

# BELIZE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION

## Aircraft Accident Investigation Unit (AAIU)



## INTERIM STATEMENT

Date:	04 <sup>th</sup> January, 2023
Time:	1719 pm local (Approx.) 2319 UTC
Location of the occurrence:	11 NM /NE of PGIA
Latitude/longitude:	Lat:17°38'31.60" / Long 88°8'32.47
Aircraft (Make/Model):	Bell 407 / C208B
Registration:	V3-AHE / V3-HHI
Operator:	Astrum helicopters Tropic Air
Category of the occurrence:	Serious Incident
Involved States:	Belize, USA

**1. History of the flight**

On 4 January 2023, V3-AHE departed Grande Caribe HLS for Astrum Cisco Base located in Belize City at approximately 5:06 local time. The Bell 407 had 04 passengers on board and 01 crew at an altitude of 1000 ft. Also, in the area was Cessna 208B with 13 passengers and 01 crew heading from Caye Caulker to the Philip SW Goldson International Airport (MZBZ). C208B climbed to 1000ft after departing and contacted 121.0 MHz (Radar Approach). The Bell 407 was on 122.8 MHz approximately 11 NM from MZBZ over Hicks Caye and contacted ATC on 118.0 MHz. The pilot of the C208B climbed to 1200 ft to avoid the traffic when Radar advised him of the Bell 407 at 800 ft. The pilot of the Bell 407 stated that the C208B came within 250 feet in front of the helicopter which was in proximity.

**2. Investigation activities conducted**

Interviews were conducted with the pilots of both aircraft and helicopter.  
Air Traffic / Radar Control Reports were analyzed for the investigation.

**3. Conclusion**

The investigation revealed that there was a lack of communication and coordination between the two pilots while enroute.

**4. Recommendations already issued.**

In draft final report

**5. Next steps**

- a) Review and approval of draft final report
- b) Send approval draft final report to relevant States
- c) Approval and completion of final report

**6. Additional comments**

None