

LASER ILLUMINATIONS OF AIRCRAFT - A GROWING THREAT

Police Helicopter Laser Incident In Northern Virginia

Fairfax County Police Department
Helicopter Division



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

A Brief History of the FCPD Helicopter Division

- ▶ Founded in 1983
- ▶ Dual Mission
 - Police
 - Medevac
- ▶ Current Aircraft
 - Bell 407 and Bell 429
- ▶ Division Staff
- ▶ 2010 Flight Statistics



Laser Incident Involving FCPD Helicopter

- ▶ Flight Crew Involved
- ▶ Time of Incident
- ▶ Location of Incident
- ▶ Details of Incident



Effects of Laser on Flight Crew

- ▶ Pilot
 - Front Right Seat
- ▶ Flight Officer
 - Front Left Seat
- ▶ Flight Medic
 - Rear Left Seat



Identifying the Suspect(s) Involved

- ▶ Locating Origin of Laser
 - MX-15 FLIR
- ▶ Coordinating with Officers
 - AeroComputer Moving Map
- ▶ Identifying the Suspect
- ▶ Prosecution of Suspect



Other Incidents In 2010

- ▶ Three Additional Incidents in 2010
 - Details of Incidents
 - Injuries to Flight Crew
 - Apprehension of Suspect(s) Involved



Concerns

- ▶ Risk vs. Reward in Apprehensions
 - Single Pilot Operation
 - Is Apprehension Worth Injuries?
- ▶ Difficulties with Prosecution
 - Knowledge of Laws



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