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Subject:

Flight Helmets

Distribution:

All DOI Aviation Activities

Discussion:

The Aviation Life Support (ALSE) Handbook lists head protection requirements for both airplanes and helicopters. It is important for helicopter occupants to wear a helmet designed specifically for helicopters. Many helmets, such as the HGU-55 and HGU-33, are designed exclusively for airplanes to withstand ejection and windblast forces. They do not provide adequate impact protection, retention, and noise cancellation required for helicopter operations. Some airplane flight helmets may also carry restrictions by the manufacturer prohibiting their use in helicopters.

Recommendation:

When selecting a flight helmet, carefully follow the manufacture's guidance to insure the helmet is approved for the aircraft. The SPH-4, SPH-5, HGU-56, and HGU-84 are designed specifically for helicopters. Most helmets designed for helicopters may also be used in airplanes and provide additional protection.

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