

CHC Helicopter Backgrounder



Company Overview

CHC Helicopter's unmatched helicopter services enable people around the world to go further, do more and travel home safely. It demands our best—every moment, every day—even as we regularly raise the standards for what we do. Our global team is talented and passionate in providing offshore transportation to the oil-and-gas industry, flying search-and-rescue (SAR) and emergency medical missions, and delivering maintenance/repair/overhaul and support services. CHC's capabilities are based on unique knowledge and accomplishment amassed from traveling out to and back from the worlds' most remote and challenging destinations.

Headquartered in Richmond, British Columbia, CHC is one of the largest commercial helicopter services companies in the world. However, size is only part of what distinguishes CHC. Our fleet includes some of the most technologically advanced aircraft anywhere. Our presence in dozens of locations gives us the ability to respond quickly, efficiently and safely to customer needs. CHC has decades of experience flying in an exceptional range of meteorological and other operating conditions.



CHC's Global Operations

From the arctic winds and high seas of Northern Europe to the cyclone-prone tropical waters of northern Australia, CHC has been providing search and rescue (SAR) and emergency aeromedical services (EMS) for more than five decades in challenging and hostile environments.

CHC operates one of the world's most extensive SAR networks with aircraft stationed around the world protecting offshore oil and gas workers in the oil fields of the North Sea, the Caspian Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, both sides of the Indian Ocean and the Timor Sea. CHC also provides a 24/7 rapid response capability in two hemispheres for the Irish Coast Guard, the UK Coast Guard, the Royal Australian Air Force and three Australian state governments.

With over 10,000 live operational SAR missions over eight years in the North Atlantic alone by day and night; CHC is the leading global operator with significant experience operating new technology aircraft in search and rescue environment. CHC aircraft are modified with the new technology systems such as forward looking infra-red system, and four axis Automatic Flight Control System with auto hover and rear cabin modifications to meet the demanding requirements of winch recovery and medical treatment. CHC also has extensive night vision capability in a range of environments around the world.

CHC Advantage

- **CHC's All Weather Search and Rescue Service:** CHC's All Weather Search and Rescue (AWSAR) helicopters are based in locations as diverse as an offshore installation off the Norwegian coast, in the tropical north of Australia and around the coastline of the UK and Ireland. CHC offers fully customizable Rotary Wing Aviation solutions for public/government and private SAR services as well as Emergency Medical Services (EMS), humanitarian missions, Para Public and first responder services worldwide. Currently CHC provides SAR/EMS services under long-term contracts to:

CHC Helicopter Backgrounder



CHC

- **United Kingdom Maritime Coast Guard Agency:** *CHC UK averaged approx. 700 live SAR missions each year and have conducted, since the start of the contract in 2007, over 4650 SAR missions.*
- **Irish Coast Guard:** *Since reequipping the Sikorsky S-92A, in 2014, CHC Ireland now averages approx. 1000 live SAR missions each year and has conducted, since 2005, well over 5400 SAR missions.*
- **Australia's RAAF, Victoria Police, Air Ambulance Victoria, Ambulance of New South Wales and others:** *CHC Australia SAR/EMS have flown over 38,000 hours in the last 4 years.*
- **Offshore Oil & Gas SAR services in Norway and Australia:** *CHC Helicopter Service in Norway conducts approx. 350 SAR missions each year and in the last 5 years has conducted over 1500 SAR missions.*

Training: CAE Inc., based in Quebec City, is CHC's long-term training partner, responsible for training more than 2,000 helicopter pilots and maintenance engineers. CAE is responsible for providing general training, pilot provisioning and providing a variety of search and rescue training programs in support of CHC's global fleet. This relationship provides CHC with access to CAE's world class training network, equipment and personnel, and provides CHC with complete control over training.

Maintenance: Heli-One is CHC's maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) segment and the most cutting-edge organization of its kind on the planet. Headquartered in Delta, British Columbia, Heli-One comprises an exceptionally talented, experienced and effective global network of maintenance and engineering professionals. Through its high-value engineering and design capabilities, Heli-One is continuously creating, applying and improving techniques and technologies for conventional and next-generation aircraft, in the process supporting mission readiness, enabling unsurpassed safety and generating superior value.

Current Situation

- The Department of National Defence, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, and the Canadian Coast Guard share responsibility for providing SAR services across Canada with 14 Cormorant helicopters over 356,000 KM of Shorelines. The Canadian SAR system is currently experiencing some operational and equipment challenges due to the age of the current fleet, the area of coverage along the Canadian Shore lines as well as the ever increasing costs for maintenance of existing equipment.
- **Cormorant Helicopter Suspension:** Due to technical challenges with the Cormorant the Coast Guard faces a fleet availability as low as 40%. As a result the Cormorant fleet at CFB Trenton has been redeployed to higher priority coastal regions until at least 2014. CFB Trenton is responsible for a vast area covering the Prairie Provinces, Ontario, Quebec, the Northwest Territories, and parts of Nunavut. Forces at CFB Trenton must rely on the smaller, shorter range Griffin helicopters. This has left a void in CFB Trenton's ability to provide timely and appropriate SAR coverage for a large, highly populated area.
- **Northern Strategy:** As of yet, there is no SAR service station in the Arctic. Currently, SAR services are deployed from CFB Trenton in Ontario and CFB Greenwood in Nova Scotia. Fast response times are imperative to the success of SAR operations and lengthy travel times potentially leave those in the north vulnerable. This is of particular concern as activities in the Arctic continue to increase.

CHC Recommendations

These issues highlight the need to review Canada's current SAR system and consider other service delivery options. CHC Helicopter encourages the Government of Canada to consider other service models, such as those employed by governments overseas who work with private sector operators, to fill the gaps in their current system and improve their overall delivery of SAR services.