

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 2, 2009**

**Crack identified in a Main Gearbox Mounting Foot of Cougar Helicopter's Halifax based S-92**

St. John's, Newfoundland – During a scheduled inspection of the main gearbox mounting feet of aircraft C-GVCH (Sikorsky S-92) based in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, Cougar engineers identified a single hairline crack in the right hand mounting foot of the main gearbox. This inspection took place on the morning of November 2<sup>nd</sup> and followed a routine training mission. The inspection is mandated by the helicopter manufacturer Sikorsky and the FAA through an airworthiness directive outlining visual inspections of the mounting feet every 10 flight hours. Since being notified by Sikorsky of this issue, Cougar has been in full compliance of the directive and has been conducting inspections following every flight of its S-92 aircraft. The Main Gearbox of C-GVCH has been removed and is being replaced. The aircraft will be serviceable following that procedure.

Cougar has informed all of its customers using the S-92 of this maintenance event and is working closely with the manufacturer to determine what factor or factors lead to this crack in one of the four mounting feet for the main gearbox. Cougar has analyzed the flight information prior to this occurrence and can confirm standard operating procedures were followed and that the aircraft operated properly and safely. The Cougar engineering department identified this hairline crack in a timely fashion. At no time was the safety of flight compromised.

Cougar's first commitment is to the safety of its passengers and crew. As more information becomes available pertaining to this issue, we will inform our partners immediately.

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