Effective Training Implementation Techniques for a Compressed Air Helicopter Underwater Emergency Breathing Apparatus (HUEBA)

Greg Onions, Dr. Michael Taber

Presented at EASA – Germany 2011

Presentation Outline

- Background
- Methods
- Trainee Response
- Implementation Difficulties
- Solutions
- Final Thoughts

Background

- First discussion of HUEBA in offshore helicopters (2000?)
- Brooks and Tipton (2001) outline requirements for emergency breathing systems
- Lack of support from industry
- Long process of negotiations
- CAPP meetings prior to Flight 491 in NL
- Post Flight 491

Methods

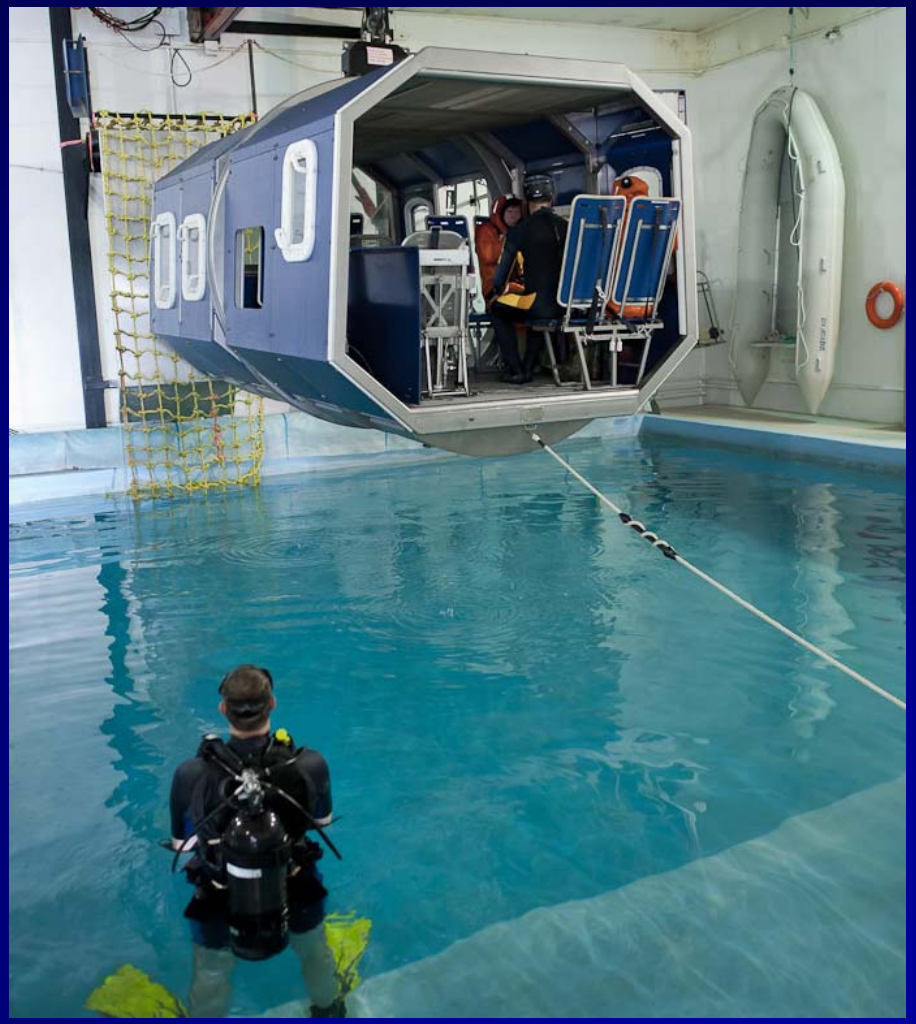
- First 1000 trainees surveyed
- 4 hour addition to existing HUET course
- Imbedded in subsequent training
  - Classroom theory
  - Practical training in shallow water only

Trainee Responses

- Total of 971 responses (97%)
- 361 (37%) additional comments about the training experience
  - 212 (59%) indicated that using the HUEBA was easy and increased confidence
- 437 (44%) indicated that HUEBA was easier to use than other breathing systems (e.g., rebreather)

Implementation Limitations

- No HUEBA training in full-scale simulator
- Organizational management of change



Solutions

- Research and development to investigate use of HUEBA in full-scale simulators
- Education of workforce and operators
- Workforce/management buy-in

Final Thoughts

- HUEBA can be deployed underwater with no pre-inversion tasks
- No threat of biological contamination during training
- Low maintenance costs
- Easy to use
- Does not impede seat harness release mechanism
- Positive workforce response

Questions???