

Helijet Air Ambulance

Implementation of Night Vision Technology



The air ambulance helicopters operated by Helijet International from bases in Vancouver and Prince Rupert are currently being modified to accommodate the use of Night Vision Imaging Systems (NVIS); specifically Night Vision Goggles (NVG).

Over the next couple of months, Helijet's flight crews will be trained in the use of NVG's and they will receive a significant amount of flight training using the NVG equipment to meet Transport Canada's standards. With the support of BCEHS (British Columbia Emergency Health Services) and the Gabriola Health Care Foundation, Helijet will conduct period night landings at the Gabriola Island Health Clinic to aid in the training program.



Without Night Vision Goggles



With Night Vision Goggles

The implementation of this technology will enable BCEHS to serve more patients after daylight hours, thereby improving patient access to a higher level of care. NVG will increase the ability to respond to more locations, more often, while reducing risk to medical crews, patients and flight crews during hours of low-light conditions and darkness. It's important to note that NVG is intended to enhance safety and greatly improves visibility and situational awareness.

Night vision technology has been widely adopted by the military and, in recent years, civilian rotary wing operations, including EMS. The value of the technology to enhance service availability has been proven through several decades of use worldwide. Implementing this technology is one more way we are improving our safety and the excellence of our patient care throughout the province.