



Independent
MEDIA COVERAGE
2009 event



AIR BEAT

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SWORN vs. NON-SWORN
in the Police Airborne Mission



PAVCon

POLICE AVIATION CONFERENCE

POLICE AVIATION CONFERENCE 2009 RECAP

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Photos courtesy of Bryn Elliott of Police Aviation News



Airborne law enforcement personnel from around the world gathered at the Prince Regent Hotel in London, England, on Sept. 16-17 for PAVCon 2009, a police aviation conference. Delegates from England, France, Belgium, Germany, Australia, South Africa and the U. S. met for an educational seminar, exposition and networking events.

ALEA was especially well represented. Chief Financial Officer Dan Schwarzbach presented the opening address of the conference. Schwarzbach's address highlighted the many benefits of ALEA membership. Covering the history of the association, the educational opportunities and exceptional networking opportunities, Schwarzbach warmly invited and encouraged all participants to consider joining ALEA. Dan pointed out that many airborne law enforcement units, regardless of country, face the same issues, concerns and difficulties. ALEA is truly an international organization, and a strong European presence is welcome.

ALEA member and retired Lieutenant Glenn Daley of the NYPD presented a popular "High Rise Rescue" seminar, and it was well received. Many European air support units are considering adding hoists (known internationally as winches) and were interested in the procedures and techniques used in this challenging mission. ALEA member and retired Chief Pilot Ken Solosky of the NYPD made two presentations, one on planning for major events utilizing airborne law enforcement resources and the other on the nature and circumstances of U. S. airborne law enforcement accidents. With the London 2012 Olympics rapidly approaching, many air support unit representatives were interested in learning of the success and failures of the NYPD Aviation Unit in meeting their large planned events.



By all accounts, ALEA members were a hit, and many attendees expressed their commitment to joining the association when they returned home to their resident countries. Other presentations included fixed-wing operations, profiles of French Police Air Support, search and rescue in the Basque Region of Spain, operations and equipment of the Belgian Air Support Unit, unmanned aerial systems and vendor/manufacture updates.

A special treat of the conference was a guided tour of the London

Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit at Lippitts Hill. Built on the grounds of a former World War II prisoner-of-war camp, the Metropolitan Police proudly displayed one of their EC-145 aircraft and showcased their impressive downlink capability. Within a year or so, every ground police and fire vehicle in London will have a downlink receiver and be able to take advantage of this exceptional capability.

In addition to the wonderful educational opportunities, perhaps the great-

est success of PAVCon was the networking and friendships that were developed from around the world. The airborne law enforcement fraternity was evident every night, as attendees met in pubs, restaurants and lounges around London enjoying friendship and camaraderie.


Many attendees expressed their sentiments that PAVCon 2009 was a huge success. This was evident by many delegates already planning to attend PAVCon 2010 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. 



Image Added



DECEMBER 2009

SKY WATCH REPORT

Editor Arnold Parker

*A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our readers.
Kind regards, Arnold Parker*

“PAvCon” SUPERB POLICE AVIATION CONFERENCE



Archie Liggat, Chief Pilot SWCAP Lowland Unit, spoke about SWCAP and how low cost light aircraft can carry out an effective role in air observation and search.

Archie, a British Airways captain had just flown a long-haul jet into Heathrow from Dallas Texas, and came direct to the Conference to make his presentation.

The conference at Prince Regent Hotel, Woodford Green in London can only be described as excellent.

Organised by Bryn Elliott (Editor Police Aviation News) a wealth of international speakers all made excellent presentations ... Dan Schwarzbach (Houston Police Air Support Texas), Glenn Daley, New York Police Air Support, with important lessons from 9/11 ... Joseba Mendizbal, Basque Police S&R Lt. Col. Patrice Bar, Gendarmerie Air Support, France ... and many others including Archie Liggat, Chief Pilot SWCAP Lowland Unit presenting SWCAP and our Chairman Tony Cowan representing Diamond Aircraft in the air observation role.

Unfortunately I could not attend both days of the Conference but the first day made my 03:30 start, nine hours driving and back home late extremely well worth while. I've been staggering around aviation since 1960 but I learned a stack of useful stuff I didn't know about until PAvCon.

Anyone who is involved in air emergency services who was not there missed out on valuable direct experience reports that would have enhanced their professionalism ... had they been there.

Another by-product of PAvCon was the floating of an idea for an International Emergency Air Services Association, based on the current USA model. I hope this develops.

Grateful thanks to Bryn Elliott for organising this superb event, and to the Sponsors for making it possible. AP