

by EHSAT co-chair Michel Masson, EASA, Clément Audard, EASA, and EHEST Communication SG Leader Duncan Trapp, CHC Helicopter

European Helicopter Safety Implementation Team (EHSIT) meeting of 7-8 June

The EHSIT processes the accident data analysed by the EHSAT to develop, implement and monitor safety enhancement action plans. The EHSIT is composed of five Specialist Teams (STs) on Training, on Operations & SMS, on Regulation, on Maintenance, and on Technology.

Update from the EHSIT Specialist Team on Training

The work plan has changed slightly and the team is preparing to have the following material ready for IHSS 2011:

- 4 Leaflets on helicopter airmanship, risk assessment in training, off airfields landing site, and rotor RPM management and autorotation;
- 2 videos on helicopter passenger management and on helicopter mission preparation including off airfield landing.

A webpage for the publication of the training deliverables is in development and the entire EHEST website will soon be revamped.

Update from the EHSIT Specialist Team on Ops & SMS

The team was tasked to launch the development of a European Helicopter SMS Manual on the basis of the EASA Opinion OPS (Implementing Rules and Acceptable Means of Compliance) recently published on the EASA website. This EASA Opinion pre-figures the future European rules, to be published in April 2012. Ongoing work on the risk assessment tool and on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be completed and the development of other SOPs postponed. The development of the SMS Manual is considered a priority.

Update from the EHSIT Specialist Team on Regulation

The team is revisiting the Intervention Recommendations (IRs) coming from EHSAT work for using the pre-Regulatory Impact Assessment (pre-RIA) methodology published by EASA. New grouping was produced for the IRs: Aircraft Data Recording & Analysis; Inadvertent Entry into DVE; Authority Oversight; Equipment Requirements; Ditching, Water Impact & Survivability; Helicopter Stability and Handling Qualities; ADELTA; Airworthiness Procedures & Documentation; Intervention Times; Radio Altimeter Provision; and Wire Strike Protection. Pre-RIA will allow assessing the priority of the associated tasks.

Update from the EHSIT Specialist Team on Maintenance

This team was formed to develop a Maintenance Toolkit to complete the IHST Toolkits series. The document is now available on the IHST and EHEST websites.

Update from the EHSIT Specialist Team on Technology

Design and technology don't rate high on the list of safety issues identified by the EHSAT. But technology can be a powerful means to improve safety as it

brings solutions to known safety problems, including of operational nature. EHSIT ST Technology assesses the benefit of new technologies on mitigating safety issues. Technologies include for example predictive ground collision avoidance using digital terrain referenced navigation, light Helicopter HOMP systems, deployable system for crash-load attenuation, and integration of RFID technologies in helicopter maintenance processes. Recent developments include drafting a description of work, a technology listing and rating tool and a process manual. ONERA, France has recently joined the team and a paper co-authored by J. Stevens and J. Vreeken, NLR, and M. Masson, EASA, will be presented in ERF 2011.

European Helicopter Safety Analysis Team (EHSAT) meeting of 8 June Recommendation for free access to safety data by operators

The team discussed extensively freeing access to safety data for operators. EHSAT commented on the development of the European Central Repository (ECR) and proposed to use the European Aviation Safety Plan (EASp) instrument to make the following recommendation: *"Operators need free access to safety data to implement the safety management principles effectively. The European Helicopter Safety Team (EHEST) recommends that data be collected, appropriately protected, and made freely available to the community. Data and/or aggregated information derived from the data will inform operators and help them address their safety management obligations and safety needs."*

EHSAT database and proposal for monitoring of accidents

M. van Hijum, EASA presented a proposal to monitor European helicopter accidents data. The current EHSAT data could be supplemented with accident classification information using the CICTT taxonomy (<http://intlaviationstandards.org/>). The advantage would be to use an international standard and to create a link with the EASA Annual Safety Review (2010 edition published on 28 June). A group was created for this purpose.

European representation on the JHIMDAT

Beside, M. van Hijum has been appointed as EHEST representative on the Joint Helicopter Implementation and Data Analysis Team (JHIMDAT), recently created at IHST level. Operating on the US CAST JIMDAT model (<http://cast-safety.org/>), the JHIMDAT will centralise, consolidate and analyse exposure and accident data for monitoring progress towards achieving the IHST objective of 80% reduction of accident rate worldwide by 2016.

European Helicopter Safety Team (EHEST) meeting of 8 June

The EHEST is the plenary body fixing strategic orientations, approving plans, and making decisions. Reports on the progress of EHSAT and EHSIT were provided. The work programs of the different teams were reviewed and approved.

In particular, the EHEST approved the recommendation of EHSAT to provide free access to safety data for the operators for safety management purposes. The EHEST also approved development by the EHSIT of a European Helicopter SMS Toolkit, while continuing participation in the development of a helicopter compatible version of IS-BAO by IBAC.

The EHEST also endorsed the recommendation made by the EHSIT to foster organisation of helicopter safety events in all European States.

Finally, the team recognised the need to improve estimates of flight hours and accident rate data in Europe and worldwide. In the United States, the FAA has contracted MITRE to produce such estimates together with the major manufacturers. Data will feed the JHIMDAT work. The EHEST follows up these developments and contributes to the effort through the participation of European manufacturers.

EHEST participation in IHSS 2011

The planning is well underway for this major event of 8-9 Nov in Fort Worth, Texas. Along with B. Sheffield, Shell Aircraft, D. Trapp, CHC Helicopter represents the views of EHEST on the Programme Committee. The theme of this edition is "Human Factors: Our Collective Challenge – Our Individual Responsibility." EHEST contribution was discussed and presenters were suggested. The preliminary agenda and online registration will be available shortly on www.ihst.org.

Conferences

- European Rotorcraft Forum (ERF) 2011, 13-15 Sep, Cascina Costa, Italy. <http://www.erf2011.org/>
- IHSS 2011, 8-9 Nov in Fort Worth, TX, USA. <http://www.ihst.org>
- EASA Rotorcraft Symposium 2011, 7-8 Dec, Cologne, Germany. <http://easa.europa.eu/events/events.php>

Background information on EHEST

The EHEST brings together helicopter manufacturers, operators, EASA and National Aviation Authorities, helicopter and pilots associations, research organisations, accident investigators and military operators from across Europe. EHEST addresses the broad spectrum of helicopter operations across Europe; from commercial air transport to General Aviation and flight training activities. EHEST brings together around 130 participants, from which around 70 are actively involved in the analysis and implementation activities.

Governance

- **EHEST co-Chairs:** John Vincent, EASA, John Black, EHOCA, and David Huntzinger, Eurocopter
- **EHEST Secretariat:** Michel Masson, assisted by Clement Audard, EASA
- **EHEST Communication SG Leader:** Duncan Trapp, CHC Helicopter
- **EHSAT co-Chairs:** Michel Masson, EASA, and Luigi Candiani, AgustaWestland
- **EHSIT co-Chairs:** John Steel, IAA, José Esteve, new EHA/INAER, and Gilles Bruniaux, Eurocopter
- **EHSIT**
 - **ST Operations & SMS:** Stefano Burigana, Elilombarda
 - **ST Training:** Christophe Marchal, Eurocopter
 - **ST Regulation:** Dave Howson, UK CAA
 - **ST Maintenance:** David Huntzinger, Eurocopter

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