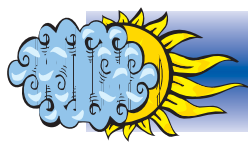


AIR BEAT TODAY

THE OFFICIAL DAILY NEWSLETTER OF THE AIRBORNE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

VOL. 6, ISSUE 3 / FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2008



TODAY'S WEATHER: PARTLY CLOUDY. 20 % CHANCE OF RAIN LATE MORNING & AFTERNOON. HIGHS IN MID 90s.

Aviation Units Honored At Pig Pickin' Banquet



FLIR Systems, Inc. was proud to present the 2008 Vision Awards at last night's annual Pig Pickin'. The Vision Awards recognize state and local law enforcement agencies for their contributions to public safety through the outstanding use of tactical airborne thermal imagery. Vision Award winners were selected from videos submitted by agencies throughout the year.

First place was awarded to the San Diego Police Air Support Unit's Pilot Josh Burkhardt and TFO Kevin Means. This winning entry demonstrated exceptional tactical use of airborne thermal imaging during a complex pursuit including a vehicle chase in which the suspect car's speed

topped 125 miles per hour and the apprehension of four suspects on foot in a crowded parking lot.

Second place went to the Albuquerque Police Department's Air Support Unit. Officers John Skinner (Pilot) and Nick Pearson (TFO) deployed their thermal imager expertly, battling 30-knot winds throughout an extensive vehicle and foot pursuit. After ditching his vehicle, the suspect ran through residential neighborhoods and into a commercial area where he tried to hide in a large storage facility. Skinner and Pearson then used their FLIR camera to maintain visual contact with the suspect while guiding ground units into effective perimeter

positions. While ground units tightened the noose around the suspect, he moved from one hiding spot to another in an effort to evade capture, but Skinner and Pearson were able to guide the K9 search team effectively to take the suspect into custody.

Third place went to the Texas Department of Public Safety Aviation Unit's Pilot Sergeant Keith Welch and TFO Officer Clay Lacey. While searching for suspects who had tried to steal an ATM machine, Welch and Lacey spotted a suspicious heat source coming from a shed behind a house. They directed ground units to the shed, and the officer found the suspect hiding inside. The suspect ran from the ground officer, cutting through the neighborhood's alleys and backyards.

FLIR salutes all those who serve and protect within the airborne law enforcement community and will continue to support them with the highest quality products and services.

Upcoming Events

Friday, July 18

0800-1700

Registration Desk Open
ALEA "Hangar" Open

0800-1700

Main Conference Classes
Convention Center

0930-1500

Expo Hall Open

1130-1300

Book Signing at ALEA's Hangar
(Kevin Means & Jack Schonely)

1200-1300

Lunch Crawl in Expo Hall

Saturday, July 19

0800-1130

Main Conference Classes

1230-1400

ALEA Awards Luncheon
Ballroom of Americas-Hilton Hotel

People Get In Line To Dine on Swine



After the Expo Hall closed yesterday, conference attendees filled their plates with the best pork in Texas. Later, they enjoyed some of the best aerial footage of police chases in the country.

Texas DPS Receives 10th A-Star



Texas DPS took delivery of the newest member of their fleet, an AS350 B2, at a ceremony conducted yesterday on the show floor. "The A-Star has proven to be a great platform for executing our police mission, and we are excited today to be adding yet another one to our fleet and continuing our relationship with American Eurocopter," said Chief Pilot Jack Reichert. See the aircraft at booth 733 today.



AgustaWestland sponsored yesterday's Opening Breakfast, and ALEA would like to thank everyone who attended. The Association's General Member-

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Bell Training Academy Makes It Easier



The Bell Training Academy has recently revamped their online registration process. Customers can now see in real time course availability with just a click of the mouse and can now pay for training courses by credit card. Having the ability to see courses will assist the customers with a smooth and expeditious process. These changes in the website are just one small example of

Bell's dedication to you, the customer.

Bell Helicopter is now offering career training through SLM Financial, a Sallie Mae Company. If a customer desires to attend the Bell Helicopter Training Academy (BTA), he or she can now achieve their flight training goals with a SLM career training loan. Visit booth 811 or contact Patrick Crippen at 817-280-8053 for more information.



Congratulations

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AIR SUPPORT UNIT

Protecting the citizens of Houston from the air is a demanding job on both man and machine. Since 1976, the HPD Air Support Unit has logged more than 180,000 hours in turbine-powered rotorcraft. We salute your outstanding performance and are proud to have played a role in keeping your fleet ready for duty.

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Awards Luncheon Tomorrow at 12:30

Don't miss tomorrow's 38th Annual Awards Luncheon with guest speaker, Congressman Ted Poe (R-Texas). The luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the Ballroom of the Americas D/E at the Hilton-Americas Hotel. Please join us in celebrating the achievements of our members!



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Flight Trackers & SAT Phones On Display



Guardian Mobility has the Skytrax line of products on display at booth 738, including the new SkytraxSL portable flight tracker.



The company provides complete solutions for aircraft tracking including satellite services, message routing, mapping services, alerting and reporting systems. The company is also pleased to announce that they are the North American distributors of the Flightcell DZM, the world's most advanced all-in-one communications and tracking hub. The Flightcell DZM and the Iridium Portable Satphone are on display today.

Presentation Marks Helicopter Purchase



To commemorate the recent purchase of three Schweizer 300Cs by the Houston Police Department, David Oglesbee presents a model helicopter to Executive Assistant Chief Tim Oettmeier as Lt. J. D. Waltman, Dan Schwarzbach, Councilman James Rodriguez and Captain Tom Runyan look on.

URS Delivers Design & Integration



United Rotorcraft Solutions will deliver at least 13 law enforcement aircraft this year. As a leader in design and integration for airborne law enforcement, the company's mission is to ease pilot workload and give law enforcement operators the best technology possible for their hard earned money.

Continuing improvement with night vision lighting and certification of more models of aircraft has rendered great improvements in daylight readability and cost reduction. Stop by booth 724 today for additional information.

Robinson Delivers To New Agency



The aircrew of the New Hanover County (NC) Sheriff's Office will take official delivery of their Robinson R44 today at 12:30. Stop by booth 101 as Sheriff Sid A. Causey accepts the aircraft for their department's startup airborne aviation unit.

FreeFlight Systems Announces New Ownership

FreeFlight Systems Ltd. was acquired by a new executive management team with decades of experience in commercial and military aviation this week. The team plans to build on FreeFlight's core strengths in radar altimeter and GPS/WAAS systems that are highly reliable, simple to operate, and enhance pilot safety. Stop by booth 807 for more information today.

Dueling Pianos Ruled The Night



Late night entertainment was provided by MD Helicopters in the form of beer, wine, snacks and musical comedy of dueling pianos. Souvenir mugs were distributed to all attendees.

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Safety Symposium Needs You



In Room 350B tomorrow, ALEA will present its Safety Symposium to review the ALEA Safety First program, the work of the International Helicopter Safety Team, and the new Safety Management System program. Members will be given an opportunity to share safety challenges and successes in their own units. See you at 8 a.m. at the GRB Convention Center.

CLASS ACTS for TODAY:

Friday, July 18, 2008

1330-1500
Mountain Flying Techniques
Room 360A

1530-1700
Aerial Firefighting - new class
Room 360A

(Please see Program Guide for more classes.)

Make Plans To Attend Next Year's ALEA Conference

The Savannah-Chatham (GA) Metropolitan Police Department will host the 39th Annual ALEA Conference and Exposition during the week of July 22-25, 2009. Aside from the great educational and networking opportunities, you're sure to love the city of Savannah and all it has to offer. If you're a golfer, Hilton Head is only a 30-minute drive away!

Mark your calendar and be sure to check our website, www.alea.org, for complete details later this year.

TAS Completes Aircraft For Volusia County



Texas Aviation Services announced yesterday the delivery of a completed Bell 407 to Volusia County (FL) Sheriff's Department. This new Bell 407 is one of three to be used for the Sheriff's emergency medical and law enforcement air support. Shirley Harvey and Grayson Barrows are available at booth 210 today to share info about what TAS can do for your agency.

Axsys Customer Signs Deal



Deputy Chief Rodney Rancier, Commander of the Special Operations Division of the Dekalb County (GA) Police Department, is happy about their acquisition of three multi-sensor stabilized camera systems. The department is scheduled to take delivery of three A-Stars next year.



Stop by booth 233 today for your aircraft lighting needs.