

CASE STUDY 8/2009

SCANDINAVIAN SAFETY TRAINING CENTRE AB (SSTCAB)

Background of Underwater Escape Training at SSTCAB

Recent incidents in the North Sea attest to the importance of improved training in underwater escape training for offshore personnel and helicopter crews. SSTCAB is quickly emerging as the prime provider of safety and survival training in the Scandinavian region, thanks to their investment in quality personnel and equipment.

The MWH-6 is a simulator, which recreates the enclosed passenger cabin and/or cockpit of a helicopter, fixed wing aircraft, boat or other form of enclosed space transported on or above water. Trainees sit inside while the simulator is released into the water and then follow the instructions they have been given on pushing out the windows or doors and making their escape.

Choice of Training Simulator

SSTCAB studied all available simulators and came to the conclusion that none of the other available, traditional simulators could offer the same benefits as MWH-6. SSTCAB determined that MWH-6 improves trainee skills to survive better than conventional HUET simulators. The conventional simulators only simulate an immersed cabin rotating around single axis, usually lengthwise. Most trainees find that the repetition of predictable submerging and controlled rotation does not offer any additional improvement to their survival skills.



SSTCAB decided that they want to be at the forefront of safety training, a status which is now internationally recognized. SSTCAB and its customers are benefitting from safe yet efficient and economical set-up for underwater escape training. Offshore personnel and helicopter crews can now be trained quickly and efficiently with the MWH-6. Step-by-step training can accommodate all types of trainee skill-sets, from beginners to most experienced flight personnel.

The MWH-6 has much greater capabilities than its peers, the Dunkers, METS and other traditional simulators. While the traditional simulators can only be turned left or right in the horizontal plane, the MWH-6 can turn 360° in both the horizontal and vertical planes.

Once in the water, MWH-6 can be taken through any sequence of positions, including turning upside down. And, whereas the Dunker is lowered slowly into the water, the MWH-6 can be dropped in. "This makes the training much more realistic, as we can simulate a real helicopter crash at sea," says marketing manager Anders Henriksson.

Training with MWH-6 in SSTCAB

MWH-6 can also be configured in the form of different helicopter types. It is fitted with emergency lighting around the doors and windows, allowing escape to be practiced in the dark. The first underwater escape training courses with the MWH-6 started in May 2009 at the SSTCAB centre outside Gothenburg, Sweden. Each course provides training for up to eight personnel over a period of a day and a half. It starts with up to half a day's theoretical work in the classroom, followed by up to eight hours of practical training in the water. Trainees are gradually prepared for the underwater escape exercise, to minimize the chances of anyone panicking.

During the exercise up to two instructors are present in the simulator with the trainees, while safety divers follow what is happening from outside. If anyone panics, the instructors sound the alarm by pushing a panic button and the simulator is lifted out of the water within seconds. SSTCAB is applying for Norwegian Oil Industry Association (OLF) membership to offer courses to Norway's offshore industry.

KEY FACTS

1. SSTCAB has experienced that the learning rate is quicker and more intensive in the MWH-6 than in a traditional HUET simulator.
2. SSTCAB calculates that the cost of investment in a MWH-6 is returned quickly, and many times over.
3. SSTCAB offers HUET courses with more ease and speed with MWH-6 than with traditional simulators
4. SSTCAB vision doesn't end with helicopter crews. Aircraft, boats and other craft can also be hit by the same problems, which is why SSTCAB have introduced the concept 'cabin underwater escape'. It is more in line with what can be achieved with MWH-6.

For more information, contact

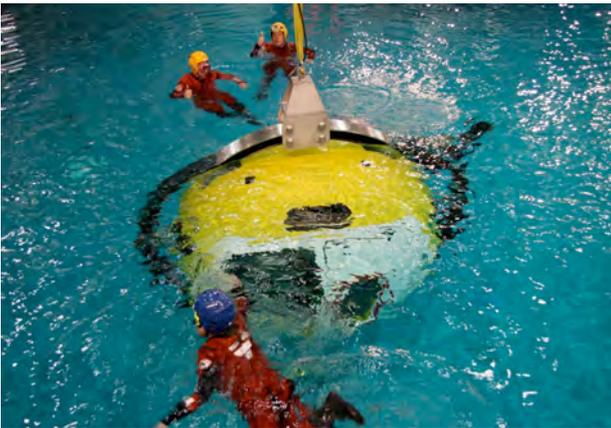
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SSTCAB training pool in the beautiful Kåringön island, 60 minutes from Gothenburg, Sweden



MWH-6 with three hinged doors and one sliding door. Seat arrangement five seats for trainees in two rows, one seat for trainer facing the trainees



SSTCAB training with their new MWH-6



SSTCAB offers a variety of sea survival courses suited for maritime, flight and offshore personnel



A group of trainees going through an exercise with the appropriate survival gear. SSTCAB offers not only training but also sells the safety and survival equipment in their webshop, at <http://www.sttc-butiken.nu/>



