70 with a total of 7 accidents (all single engine) compared to a 24-year annual average accident rate of 1.86. The fatal accident rate per 100,000 flight hours during 2007 was 0.49 with two fatal accidents (3 fatalities) compared to a 24-year average of 0.65.

During 2007, obstacle strikes on helidecks accounted for 3 (43%), improper pilot procedures accounted for 2 (29%), and 1 each tie-down and loose cargo accident (14% each).

In the last 5 years, there have been 46 accidents of which 16 were fatal (35%), resulting in 37 fatalities and 49 injuries. The leading causes, not all inclusive, of accidents in the last 9 years have been:

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

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

YEAR	NUMBERS by TYPE HELICOPTER					PASSENGERS CARRIED	HOURS FLOWN	NUMBER OF FLIGHTS
	SINGLE ENGINE	LIGHT	MEDIUM	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL			

	ENGINE	TWIN	TWIN		FLEET			
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
2007	387	61	123	35	606	2,953,484	410,797	1,294,141

* 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	SINGLE ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET	SINGLE ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET
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	2005	2006	2007	Averages Per Helicopter	2005	2006	2007
Passengers per Day per 5 Day Week	10,097	10,624	11,360	Annual Hours Per Aircraft	662	696	678
Flights Per Day	3,591	3,414	3,546	Flights Per Aircraft	2,227	2,134	2,136
Average Flight Duration in Min.	8	20	19	Passengers Flown Per Year	4,461	4,730	4,874

As a service to the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) membership, this Gulf of Mexico Offshore Helicopter Statistical Report is compiled annually from information submitted voluntarily by the membership and helicopter operators. The information is neither verified nor reviewed for accuracy and should be treated as unofficial. The data is believed to be representative; however, the HSAC assumes no liability for accuracy or

Single Eng	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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
2007	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
99-06 Ttls	18	8	1	12	3	9	5	8	1	4	2	6	4	7	6

FIVE YEAR GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT DATA Injuries

Number Of Accidents		Injury Classification					Aircraft Damages			Aviation Accident				
Aircraft Category		Severity		Classification			Rates							
Year	# Accidents	# Fatal	# Eng Related	Pax	Cre w	Injured	Fatal	Minor	Substantial	Total Losses	# per 100k Hrs	# Fatal Accidents per 100k Hrs	# Fatal Occupants	# Accidents per 100k Flight Stages
2002	6	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	4	2	1.49	0.25	0.21	0.38
2003	15	7	3	17	8	13	12	3	2	10	3.93	1.84	2.93	1.12
2004	10	4	2	16	6	7	15	0	3	7	2.77	1.11	3.99	0.79
2005	8	2	2	16	7	18	5	0	4	4	2.05	0.51	1.21	0.61
2006	6	1	1	4	3	5	2	1	1	4	1.48	0.25	0.48	0.48

2007	7	2	0	4	5	6		3	0	5	2	1.7 0	0.4 9	1.02	0.54
5 Yr. Avg.	9.2	3.2	1.6	11.4	5.8	9.8		7.4	0.8	3.0	5.4	2.3 9	0.8 4	1.93	0.71

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