

El Salvador Gets R44 Police Helicopter

Robinson delivered El Salvador's first R44 Police Helicopter to the country's National Police during a ceremony in San Salvador on June 25. Helica, S.A. de C.V., Robinson's authorized dealer for El Salvador, was represented by Rogelio Pena who officially handed the keys to Police General Director Ricardo Menessas.

"The National Police had three turbine helicopters, but they could afford to fly them two hours a week," Helica President Rogelio Pena said. "With the low cost of operating the R44, they will be able to fly *two hours a night* and the turbines will remain on call."

Pena brought the National Police Director to Torrance, California to visit the Robinson factory, meet with Robinson Product Support VP Kurt Robinson, and fly with the El Monte Police Department on a night patrol in their R44 Police Helicopter. It was this visit that sold the National Police on the R44, Pena said.

"Originally, the pilots did not want a piston helicopter because all of them were ex Air Force and were accustomed to turbines," Pena explained. *(continued on page 2)*



El Salvador National Police Pilots received training at RHC.

Raven IIs Delivered to Rwanda for Sightseeing



Akagera's three new R44's prepare for their 2,100-mile ferry flight to Rwanda.

National Airways Corporation (NAC), one of Robinson's South African dealers, recently delivered three new R44 Raven II helicopters to Akagera Aviation in Rwanda.

"These are the first Robinson helicopters to enter service in Rwanda," said NAC's Executive Director for Helicopter Sales Gary Phillips. "They were selected for their performance, reliability and low cost of operation."

The helicopters were shipped to NAC's Service Center at Rand Airport, Johannesburg, where they were assembled, test flown, and

prepared for delivery.

The three helicopters departed at the end of May on their marathon ferry flight to Kigali, Rwanda under the leadership of National Airway's Joe Bodington.

After a 2,100 nautical mile four-day trip, the helicopters arrived in Kigali without incident. "This pays true testament to the reliability and performance of the Raven II," added Phillips.

Akagera Aviation will use the helicopters for sightseeing flights to see mountain gorillas, a very popular attraction for visitors to Rwanda.

Inside this issue...

2

**Raven II Wins
New Zealand Race**

3

**South Pacific Doctor
Uses R22 to Reach Patients**

4

**Piston vs Turbine
NTSB Accident Statistics**

First UK Newscopter Breaks the News

The first Robinson R44 Newscopter delivered in northern Europe was the source of breaking news on its very first day in service.

Assigned registration number G-PIXX, the R44 was certified on May 12, and within hours was booked by the BBC for a news spot.

By the end of the month, it completed three news reports for the BBC, in addition to covering sports and other video gathering missions.

The first call for G-PIXX sent it back to Heathrow International Airport (where it had arrived from the Robinson factory just a few weeks earlier) to film exclusive shots for BBC News of a failed \$150 million robbery.

G-PIXX captured footage of the criminals and their getaway van at the airport cargo center, exactly what the BBC needed for its broadcast.

The Newscopter's first *live* mission was a marathon two-and-one-half hours. This assignment provided

continuous live coverage for BBC Sports at the opening of the horse-racing season at Goodwood Racecourse in Sussex.

"The Newscopter performed flawlessly for us," says owner Mike Smith of Flying TV Ltd. "It's been a big risk to order and equip a Newscopter for the UK; the broadcasters here just aren't used to the concept of affordable high-quality airborne video. But we've made the right sort of impact and fulfilled our quick-reaction promise. For BBC News to call 3 times in 10 days, we must be doing something right.

"I am also happy to report that our work is not restricted to news – we provided the first ever aerial images for the international television coverage of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships."



Mike Smith and G-PIXX are making a name for the R44 Newscopter in England. (Photo courtesy of Rotor Torque Magazine)

Smith offers his aerial video services to television companies that until now had no alternative to the high costs of turbine ENG helicopters.

G-PIXX is the UK's only single-engine helicopter operating in an ENG capacity. At less than one-third the rate of his competitors, Smith is having no problem keeping his Newscopter busy.

R44 Wins New Zealand Race



Louisa Patterson took first place in the "Around New Zealand Air Race" last April. A member of the Team American Express-Over the Top, Louisa and her R44 Raven II were first in the Class A category, which included all aircraft (fixed and rotary) with handicap speeds between 80 and 125 knots.

El Salvador Police

(continued from page 1) "When the director saw the R44's price, low cost of operation, and how well it worked for night patrol, he returned to El Salvador and convinced the National Police that the R44 was the right aircraft for them."

The National Police will use the aircraft for night police patrols, surveillance, and as a crime deterrent in the capitol city, San Salvador.

The R44 Police Helicopter features the FSI 445G-MKII infrared camera system, Spectrolab SX-5E searchlight, and a complete FM radio package with a NAT AMS 42 Dual Audio Controller. The audio controller allows the observer to independently communicate using up to three FM radios at any given time.

R22 Helps Physician Treat South Pacific Patients

Vanuatu is 77-islands archipelago of approximately 1,000 miles northeast of Australia, astride the equator in the South Pacific. There, an R22 helps Dr. Derek Allen provide medical services to 35,000 people on 16 of those islands.

In an area where cannibalism was practiced only 30 years ago, Dr. Allen began commuting to the province of Malampa in 2001. He was concerned that too many people, especially children, were dying en route to the hospital because there was no ambulance service available.

Dr. Allen's patients are poor, living mainly off a diet of root crops and fish and living in villages of bamboo houses with thatched roofs. Dr. Allen is the province's sole doctor, and he's relied upon for the all the inhabitants' medical needs.

He first visited clinics using public transport to the outer islands of the



Dr. Derek Allen sold his home to buy an R22 so he could better serve his patients.

province. But the five to six day commute took too long. "Children were dying in the hospital of treatable diseases waiting for my arrival," he said.

Allen's solution was to sell his house in New Zealand, purchase a second-hand Robinson R22 helicopter

and learn to fly using a student loan in New Zealand.

Now he flies one day a week to his remote clinics and is back the next day to the 60-bed hospital where he serves as the surgeon, obstetrician, and pediatrician. Allen is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Quick Stops

Tech Support Now Available on Saturday

Robinson factory technical support is now available on Saturdays from 7:00 am to 12:00 pm Pacific Time (US holiday weekends excluded).

Tech support representatives can be reached on Saturdays by telephone at (310) 539-0508, ext. 208, by fax at (310) 539-5198, or by e-mail at customerservice@robinsonheli.com.

In addition to providing technical assistance, limited AOG parts service will be available for orders shipped within the United States of America.

Flight-of-Five from Moscow to Gelenjik

An historic flight of five Robinson helicopters in Russia took place this spring. Three R44 Raven Is, one R44 Clipper II, and an R22 Beta II flew from Moscow to Gelenjik and back to celebrate the 100th birthday of celebrated Russian Test Pilot Valery Chkalov.

The Federation of Amateur Aviators of Russia (FLA) officially supported the flight, which took place from April 30 to May 5, 2004. Aviamarket, a Robinson authorized service center in Russia, organized the flight.

As part of the preparations, a refueling trailer and ground support were stationed along the route to provide fuel and service if needed.

The participants carried Thuraya

satellite telephones for emergencies in case they encountered any problems with their GSM standard cellular connection. (As it turned out, the GSM connection worked perfectly.)

The group took off from the Filin Air Club Heliport on April 30. The five helicopters made a lap of honor over MKAD (Moscow Ring Road) and continued the flight toward the sea. The pilots flew along the seaside of Gelenjik and in the vicinity of Stavropol City, known for its amazing Honey Waterfalls, mountain ranges, and canyons.

After following a leisurely schedule to Gelenjik, the pilots took only one day to make the flight back to Moscow.

Frank Robinson Chosen for Cabot Award

The Aero Club of New England presented its prestigious “Godfrey L. Cabot” Award to Frank Robinson at a gala luncheon in Boston, Mass. on June 11, 2004.

The Aero Club is North America’s oldest aviation club, established in 1902 by ballooning enthusiasts.

Robinson is only the second recipient from the rotorcraft industry to be recognized by the Aero Club (the first being Igor Sikorsky in 1952).

The Cabot award is named for a founder of the Aero Club who served as president from 1915 to 1929. A forward-thinking aviation pioneer and a friend of the Wright Brothers, Dr. Cabot was the first American president of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale.

The Cabot Award is presented each year by the Aero Club of New England in recognition of “unique, significant, and unparalleled contributions to

advance and foster aviation or space flight.” Robinson joins an impressive group of honorees, including past recipients General Curtis E. LeMay, Commander Alan B. Shepard, Jr., Commander Walter M. Shirra, Jr., the Apollo XII Crew, Senator Barry Goldwater, General James H. Doolittle, Frank Borman, General Charles E. Yeager, Robert “Bob” Hoover, the “Voyager” team, and others.

U.S. HELICOPTER ACCIDENTS FIVE YEAR PERIOD 1998 through 2002

Aircraft Type	Total Number of Accidents	Pilot Error	Engine Failure	Mechanical or Maintenance	Undetermined	Fatal
Robinson R22 Series	128	120	1	5	2	19
Robinson R44 Series	15	14	0	1	0	4
Hughes/Schweizer 269/300 Series	73	55	3	8	7	8
MD/Hughes 369/500 Series	63	40	7	13	3	12
Bell 47 Series	76	58	2	11	5	8
Bell 206 Series	141	104	9	21	7	19

Source: May 2004 National Transportation Safety Board probable cause reports for January 1998 through December 2002.



2901 Airport Drive
Torrance, CA 90505 USA
Phone: 310/539-0508
Fax: 310/539-5198
www.robinsonheli.com