

HSAC Members: May 13, 2002

Please find attached the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) "2002 Gulf of Mexico Offshore Helicopter Operations and Safety Review". The membership support and response from 24 helicopter operators for this review is not only appreciated, but vital in establishing a meaningful report. Continued support is encouraged for the future.

The 2002 Gulf of Mexico oil industry helicopter accident rate per 100,000 flight hours was 1.49 with a total of 6 accidents (all single engine) compared to an 19-year annual average accident rate of 1.72 with a total of 8.8 accidents. The U.S. accident rate per 100,000 hours for all commercial non-scheduled FAR Part 135 operations was 3.68. and the fatal rate was 0.82, while the HSAC helicopter rates were 1.49 and 0.25 respectively. There was 1 fatal accident with 1 fatality when pilot attempted to depart on offshore platform while still tied to the helideck.

In the last 5 years, there have been 36 accidents of which 7 were fatal (19%), including 8 fatalities and 29 injuries. 16 (44%) of these accidents were due to pilot procedure related causes and 10 (27%) were due to technical fault. The specific leading causes of accidents in the last 5 years have been:

- 7 engine related (19%) - one of this resulted in a fatality.
- 6 (16%) loss of control or improper procedure.
- 3 (8%) each for fuel quality control, loss of tail rotor control, and obstacle strike on a helideck.
- 2 flight into terrain/water accidents, both at night.

During 2002, improper pilot procedures accounted for 3 (50%) of the 6 accidents. 1 of these was due to failure to remove tie-downs before attempted departure, 1 was loose cargo hitting the tail rotor, and the last was a hard landing in high winds.

Type Aircraft	% Night Flight	% IFR Flight
Single Eng.		
Light Twin		
Med. Twin		
Heavy Twin		
Fleet Average		

We are optimistic that by sharing this information with all operators and other oil industry group's, safety initiatives may be developed to reduce accidents and incidents.

Bob Williams
Industry Liaison Committee Member

GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONAL DATA SUMMARY

YEA NUMBERS by TYPE HELICOPTER

YEAR	TYPE HELICOPTER					TOTAL PASSENGERS CARRIED	HOURS	
	SINGLE ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET		FLOW NUMBER	OF FLIGHTS
1998	392	89	94	13	588	2,725,682	454,280	1,390,773
1999	413	81	93	14	601	2,664,848	392,712	1,459,781
2000	385	76	106	15	582	3,451,511	441,908	1,394,679
2001	407	87	121	17	632	3,127,449	451,712	1,473,057
2002*	411	77	121	16	625	3,088,865	402,632	1,564,362

* 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
1998	303,434	54,509	88,470	7,867	454,280	1,025,105	183,133	167,255	15,280	1,390,773
1999	316,029	38,126	79,736	8,016	441,908	1,051,160	134,035	192,289	17,197	1,394,679
2000	316,029	38,126	79,736	8,016	441,908	1,051,160	134,035	192,289	17,197	1,394,679
2001	309,429	35,318	96,548	10,417	451,712	1,123,393	125,832	204,285	19,547	1,473,057
2002	284,226	26,610	83,556	8,240	402,632	1,251,945	99,117	195,883	17,417	1,564,362

GULF OF MEXICO HELICOPTER FLEET OPERATIONAL DATA

Averages Per Helicopter	2000	2001	2002	Averages Per Helicopter	2000	2001	2002
Passengers per Day per 5 Day Week	13,275	12,029	11,880	Annual Hours Per Aircraft	760	715	644
Flights Per Day	3,821	4,036	4,286	Flights Per Aircraft	2,399	2,333	2,503
Average Flight Duration in Min.	19	18	15	Passengers Flown Per Year	5,936	4,952	4,942

	cause														
	Technical Pilot Procedure Related														
Single Eng	1	0	1	1	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
200 I	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
98-92 totals	7	3	2	6	2	2	1	3	3	2	1	2	2	0	1

FIVE YEAR GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT DATA Injuries

Year	# Accidents	Injury Classification				Aircraft Damages					Aviation Accident				
		Categor	Severity	Classification	Rates	Fat	Min	Substantial	Tot	Acc	Fat	M	# Fatal	1 #	
#	#	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng	# Eng
Year	Accidents	Fatal	Relate	Pax	Cre	Injured	Fat	Min	Substantial	Los	Acc	Fat	M	Occupan	100k
1998	3	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	3	0.66	0.22	0.23		0.22
1999	9	1	2	7	4	9	2	2	2	5	2.29	0.25	0.47		0.62
2000	9	3	2	3	8	8	2	0	1	8	2.04	0.68	0.40		0.65
2001	8	1	1	8	3	10	1	3	2	3	1.77	0.22	0.32		0.54

2002 6	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	4	2	1.490.250.21	0.38
5 Yr. 7.0 Avg.	1.4	1.2	3.8	3.8	6.0	1.6	0.8	2.2	4.2	1.650.320.34	0.48

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