A US Coast Guard helicopter, marked with "U.S. COAST GUARD" and "995", is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The helicopter is positioned next to a large, white, vertical structure, which is part of an offshore wind turbine. A person is visible hanging from a hoist attached to the helicopter, positioned near a red safety railing on the turbine's platform. The helicopter's rotors are in motion, and the scene captures a rescue or maintenance operation.

Coast Guard Aviation Ops and Offshore Wind Energy – Pacific Coast

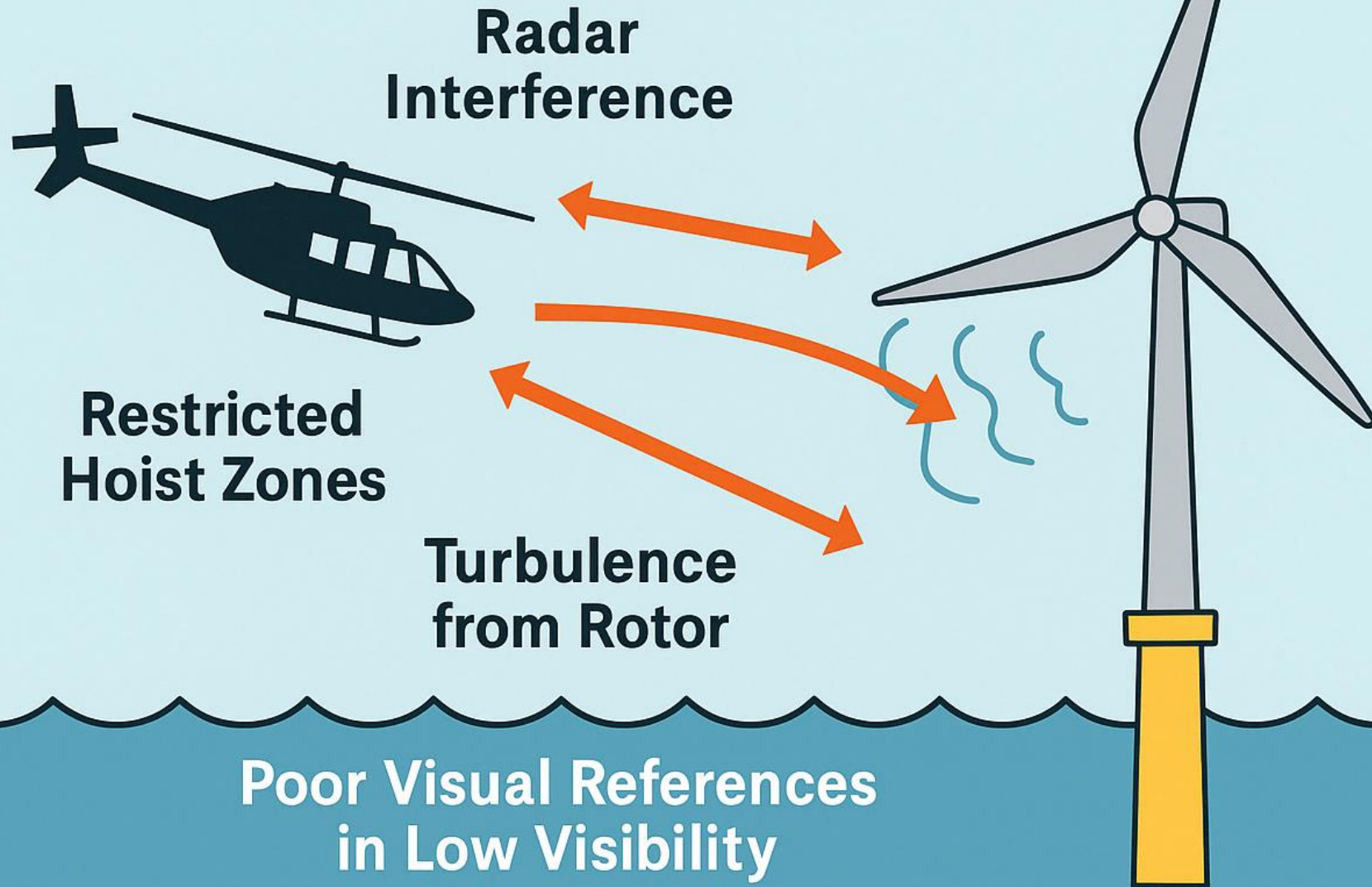
CAPT Scott Jackson,
USCG (Retired)

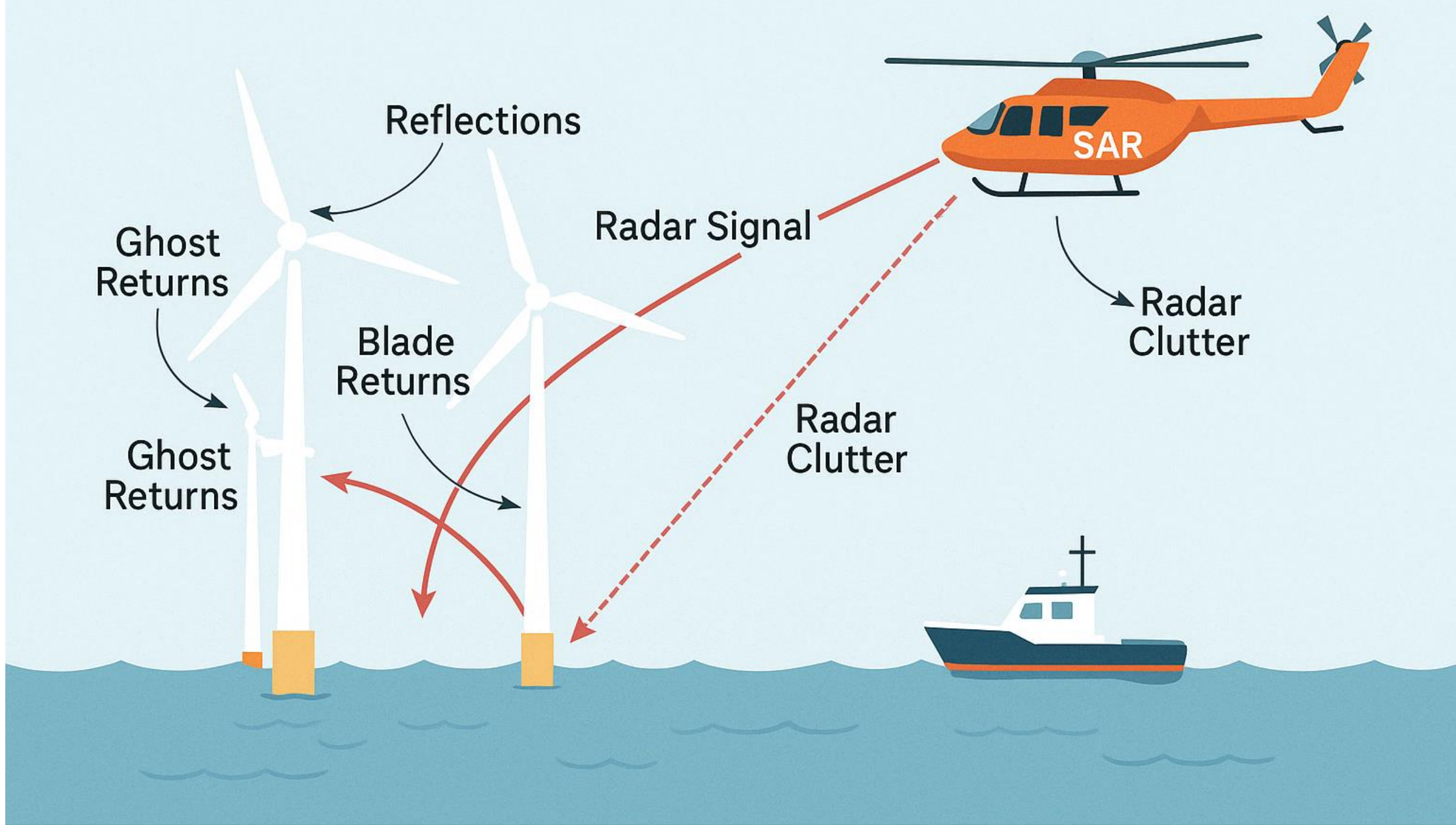
Persistent Aviation SAR Challenges in the Pacific

- Long offshore distances limit on scene time
- Rugged coastal terrain complicates access
- Heavy vessel traffic
- Limited hoist friendly infrastructure offshore
- Navigation gaps: radar clutter, comms dead zones
- Crew fatigue
- Persistent fog, low ceilings, and rough sea states



HELICOPTER ACCESS CHALLENGES NEAR OFFSHORE WIND TURBINES






**TURBULENT
WAKE**

**TURBULENT
WAKE**



**UNSTABLE
AIR**

A large offshore oil rig is shown in the background, featuring a prominent blue crane and various industrial structures. The rig is situated on a platform with several legs extending into the water. The sky is clear and blue.

Key Issue: Increased SAR risk

- Offshore wind construction and operations increase SAR demands and risks
- Delays in emergency response could risk lives
- Existing helicopter infrastructure not sufficient for full offshore buildout
- CG SAR workload already stretched – especially in the summer

Mitigation Strategies

- Designated hoist zones and helidecks
- Visual cues and high-contrast markings
- Pre-coordinated SAR air access corridors
- Industry-funded Emergency Response Vessels
- Radar interference modeling
- Sharing turbine layout data with SAR teams
- Joint USCG-Industry SAR training
- Enhanced comms and navigational aids



Questions?

