

Program PAvCon 2026

Day 1. 27 MAI 2026.

09:30 - 12:30 **Tactical Training for Crews by Harald**

12:30 - 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 - 16:30. **Advanced Tactical Training for Crews by Harald**

Harald Brink (PR Central Europe) is based with the Dutch Police Air Support Unit based at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol-East since 2009 Harald has been a police officer since the early 1990s. The unit operates two satellite offices, one at Rotterdam-The Hague Airport and one at Volkel AFB. The Netherlands operate a fleet of six Airbus Helicopters EC135 P2+ and two Leonardo AW139 helicopters has 32 pilots and 22 TFOs to cover the whole of the Netherlands and a large part of the North Sea (Coats Guard patrols). This last task is undertaken with the AW139. Harald started to work for the police 25 years ago, first in patrol in the city of The Hague, later on transferred to the National Police Force doing a range of duties. Since 2009 he has been a TFO in the Air Support Unit. Progressing to be a TFO instructor and examiner for both types of helicopters since 2012. Harald joined PAvCon for the first time in 2013 and became an ALEA member in 2014. He is an enthusiastic exponent of the networking between ASUs in and outside Europe. Share with and listen/learn from each other, especially in the times we are in right now.

Day 2. 28 MAI 2026.

09:00 - 09:10 **Opening speeches**

09:10 - 09:20 **History of 20y PAvCon and PAN by Bryn Elliot**

Bryn Elliott - Life President (Retired) after spending over 30 years in London's Metropolitan Police [1965-1996] and researching police and emergency services aviation Bryn set up a newsletter for the industry that has now evolved into the free access monthly e-magazine Police Aviation News [PAN]. PAN was one of the first of many such e-magazines to become available and has evolved to cover all airborne aspects of the emergency services. After Alexander Shephard invited him to assist with the programme content of a new series of Police Aviation Conferences in 2006 three similar conferences were organised in the UK and Netherlands [2006/2007/2008]. PAvCon is a continuation and development of the original Shephard formula. After many years of PAvCon, Bryn has now fully retired and leaves the day to day admin to the Chairman and the rest of the team.

09:20 - 09:50 **Presentation 1. Police Nacional Malaga -Subinspector Daniel Gómez Garcia. Responsable de operaciones de UAS y Operadores de EOS de Andalucía Oriental.**

09:50 - 10:10 **Presentation 2. Georg DeCock
The evolution of the Airborne ISR sensor operator .**

George has been involved forever in engineering and marketing of LoS/BLoS Coms, EW, Radar, EO/IR and ISR systems. He presently enjoys work and life as the SCAR-pod and Sensors/Mission Specialist for Airborne Technologies, concentrating on new ISR technologies, and new applications of existing ones.

His focus is on the development of new sensors and customer requirements around the world, with emphasis on technologies that will further enhance the capabilities of the Airborne ISR, and ultimately reduce operator workload and increase mission efficiency.

George is a firm believer in R-COTS for all airborne surveillance hardware and is convinced that the future belongs to the use of small, multi-purpose aircraft and pods, equipped with smartly integrated multi-role sensors. In this presentation he will share his experience and views on the ever-expanding role of the most important entity in any airborne ISR mission: the Airborne Sensor Operator (ASO).

“Single-Op vs. Multi-Job”

The first single airborne ISR operator, Antoine Morlot, helped the French Army claim victory on 26 June 1794 at the Battle of Fleurus, using a hand-stabilized telescope, directing ground canon fire towards the Austrian/Dutch armies from a tethered balloon named ‘The Enterprise’.

For the airborne sensor operator, it’s been downhill ever since... As industry introduces Multi-Mission Aircraft and Multi-Function Sensors, where does that leave today’s ASO? A brief look into the historical evolution of the ISR operator/mission combination is followed by an evaluation of hi-tech systems and tasks, and the plight of industry to help the ASO sort out Terabytes of dataflow while trying to save lives and catch the bad guys. Throw in a bit of AI and the future looks both promising and scary.

10:10 - 10:45 Networking during the break

10:45 - 11:45 **Presentation 3 JAVI LOZANO -Spain**

Importance of Aerial Support in Wildfire management

Javier Lozano , former Canadair 415 , 215T , TRI TRE 43rd Firefighting Group , Spanish Air Force and Rotor Wing Captain . The hero of Valencia .

11:45 - 12:15 **Presentation 4**

2 options already....have to choose one .

12:15 - 13:30 **Lunch offered by**

13:30 - 14:30 **Presentation 5 , GIOVANNI LIGAS , FRONTEX**

FRONTEX Aerial support to Law Enforcement Operations.

GIOVANNI LIGAS is currently serving at Frontex within the Operations Centre in Warsaw, in the Service Management Sector. He works as a Frontex Surveillance Aircraft (FSA) Expert and Flight Safety Officer, contributing to the coordination, management, and operational use of aerial surveillance assets (manned and unmanned) in support of EU external border management. He is seconded to Frontex from the Italian Coast Guard, where he served for more than 25 years as an instructor helicopter pilot, mainly on the Leonardo AW139, with over 3,500 flight hours on both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. I currently hold the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his career, he has held several leadership positions, including Head of a 24/7 Operations Centre, Head of Training, and Head of the Safety Management System.

Regarding the presentation, he will focus on the role of Frontex aerial surveillance, highlighting how aerial assets support operational activities at EU external borders and in the pre-frontier area. In particular, the presentation will cover:

- the Frontex aerial surveillance model, including both manned and unmanned platforms
- the integration of aerial surveillance into law enforcement operations, including border surveillance, cross-border crime detection (e.g. smuggling and trafficking), and situational awareness

- the interaction between Frontex and national authorities, with a focus on coordination mechanisms and information sharing
- the contribution of aerial assets to maritime safety, including support to search and rescue operations, in line with international legal frameworks and fundamental rights
- operational lessons learned and future perspectives, including enhanced interoperability with civil and law enforcement aviation actors.

The aim is to provide a practical and operational perspective, including a few real operational scenarios, on how Frontex aerial surveillance capabilities can complement and enhance the work of EU Member States and other partners.

14:30 - 15:00 **Networking during the break**

15:00 - 16:00 **Presentation 6. FIONA GAFFNEY**

Policing from above: How NPAS delivers strategic value and future capability

Chief Superintendent Fiona Gaffney joined NPAS on Monday 7 July 2025 having transferred across from her previous role as Deputy Head of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit. She brings a wealth of operational experience, strategic leadership and commitment to public service which is invaluable in leading a complex police aviation operation, with multiple national stakeholders experience that will be invaluable as NPAS continues to evolve and modernise..

Fiona's policing career began in 1995 with the Royal Military Police, where she served in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. Since then, her work has spanned multiple forces and specialist roles, including detective work, serious organised crime and regional leadership.

16:00 - 17:00 **Presentation 7. GLENN DALEY - USA**

IIMC Avoidance and Survival

Glenn Daley (Airborne Safety Expert) served with the New York City Police Department from 1981 to 2004. During his 23 year career he held numerous enforcement assignments including assignment to the Emergency Service Unit. His duties there included liaison to military special operations units and as counter-terrorism instructor. Glenn holds a Master of Aeronautical Science Degree from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with specialisation in Aviation/Aerospace Safety Systems and Operations. In 1993 he was assigned to the Aviation Unit in the rank of Sergeant as a Pilot/Operations Supervisor. In 2000 he was promoted to Lieutenant and continued to serve in the Aviation Unit performing the duties of SAR Pilot, Instructor Pilot and Platoon Commander until his retirement in 2004. From 2000 until 2008 he held the position of Northeast Director for the Airborne Law Enforcement Association responsible for the Northeast US and Europe and that brought him into contact with those in the region in what was to evolve into the event we now know as PAvCon. Captain Daley currently serves as a pilot in the New York City metro area. Additionally he provides law enforcement aviation operations and safety consulting worldwide.

Drinks & Dinner offered by

Day 3 29 MAI 2026.

09:00 - 09:00. **Opening of DAY 2**

09:00 - 10:00. **Presentation 8. UWE BACHER - GERMANY**

The difference between LIDAR and photogrammetric for police purpose

Dr.-Ing. Uwe Bacher is Technical Director Reality Capture – Sensor to Solution at Hexagon’s Safety, Infrastructure & Geospatial (SIG) Division. With 30 years of experience in photogrammetry, remote sensing, image analysis, and geoinformatics, he specializes in Sensor-to-Solution workflows, covering the entire process from airborne data acquisition to actionable results. He holds a diploma in Geodesy from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and earned his PhD at the Bundeswehr University Munich in automated image analysis. His career includes leadership roles in international organizations such as COWI A/S and Hexagon, as well as entrepreneurial work through his own engineering office.

Dr. Bacher also teaches Airborne LiDAR at the Technische Hochschule Würzburg-Schweinfurt, sharing his expertise on integrated sensor systems and advanced geospatial processing. He is an active member of professional associations such as EAASI and DGPF and regularly speaks on airborne sensor integration, digital twins, and geospatial content strategies at international conferences.

10:00 - 10:30 : Networking during the break

10:30 - 11:30 : **Presentation 9 - KAPT. GERWIN KRIJGSMAN , NETHERLANDS**

ATLAS Maritime : Working together to protect you .

11:30 - 12:15 : **Presentation 10. JOSEBA MENDIZABAL - SPAIN**

Basque Police ASU 40th Anniversary and 30 years EC-135 Operators

Joseba Mendizabal (PR Mediterranean Europe) In 1993-94, Joseba spent 18 months with the Spanish Foreign Legion Special Operations Battalion and earned the Spanish Foreign Legion Green Beret. In 1995-96 he attended the Basque Country Police Academy, passing out to serve in three different police precincts across Basque Country on police patrol duties and as a bodyguard in a VIP Protection Squad.

Whilst so serving, from 2001- 2003 he entered flight training and gained a CPL (H), gaining entry to the Basque Country Police Department Helicopter Unit. Since 2003 he has flown police AS350 B2, EC135T1 and SA365C3 on police and rescue missions and is currently a pilot rated as PIC for both police and SAR missions with a flight time in excess of 3,000 hours. He has the ICAO SMS course and between 2014 and 2019 was a Board Member of the Spanish Commercial Pilots Guild. He also collaborated as a translator and SAR training instructor with the Argentina Policía Federal in Buenos Aires. He was also a UAV pilot and Flight Group Chief till his promotion. At the moment he is ATPL(H), EC-135 T3H TRI, EC-135 SIMULATOR INSTRUCTOR, flight Lieutenant, chief of training and Deputy Ops. Manager in the UNIT.

12:15 - 12: 30 **Closing the PAvCon 2026 Event**

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch , Networking