



HAI Announces Recipient of the 2004 Agusta Community Service Award

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Alexandria, Va., December 22, 2004—Mr. Stephen M. Hickok, President, Hickok & Associates, Inc. Orange Beach, Alabama, is the recipient of Helicopter Association International's (HAI) 2004 Agusta Community Service Award. This award will be presented February 7, 2005, at HELI-EXPO in Anaheim, California, during HAI's 44th annual "Salute to Excellence" awards ceremony.

Steve began his aviation career as an Army Aviator and later transferred to the United States Coast Guard to fly helicopter Search and Rescue (SAR) missions. After one tragic SAR mission, launching out at night in search of his own father while aided only by the night sun search light, he became the foremost advocate leading to the integration of Night Vision Goggles (NVG) into Coast Guard SAR procedures and use of NVG's by helicopter crews during life saving missions. Steve became the Coast Guard's first NVG qualified pilot, and his commitment led to his selection as the Coast Guard's NVG project officer. Steve's last active duty assignment was at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Headquarters as the FAA's helicopter Global Position System (GPS) project manager.

While serving at FAA he managed the helicopter flight-testing that led to the helicopter GPS instrument approach criteria and commissioning by FAA of the first helicopter GPS procedures. After he retired from active duty, Steve founded the first company authorized by the FAA for the development of instrument approach procedures, accounting for over 95 percent of the helicopter GPS procedures commissioned by the FAA within the United States today. Most of those procedures have been used by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) helicopters to help transport thousands of critical patients to hospitals over the past decade.

Steve has remained active in Research and Development and FAA flight-testing for new technologies and toward enhancing the helicopter industry's all weather capabilities. He has served on HAI's Heliport and EMS Committees, and is currently the Chairman of the Flight Operations Committee. He also served as an advisor to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which resulted in the ICAO issuing helicopter GPS criteria for use around the globe. For more than a decade, Steve has pioneered the establishment of criterion and policy, and the implementation of helicopter all weather capabilities throughout the United States, and has worked in Europe, Africa, and Asia. His commitment and vision of what the helicopter industry provides our society has touched many lives. Steve has earned numerous awards, including the FAA Special Aeronautical Achievement Award and the FAA Award of Excellence, and he has logged over 5,000 helicopter flight hours.