HELICOPTER UNDERWATER ESCAPE TRAINING



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A PHOTO ESSAY BY ENRICO SACCHETTI
UNDERWATER CAMERA HOUSING
BY AQUATECH



A QUICK HOW-TO GUIDE

TAP LEFT TO GO BACK TAP RIGHT TO NEXT SLIDE

HOLD ICON TO READ SLIDE





OF GETTING MY FIRST JOB AS AN INDUSTRIAL PHOTOGRAPHER FOR A MAJOR PETROLEUM COMPANY.





THE OPPORTUNITY CAME

AFTER YEARS OF WANTING TO

EXPERIENCE LIFE ONBOARD AN

OFFSHORE RIG.

THE JOB INVOLVED TAKING A

1.5-HOUR HELICOPTER FLIGHT
FROM HOUMA, LOUISIANA, TO
TWO OIL PLATFORMS SEVERAL
MILES OFFSHORE IN THE
GULF OF MEXICO.



PRIOR TO THE SHOOT, MY
CLIENT INFORMED ME THAT
BECAUSE I WOULD BE
WORKING OFFSHORE, I WOULD
HAVE TO TAKE AND PASS
A SPECIALIZED SURVIVAL
TRAINING COURSE THAT
PREPARES PERSONNEL WITH
THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
NEEDED TO SAFELY DISEMBARK
FROM A HELICOPTER THAT
HAS MADE AN EMERGENCY
LANDING IN WATER.



THE COURSE IS CALLED





NDERWATER

NDERWATER

SCAPE

NDERWATER

SCAPE

RAINING

I HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT
IT WOULD BE A FANTASTIC

EXPERIENCE TO FLY TO AND
VISIT AN OIL RIG, BUT I HAVE TO
CONFESS THAT I NEVER GAVE
MUCH THOUGHT TO THE RISKS
AND HAZARDS OF WORKING
OFFSHORE, OR TO THE
RIGOROUS SAFETY TRAINING
REQUIRED BY OFFSHORE
OPERATORS TO MAINTAIN
SAFETY.

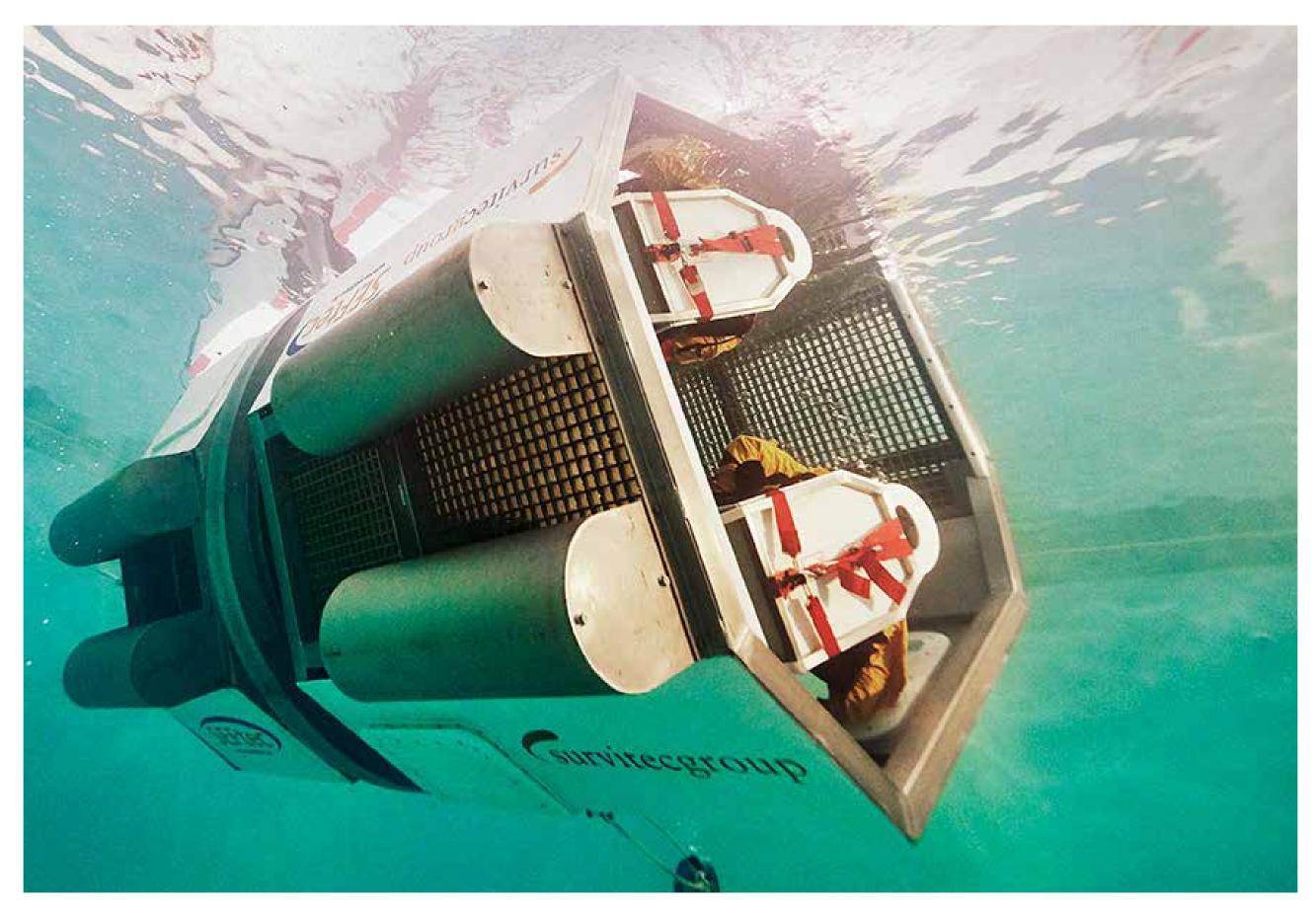


I ENROLLED IN THE BOSIET
(BASIC OFFSHORE SAFETY
INDUCTION AND EMERGENCY
TRAINING) COURSE, WHICH
ALSO INCLUDES THE HUET
TRAINING, AT ALL STOP!
SURVIVAL & SAFETY TRAINING
IN HOUSTON, TEXAS.











THE BOSIET COURSE ENTAILS
BASIC TRAINING REQUIRED
FOR ANY PERSONNEL
WHO TRANSPORT OR ARE
TRANSPORTED OVER WATER
BY HELICOPTER, INCLUDING:



THE **BOSIET** COURSE ENTAILS BASIC TRAINING REQUIRED FOR ANY PERSONNEL WHO TRANSPORT OR ARE TRANSPORTED OVER WATER BY HELICOPTER, INCLUDING:

FLIGHT CREWS



THE **BOSIET** COURSE ENTAILS BASIC TRAINING REQUIRED FOR ANY PERSONNEL WHO TRANSPORT OR ARE TRANSPORTED OVER WATER BY HELICOPTER, INCLUDING:

FLIGHT CREWS LAW ENFORCEMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL



THE **BOSIET** COURSE ENTAILS BASIC TRAINING REQUIRED FOR ANY PERSONNEL WHO TRANSPORT OR ARE TRANSPORTED OVER WATER BY HELICOPTER, INCLUDING:

FLIGHT CREWS LAW ENFORCEMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL AND OFFSHORE OIL-AND-GAS INDUSTRY STAFF

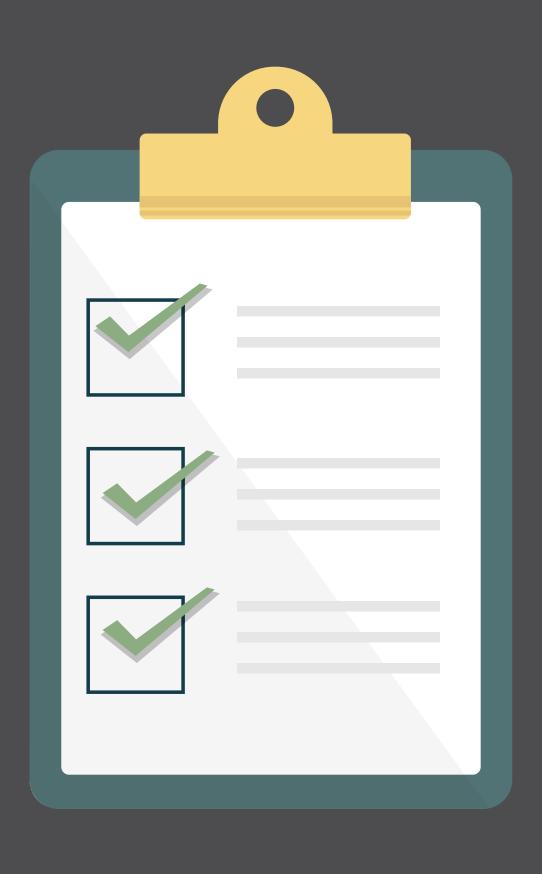


THE COURSE HIGHLIGHTS
THE SKILLS AND RESOURCES
NECESSARY TO **STAY SAFE**AND **PREPARED** FOR AN
EMERGENCY EXIT IN THE EVENT
OF A CONTROLLED LANDING
OVER WATER.

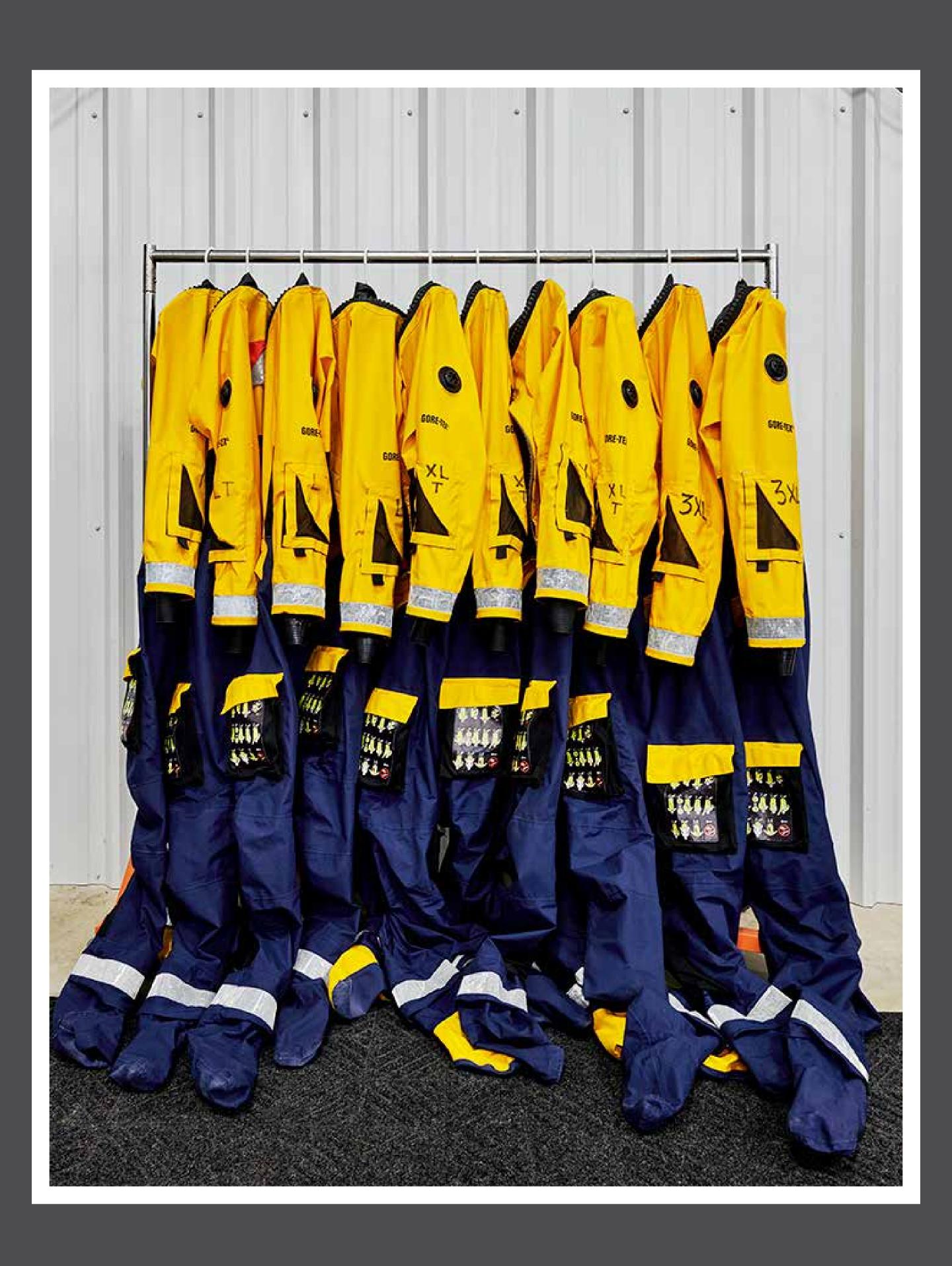




THE COURSE IS FOCUSED
ON TEACHING SITUATIONAL
AWARENESS, THE SAFE
DEPLOYMENT OF EQUIPMENT,
BRACING FOR IMPACT FOR AN
IMMINENT CRASH, IDENTIFYING
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
EXIT POINTS, AND THE PROPER
USE OF SEAT BELTS TO
CONTROL EXCESS BUOYANCY
CAUSED BY THE DONNING OF
AN OFFSHORE SURVIVAL SUIT.









INSTRUCTION ALSO COVERS
THE CORRECT USE OF A
BREATHING APPARATUS,
WHICH GIVES THE PASSENGER
TWO TO THREE MINUTES OF
BREATHABLE AIR TO HELP
THEM EVACUATE THE DROWNED
HELICOPTER.



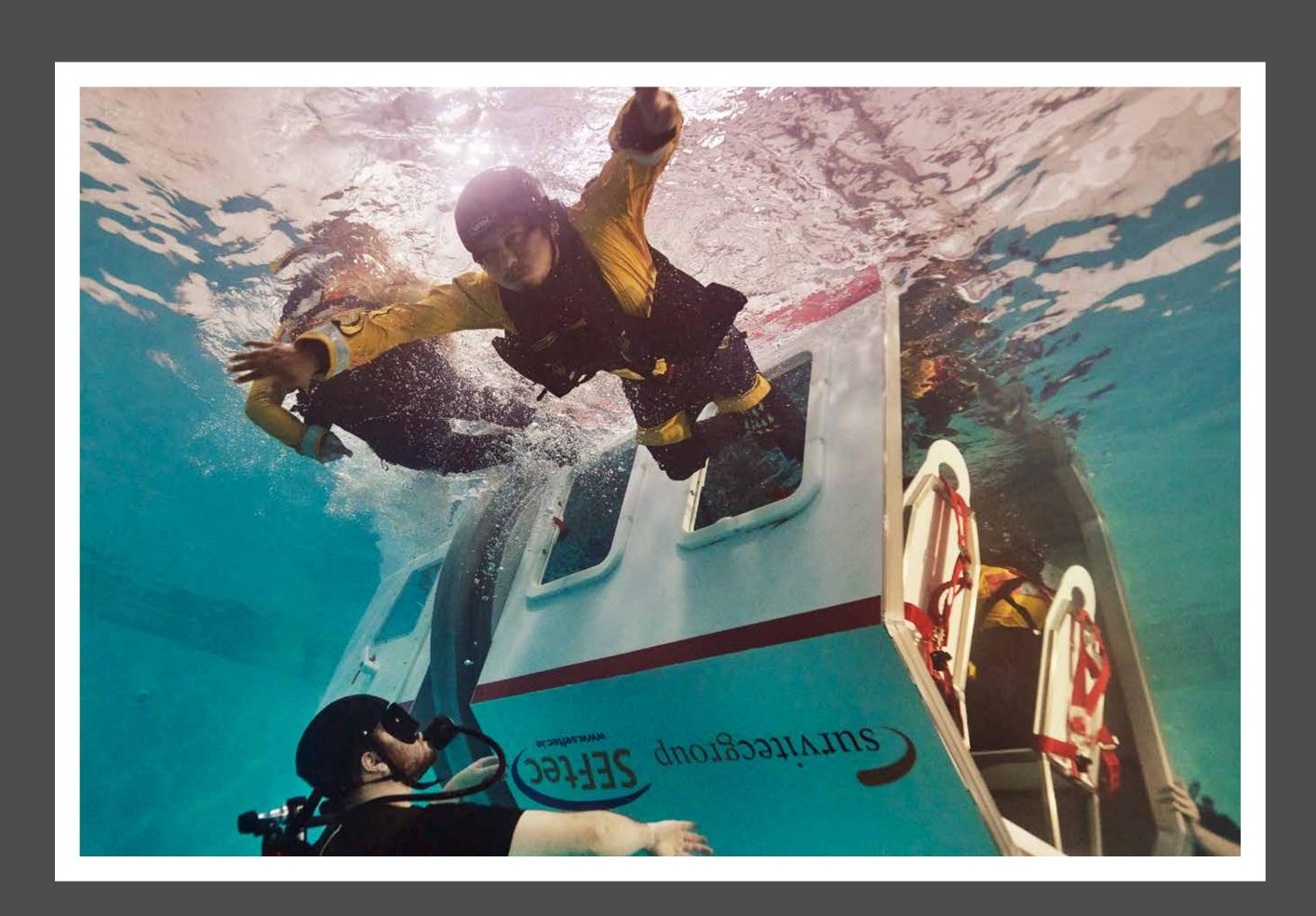


THE TRAINING IS CONDUCTED MOSTLY BY FORMER MILITARY AND U.S. COAST GUARD PERSONNEL IN A PURPOSE-BUILT INDOOR POOL IN A HELICOPTER SIMULATOR, CALLED A "DUNKER," WHICH HAS SEATS WITH A FOUR-POINT SEAT BELT HARNESS AND PUSH-OUT WINDOWS.



INSIDE THE DUNKER YOU
ARE REQUIRED TO PERFORM
ESCAPES IN VARIOUS
POSITIONS OF ROTATION AND
POOL DEPTHS:

FROM A STRAIGHT-DOWN DROP
TO A COMPLETE 180-DEGREE
FLIP TO SIMULATE A CAPSIZED
HELICOPTER.





AS FRIGHTENING AS THE IDEA OF A HELICOPTER CRASHING INTO WATER MIGHT BE, THE SKILLS NEEDED TO STAY ALERT AND SAFE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES CAN BE LEARNED IN THE SPACE OF JUST ONE AFTERNOON.

THERE ARE ALWAYS PLENTY OF SAFETY DIVERS AT HAND TO MONITOR YOUR TECHNIQUES AND OVERALL SAFETY.



THE HUET AND BOSIET CERTIFICATION IS FOR A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD, SO YOU WILL BE GOING THROUGH IT ALL OVER AGAIN VERY SOON.

FORTUNATELY, IT DOES GET EASIER.



HAVING PERSONALLY TAKEN THE COURSE NOW FOR THE FOURTH TIME, I FEEL A LOT MORE CONFIDENT AND SECURE WHENEVER I TRAVEL IN A

WHENEVER I TRAVEL IN A
HELICOPTER FOR WORK —
AND EVEN ON COMMERCIAL
AIRPLANE FLIGHTS FOR
HOLIDAYS.



