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Bulletin

Published:

October 1, 2010

NVG Heliport Lighting

The following guidance is provided by Night Flight Concepts, Inc. The intent of the bulletin is to educate and make aware to the users elements to consider when selecting an NVG heliport lighting solution. More information is available on this subject via email to info@nvgsafety.com.

NVG Heliport Lighting

Heliport lighting is relatively standardized. When operating in and out of heliports with NVGs, the lighting should be modified to accommodate the NVGs. This does not mean alter the standardized lighting of a heliport, only that the lighting should be modified to accommodate the use of NVGs. You'll notice that we are speaking of heliports only and the idea of modifying lighting to be seen by aircraft is not always open for discussion.

An example is tower lighting. Some towers have been modified with LEDs to reduce cost of operation while maintaining high visibility. The high visibility is true for day and night operations but makes the tower almost all but disappear when viewed through an NVG. If apply this thinking to a heliport, the LEDs would make sense. You would have great day and unaided night visibility, and the NVGs would not be adversely affected by the light at the heliport.

Now apply those same LEDs at an airport. Again you would have good day and unaided night visibility, but a transitioning aircraft trying to identify the airport while using NVGs would have difficulty as the airport would not be easily seen. Please understand that the NVG user can easily overcome this issue by looking around the NVGs and viewing from an unaided perspective.

The take away here is NVG heliport lighting should maintain the standard lighting pattern and configuration of a heliport. The only modification would be the type of light utilized and their compatibility with NVG use.

If you have questions on this subject, please use the contact information below.

Learn More

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