

# Police Aviation News

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PAR



## Japan confirms AW139

## Prediction of 50 police tilt rotors

West Midlands police ride again  
Essex Air Ambulance select MAS  
U S Fire - decisions required  
Police Aviation Conference Report

# PEOPLE

Those in the UK police air support industry with links to police operations in the north west may remember Trevor Barton a Chief Inspector of police at a time when police air support in Lancashire and Greater Manchester were getting started.

Back in 1996 he was noted for a presentation on the intricacies of police command levels - Gold Silver and Bronze – Greater Manchester Police had been doing helicopter down linking for a few years even then. It was though too early for tiny hand-held screens but they did have TVs in Range Rovers being fed with live video from the helicopter.

Now Mr Trevor Halliwell Barton, he was made an MBE, recognising not his police air support skills but voluntary service to sport in Wigan. Now aged 65, he has been involved as a volunteer in the sporting life of Wigan and Leigh for 28 years. His key achievements include campaigning for Leigh Sports Village to be created. [www]

# CONFERENCE

The first edition of the **PAvCon Police Aviation Conference** drew to a close on Friday 18 September after four days of related events.

Speakers and delegates drawn from around the world came together from September 15 at the Menzies Prince Regent Hotel east of London for a compact two day conference programme addressing a range of airborne emergency services issues. This programme drew together experts on operations and technology ranging from the difficulties of undertaking high rise rescue in a real world environment and predicting the future technology needs of operators. Along the way some pretty thorny subjects were aired including addressing the hopes and fears relating to volunteer air operations and unmanned technology. It was a mix of the challenging, the informative and the light hearted and delegates took a great deal from the event – absentees took away nothing. In some instances hopes of understanding and cooperation were returned to the back burner and continue to represent 'Work in progress' that will have to be addressed one day by those that missed the event. In some quarters a great deal of interest – bordering on excitement – was generated at this event, but there is still a long way to go.

There was good level of International police support for the conference but this was not reflected by a similar degree of support from local police — this in spite of the extremely low costs associated with attending.

Initial analysis of completed assessment forms suggests that the location and programme content pushed all the right buttons for an audience of almost industry experts, operators and consultants. The out of hours networking related to the event extended well beyond the daily 8 hour programme and provided an opportunity for the delegates and sponsors of the event to further extend their knowledge of the industry.





The fourth day of PAvCon saw a dozen of the delegates accepting the invitation of the Metropolitan Police to the Lippitts Hill police air support facility for a hands on briefing of their air operations. During the conference Sergeant Richard Brandon the Training Sergeant at Lippitts Hill] had provided an accomplished overview of the likely air support operations for past events and future major events [2012 Olympics] to complement similar papers from France and the United States. PAvCon is currently planning future events both inside and outside the UK with other agencies.



*Straight after the PAvCon event one attendee, Tony Cowan who has a commercial piloting background in the RAF [Falklands War, Nimrod], police piloting and a period as a police Unit Executive Officer set off to the United States on a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowship fact finding tour. His aim is to research and understand how the US undertakes its airborne policing and rescue services. Currently Tony is the President of the UK Sky Watch Civil Air Patrol [SWCAP] and one of his tasks is to improve the acceptance of SWCAP in the UK in the face of intransigence among police forces and some elements of the CAA. In the first few days of his month long quest he met up with many of the prime movers of US airborne law enforcement and their USAF based Civil Air Patrol in and around Washington DC.*

*He met up with Michael O'Shea at his office in central Washington. Michael, a former police officer now works for the US Department of Justice and is in charge of the programme that aims to introduce affordable aviation to those law enforcement agencies without any air support. You can regularly see the result of his efforts recorded in the pages of PAN. In the USA there are some 19,000 law enforcement agencies and so far only some 300 have aviation units.*

*Michael's job is to help those units that don't have an aircraft and can't afford a multi-million dollar helicopter. Those units that have recently tried out powered parachutes [see this issue] and very light aircraft have invariably been helped along their way by Michael's office. From Tony's perspective he can see a direct correlation between the aircraft now being promoted to US police and the service provided by SWCAP. Some of the aircraft being put into service include the Italian Sky Arrow, the Savannah and the Rans S6 - the very class of aircraft operated by SWCAP and available to support such as the police in North Yorkshire. As part of his tour with the DoJ Tony was able to fly in the Tecnam Eaglet, one of the types on offer, and meet up with Captain Paul Hurley Jnr the Chief Deputy Sheriff of the Dorchester County Sheriff's Department. This police department has 37 officers and now operates a IPC Savannah VG as part of the Department of Justice aviation programme - the direct operating costs of this type are just \$40 per flying hour and the role equipment limited to a Nikon digital camera but all things start somewhere and there was plenty of that around before the UK got high and mighty in its twin helicopters—and they were as thankful for it as the officers in Dorchester County are today. Even a small 2 seat aircraft can searching for missing persons and spotting the cultivation of illegal crops efficiently.*

*Tony Cowan's tour is scheduled to last a month and will take in meetings with the ALEA and others that were set up during the PAvCon event in September. [www.wcmt.org.uk](http://www.wcmt.org.uk)*



## DIARY

3-7 October 2009 The 116<sup>th</sup> Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police [IACP] Conference and Exposition Denver, Colorado, USA. Contact Erin Vermilye at [Vermilye@theiacp.org](mailto:Vermilye@theiacp.org).

20-22 October 2009 NBAA. NBAA 62nd Annual Meeting & Convention (NBAA2009) – Orlando, FL

26-28 October 2009 Association of Air Medical Services [AAMS] Annual Conference and Exposition. San Jose, California. The annual AMTC provides up-to-date information on the latest techniques and innovative approaches to air medical practice from community experts while giving attendees lots of opportunities to earn continuing education credits. Top-notch keynoters and expanded educational offerings (including mechanics technical briefings, special information exchanges, new clinical sessions, scientific abstracts and poster sessions). [www.aams.org](http://www.aams.org)

28-29 October 2009 Secure 2009 The Guoman Tower, London, UK [www.shephard.co.uk](http://www.shephard.co.uk)

11 November 2009 The Airborne Law Enforcement Association (ALEA) are hosting a Central Region Safety Seminar in Galveston, Texas Link: <http://www.alea.org/public/seminars/central/index.aspx>

17-20 November 2009 Milipol 2009 Paris Expo, Porte de Versailles, Hall 1. [www.milipol.com](http://www.milipol.com) Over the past 25 years Milipol has promoted the importance of the different aspects of internal State security. Right from its first edition, Milipol has made news by putting the spotlight on innovation. In addition, in response to requests from security professionals, Milipol is organising a conference on Monday 16 November which will cover key subjects and issues of internal State security. The conference will also be an opportunity to meet leaders and experts from the sector.

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**17 and 18 November 2009, Radisson SAS Portman Hotel, London, UK**