

Helicopter Operations Safety Committee (HOSC) Minutes of Meeting – March 5, 2014

Location: Statoil Office – 2 Steers Cove, Level 2 – Cormack Building – St. John's, NL

Attendees:

Ray Dalton (Suncor – Operator rep) – Deputy Chair
Matthew Hawco (C-NLOPB)
Margaret Ann McCarthy (West Aquarius – workforce rep)
Peter McKeage (C-NLOPB rep) – *via teleconference*
Alistair Mellis (Statoil – Operator rep)
Ronnie Moores (Cougar Helicopters – pilot rep)
Steve Moore (Cougar Helicopters – Cougar rep)
John Whelan (Hibernia – workforce rep)
Craig Williams (Terra Nova FPSO – workforce rep)
Don Williams (Husky – Operator rep) – Chair
Andrea Gruchy (Husky – Administrator)
Michael Taber (Falck Safety Services – *attended first portion of meeting*)

Decisions and Actions are in bold type

Michael Taber, Senior Research Scientist with Falck Safety Services attended a portion of the meeting to discuss various projects. Mike presented an overview of offshore related research projects either underway or planned by the institute.

Proposed projects include:

- i. Development of offshore helicopter transport passenger health monitoring guide
- ii. Human factors examination of underwater egress forces required to open an S-92 push-out exit
- iii. Effect of helicopter ditching gravitational forces on dive masks
- iv. Effect on anthropometrics on HUET performance
- v. Position of helicopter and egress performance (surface float position)
- vi. Effect of simulator fidelity on HUET retention
- vii. Optimal retention cycle for HUET
- viii. S-92 life raft deployment functionality

Recruiting is still ongoing for the Post-Egress Survival Study Overview. At least 15 more people are required for the study.

Another study ongoing is the HUET Confidence Index (currently 7 months of data collected).

A copy of his presentation will be forwarded to the committee.

As well for reference, Michael stated that he will be in Newfoundland every two weeks and will be invited to the next meeting planned for April at the Offshore Safety and Survival Centre.

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1. Safety Moment

John Whelan presented the safety moment about Ed Viesturs who is an experienced mountain climber. Mr. Viesturs was the first American to climb all 14 – 8,000+m summits and is 12th in the world. The presentation emphasized the importance of analyzing potential risk when carrying out any task to ensure it is completed as safe as possible.

2. Action Log

The HOSC charter was reviewed; additions were made to sections relating to meeting minutes and committee participation in external events. John has requested minor changes to the wording of how individuals are chosen for the committee. **Don and John will review further and discuss at the next meeting.**

Ronnie stated that a helicopter simulator tour will not happen for at least 60 days due to simulator and pilot availability. **Cougar will create a protocol that will include a cost analysis for HOSC review.** It was noted that the tour could take place in Lafayette or West Palm Beach depending on simulator availability.

Work is progressing with the Skyrouter display on installations. Issues are occurring with the software (screen lock).

A thorough evaluation of OSHI recommendations will take place. Time required to complete the review will be better understood after the next meeting.

Stroking seats: it was confirmed that once a seat is stroked, it cannot be un-stroked.

The Committee reviewed a number of responses by Cougar to questions relating to survival equipment contained with the S-92 Helicopter liferaft. The liferaft are maintained in compliance with the requirements stipulated in the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs). The Committee will review at next meeting the demonstration of launch and inflation of the liferaft during training. It was also noted that Flight Safety Officer Training does not occur on a regular basis but members can participate during the next session. JRCC Joint Exercises are also open to participation. The Committee agreed that learnings from these exercises would be beneficial to discuss with the group. **Cougar will invite HOSC members to the next exercises (2 or 3 people can participate).**

Survitec has been awarded the new helicopter transportation suit contract for offshore. Cougar has signed a contract with Survitec as well for pilot suits.

3. Cougar Update

Steve summarized the 7 Cougar Customer Flight Notifications issued since the last meeting in January. No safety of flight issues were present, however, operators inquired about the battery issue that occurred on February 9. Steve indicated that this was not a safety issue as the aircraft does not rely on this particular system during flight. The 7th notification (unlatched panel) also generated questions about the panel coming off during flight. Cougar

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has requested additional information from Sikorsky about flying with the panel off (further information to follow at next meeting). In the interim, an alert has been sent to maintenance staff.

Steve also presented an update on the helicopter operations statistics for January and no significant issues or anomalies were noted for the period.

Helicopter Statistics Update for January 2014:

Total airtime: 394.6 hours

First response training: 65.3 hours

Missed approaches/turnarounds: 3

Total PAX moved: 2849

First response training: 40 hours

Medevac: 2

Days all flights cancelled:

- i. HMDC Hibernia: 8
- ii. Suncor: 10
- iii. Husky: 9
- iv. HMDC West Aquarius: 7

John brought forward an issue raised offshore regarding wait times for helicopter departures. Workers are sometimes waiting outside in cold temperatures for pilots to complete paperwork. **Ronnie will bring the issue to Cougar for review and will discuss at next meeting.**

4. C-NLOPB Aviation Advisor Update

Peter discussed the recently released Civil Aviation Authority helicopter safety report. Reference is made in the report to the extensive work completed in this region. Recommendations include enhanced safety equipment such as emergency breathing systems for passengers and extra flotation devices for helicopters. The [CAA Report](#) is accessible online for review. **Peter has been tasked to review the report and will discuss the report with the HOSC when review is complete.**

The C-CORE HF Radar Technology Report was presented to Operators in November 2013; it was decided by Operators to pursue other technology at this time. The Committee held a general decision on the wave monitoring for helicopter operations in regards to the use of HF Radar versus Wave Rider Buoys. **Peter or Matthew will circulate the report to the HOSC for review.**

The first C-NLOPB Operational Safety Review (OSR) of aviation safety is set to take place the week of March 10. The purpose of the OSR is to assess the effectiveness of the Operators' safety oversight of helicopter transport in the NL offshore area, and will also review whether the requirements for night flights have been met. **Findings will be shared with HOSC at a later date.**

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5. OHSI Implementation Assessment

A way forward was discussed at the meeting. Time required to complete the review will be better understood after the first session.

Don, Peter, Ray and Matthew will discuss a path forward on how to approach the review.

6. New Business

Some changes to the charter will take place (will be discussed at next meeting).

7. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled on April 16 at MI OSSC. Further information will follow prior to the meeting.