



**Aircrew operational decision making during
rotary wing MEDEVAC operations – a case study.**

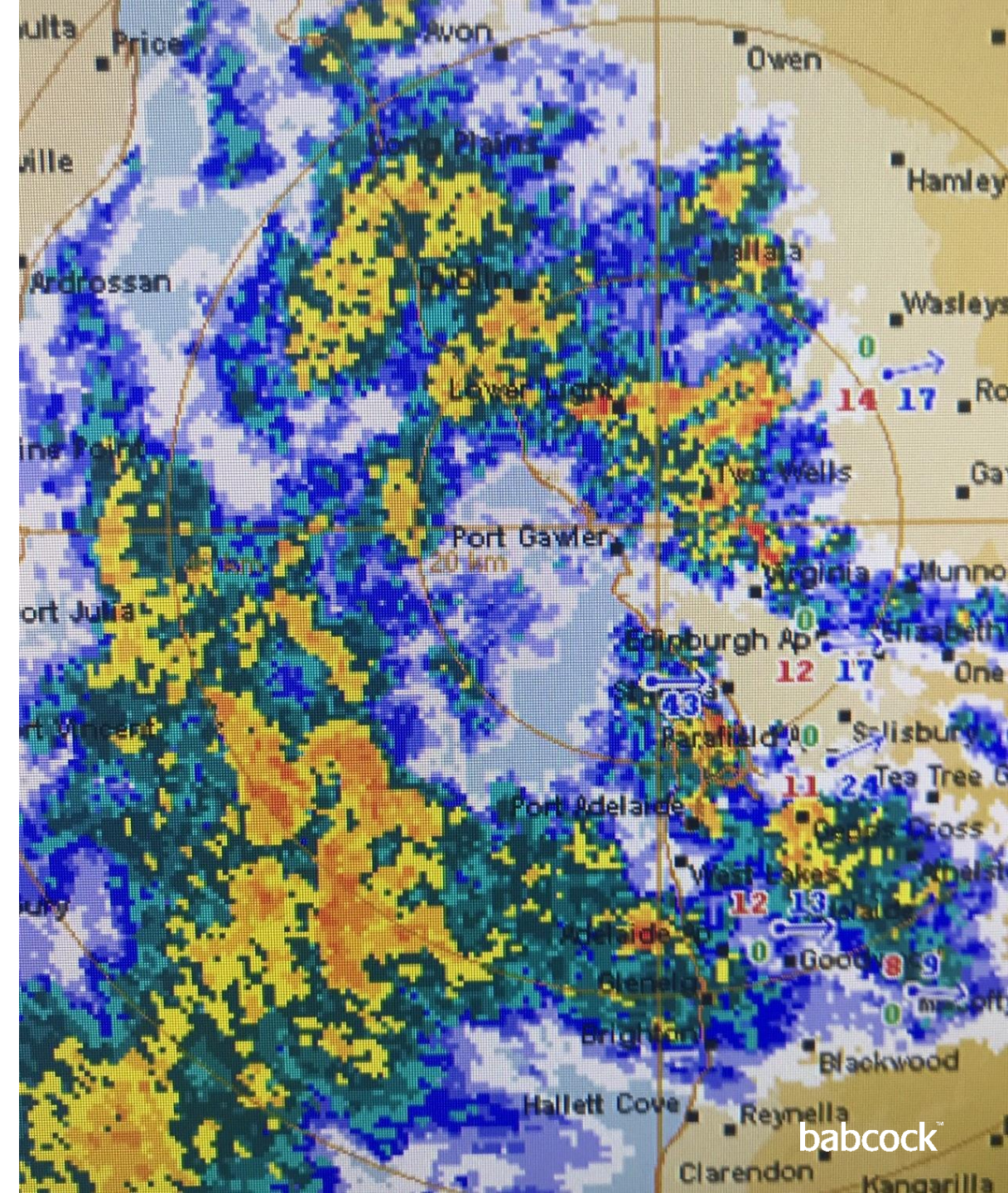
Shaun Willson, Pilot

A perfect day for a fly...



Shift Commencement 5:30pm

- High ambient temperatures throughout area (+40 degrees)
- Strong northerly winds
- Thunderstorms developing
- Last light approximately 8:45pm
- Potential operational limitations as the evening progressed



Activation/Task Acceptance 7:40pm

- EOC call
- Weather check
- **Additional fuel?**
- Flight planning
- Departure: 7.53pm



Enroute

- Strong headwinds
- Thunderstorms observed to the west
- SITREP from scene – multiple patients with critical injuries
- Crew discussion regarding two patients
- Plan A / Plan B / Plan C



Overhead Scene 8:31pm

- Time vs safety
- Reconnaissance
- Aircraft performance?
- Dust?
- Last light
- “Dummy approach”
- Aircrew and medical crew working together



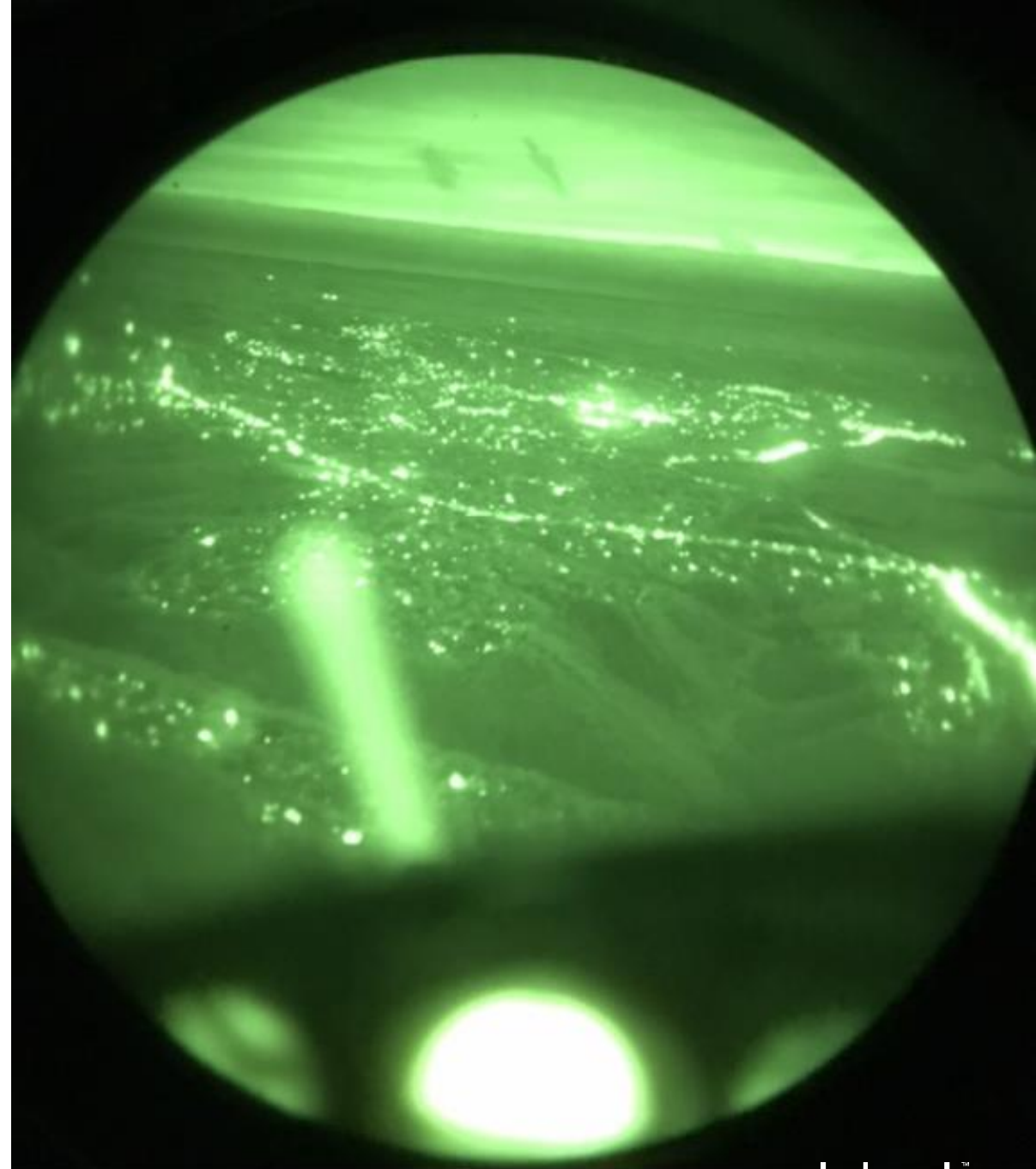
Shutdown on scene 8:38pm

- Complex scene
- Weather update
- Discussions with medical crew
- High acuity patient
- Extended on-scene time
- Continual re-assessment of weather and discussion with medical crew



Return leg to RAH – Departed scene 10:25pm

- Dust suppression prior to departure
- Low level utilising NVIS (night vision imaging system)
- Thunderstorms
- Reports of moderate to severe turbulence
- Plan A? Plan B? Plan C?
- Discussions with medical crew and EOC



Royal Adelaide Hospital Helipad

10:56pm

- Patient handover
- Crew debrief



A photograph of four emergency responders in a grassy field. In the foreground, a responder in a red suit with 'DOCTOR' on the back stands with their back to the camera. To their right, another responder in a blue suit is partially visible. In the background, a patient lies on a stretcher, surrounded by medical equipment. On the far right, a responder in a green and blue suit stands facing the team. The scene is outdoors with a clear sky and green grass.

One Team

babcockTM