GOOD MORNING HONORED AND DISTINGUISHEDSEMINAR GUESTS

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT MY C.V. INCLUDED THE PHRASE "RESCUED ONCE"…

THIS IS DUE TO MY EJECTION, OUT OF A PHANTOM F-4, FOLLOWING A MID-AIR COLLISION DURING ACM TRAINING FLIGHT.

TWO PHANTOMS WERE THROWN INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN, ABOUT 40 MILES OFF THE SHORES OF ISRAEL, WITH 4 AIRCREWS HANGING UNDER THEIR PARACHUTES AT 10,000 FEET ABOVE. ONE OF THEM – SUSPICIOUSLY – DID NOT RESPOND TO MY CALLS ON THE SURVIVAL RADIO DURING OUR FALL. I ASSUME THAT HE WAS PROBABLY WOUNDED.

THE FIRST CH-53 HELICOPTER ARRIVED AFTER 20 – 30 MINUTES OF OUR FLOATING, SOME 2000 METERS APART FROM EACH OTHER IN LIGHT SWELL, AND RESCUED THE THREE HEALTHY SURVIVORS, INCLUDING MYSELF.

A SECOND S.A.R. SUPER-FRELON ARRIVED AFTER LOADING A GROUP OF STBY NAVAL S.A.R. TEAM THAT WAS REGULARLY STATIONED AT ASHDOD HARBOR.

WHILE HOVERING ABOVE THEY LOWERED THE WINCH DOWN TO THE FORTH SURVIVOR WHO FLOATED ON HIS RAFT. WITH THE WINCH DOWN CAME A NAVAL DIVER, TO HELP IN THE RESCUE. THIS SOLDIER HAD NO IDEA ABOUT OUR FLIGHT GEAR AND HARNESS.

THIS PROVED TO BE FATAL.

THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE, THE RESCUER WAS TANGLED WITH THE PARACHUTE STRINGS, THE PILOT WAS LOST FOREVER, AND THE DIVER WAS BARELY RESCUED USING MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION.

THIS WAS FRIDAY, JUNE '72.

ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, BRIG-GEN BENNY PELED, WHO COMMANDED THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE AT THE TIME, ORDERED THE FOUNDING OF AN AIR-FORCE ORIENTED AND AIR-FORCE CONTROLLED S.A.R. UNIT.

THIS IS HOW OUR SHESH-SHESH-TESHA (6-6-9) S.A.R. ELITE SQUAD WAS ESTABLISHED. IT HAD SINCE CONDUCTED NUMEROUS RESCUE OPERATION, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVIL ORIGINATED, WITH PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE, ACCUMULATED SKILLS AND MULTIPLE ABILITIES.

LESSONS LEARNED?

- S.A.R. IS TOO SERIOUS A BUSINESS, WITH NO ROOM FOR AMATEURS;

- BE PREPARED (!!!) BECAUSE IT WILL GET YOU WHEN YOU ARE LEAST PREPARED;

- S.A.R IS A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EVENT, THAT – IN MANY CASES IN OUR REGION – MAY QUICKLY DEVELOP INTO A MULTI-NATIONAL ONE.

WITH THIS IN MIND WE COME TO DISCUSS **S.A.R.** ISSUES, TODAY, IN THIS SEMINAR, TOGETHER WITH **SAFETY FOR OFF-SHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS.**

MULTI-NATIONAL COORDINATION AND TRAINING – ISRAEL, CYPRUS, EGYPT, GREECE – MUST BE EXERCISED AND SHOULD BE A KEY FOR SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT OPERATIONS.

EXPERIENCE COLLECTED BY OPERATORS IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD MUST ALSO BE OBSERVED AND LEARNED.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED OR OVERLOOKED.

IN OUR EASTERN SECTOR OF THE MEDITERRANEAN WE FACE NON-DISMISSIBLE, SOME NEW AND UN-FAMILIAR, MATTERS,. **A**IR **T**RAFFIC **C**ONTROL, FLIGHT COORDINATION AND FLIGHT SAFETY, AROUND AND BETWEEN THE OIL-RIGS, WILL BE ADDRESSED HERE, AND LATER WITHIN OUR COUNTRIES, FOR AN EFFICIENT AND SAFER FLIGHTS FUTURE.

**THE FISHER INSTITUTE** FOR **STRATEGIC AIR-AND-SPACE STUDIES** HAD DEVELOPED A LONG AND FRUITFUL COOPERATION WITH **F**LIGHT-**S**AFETY-**F**OUNDATION – **MED**ITERRANEAN AND WITH CHRISTOS PETROU IN PARTICULAR. WE SHARE THOUGHTS AND IDEAS TO MAKE CIVIL AVIATION BETTER IN MANY ASPECTS, WITH SAFETY AS OUR TOP PRIORITY CONCERN.

WE ARE PROUD WITH THIS COOPERATION AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD FOR ITS INTENSIFICATION.

FOR ALL OF WHAT I SAID WE FIND THIS UNIQUE SEMINAR TO BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. IT MAY SERVE AS A FIRST BRICK FOR THE BUILDING OF REGIONAL COOPERATION.I CALL FOR THE CREATION OF **"FORCE-MED".** IT STANDS FOR: **F**LIGHT-**O**PERATIONS-**R**EGIONAL-**C**OOPERATION-**E**ASTERN-**MED**ITERRANEAN

I WISH YOU ALL A FRUITFUL AND ENLIGHTENING SEMINAR.

THANK YOU

***Eran Ramot*** עפיפון copy

Head of Aviation Research Center

Fisher Institute, Herzliya

+972 (0)9 9510260

+972 (0)54 4646137