

WELCOME



IN MEMORIAM

- For all of our fallen comrades that have given the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty...
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AIR OPERATIONS

DEVELOPING OUR NIGHT SNORKELING WORK METHOD

AGENDA

- HISTORICAL LOOK BACK
- OPERATIONAL TEMPO
- OUR PROCESS
- OUR CHALLENGES
- LESSONS LEARNED



“CAVE FIRE” SANTA BARBARA – NOV 26, 2019

HISTORICAL LOOK BACK

- LACoFD'S NVG PROGRAM WAS INITIATED BACK IN 1976
- IN JULY OF 1977 - WE HAD A MID-AIR MISHAP WITH A CWN AIRCRAFT ON A USFS FIRE

THE CASUALTIES...

- 1 PILOT FATALITY (LACoFD)
 - 1 SEVERE INJURY (LACoFD)
 - 2 MINOR INJURIES (CWN)
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FINDINGS:

- NO FORMAL AGREEMENT FOR MULTI-AGENCY HELICOPTER OPERATIONS
 - NO MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING
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FINDINGS:

- FULL-FACED NVG'S USED
- CONGESTED RADIO FREQUENCIES
- LACK OF SEPARATION AND TRAFFIC PATTERNS

FINDINGS:

- MULTI-SHIP (3) HELISPOT OPERATION RELUCTANCE
- INADEQUATE RADIO COMMS WITH GROUND CREWS, HELISPOT & AIRCRAFTS

AS A RESULT...

- BOTH AGENCIES
SUSPENDED NVG
OPERATIONS INDEFINITELY
 - LACoFD NVG PROGRAM
WAS SUSPENDED FOR
YEARS
-

AS A RESULT...

- LACoFD ALSO SUSPENDED ALL MULTI-AGENCY NIGHT FIRE RESPONSES
 - LACoFD REVERTED BACK TO FLYING NIGHT UNAIDED OPS
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24 YEARS LATER...

- IN 2001 LACoFD RE-INSTITUTED NVG OPS ON A LIMITED TRIAL BASIS
(ACQUISITION OF FIREHAWKS)
- BY 2005 WE WERE FULLY OPERATIONAL UTILIZING NVG'S FOR ALL NIGHT OPS

PIVOTAL FACTORS

- STANDARDIZATION
- PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT
- OPERATIONAL NEEDS
- OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCE
- INCREASED CAPABILITIES



OPERATIONAL TEMPO

- INTERNAL OPERATIONS
- RESPONSE MATRIX
- CAD (COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH)
- RED FLAG CONDITIONS

- REQUIREMENTS FOR NIGHT FIREFIGHTING
- INTER-AGENCY (MULTI-AGENCY) RESPONSE PROPOSALS
- INTER-AGENCY TRAINING EXERCISES





PROTOCOLS

- FIRESCOPE – Firefighting
REsources of Southern
California Organized for
Potential Emergencies

FIRESCOPE GUIDELINES

- NIGHT FLYING RISK
ASSESSMENT
-

GUIDELINES

- LIVES ARE OR WILL BE THREATENED
- STRUCTURES ARE OR WILL BE THREATENED
- EXCESSIVELY HIGH FIRE SUPPRESSION COSTS

FAST FORWARD 2018

- NIGHT SNORKEL WORK
METHOD DISCUSSIONS
INTERNALLY
- IDENTIFIED A NEED FOR
EVOLUTION / GROWTH

NIGHT SNORKELING

THE GREAT DEBATE...

CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC

CRAWL / WALK / RUN



BETA TESTING

- ESTABLISHING OUR OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS
- DEVELOPING STANDARDS FROM THE EXPECTATIONS, GUIDANCE & GOALS
- TRAINING OF THE CREW

OPS PARAMETERS

- NIGHT SNORKELING IS AN INTERIM OP UNTIL THE GROUND-FILL HELISPOT SOURCE IS ESTABLISHED...
(UNLESS THE WATER SOURCE IS TOO FAR AWAY)

OPS PARAMETERS

- HAWKS LAUNCH FROM BASE WITH WATER IF POSSIBLE
- FIREHAWK'S NIGHT SNORKEL ONLY

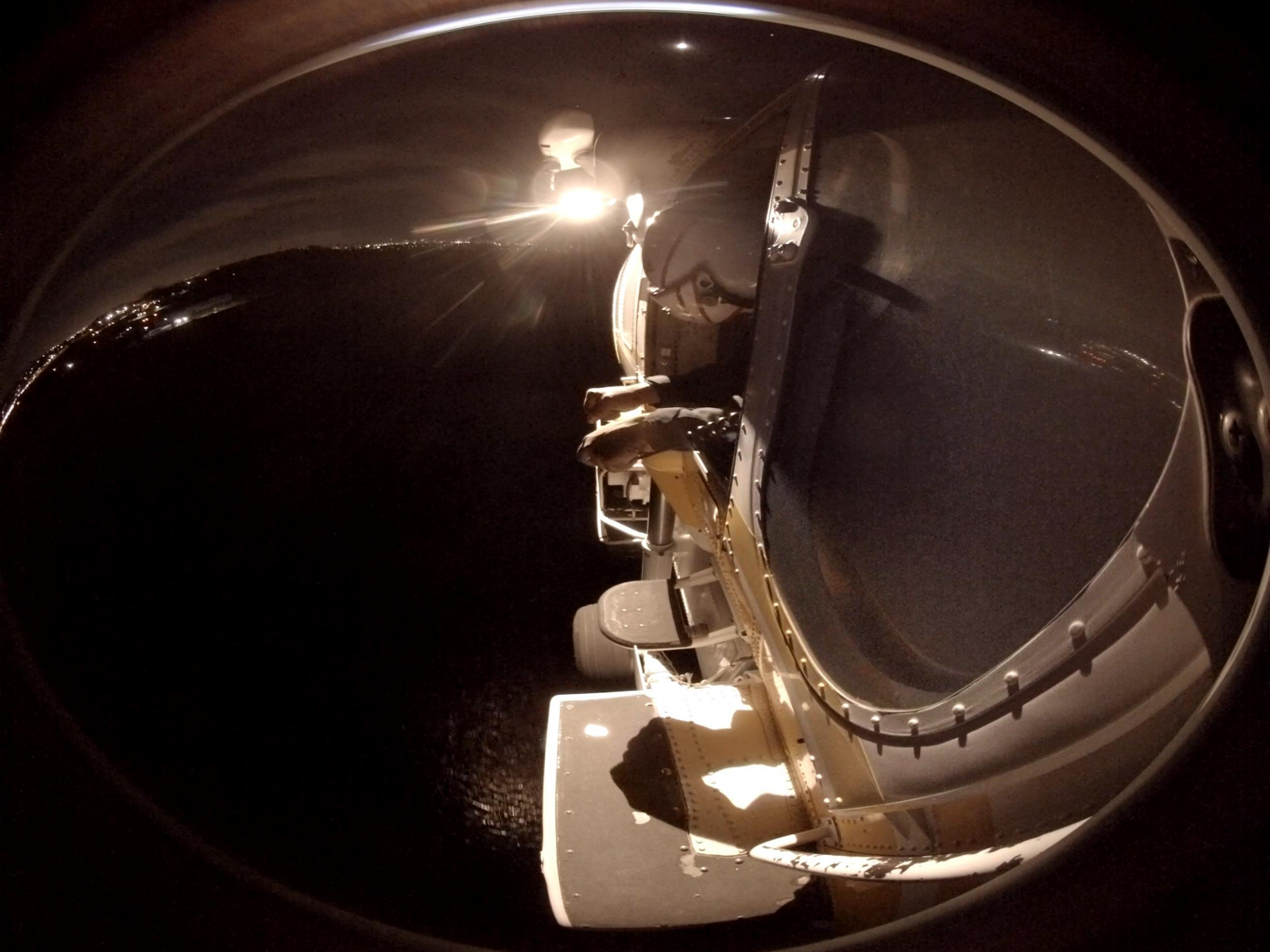
(NO BELL 412 NIGHT SNORKEL)

CHALLENGES (ALL)

- SNORKEL SITES
- LIMITATIONS
- CRM
- FATIGUE
- MISSION CREEP

CRM IS KEY

- PF -
 - CREWCHIEF -
 - BACKSEATER -
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CHALLENGES (ALL)

- OPEN BODY WATER SOURCE
 - HARD TANKS
 - SOFT TANKS
 - AQUEDUCTS
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MARC 1



MARC 1



LESSONS LEARNED

- KNOWN VS. UNKNOWN SITES
- ASSIGNED CREWMEMBERS VS. QR (QUALIFIED RELIEF)

LESSONS LEARNED

- INTER-AGENCY AIRCRAFT MIXING
- MISSION CREEP

THANK YOU!

