



HUNTINGTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT AIR SUPPORT CONTRACT SERVICES

*A PROPOSAL TO:
Santa Ana Police Department
Costa Mesa Police Department
Newport Beach Police Department*

April 6, 2011

Huntington Beach Police Air Support Unit

PURPOSE

On March 9, 2011 staff members from the Santa Ana Police Department, Newport Beach Police Department and Costa Mesa Police Department met with staff members of the Huntington Beach Police Department to explore contract air support services. The meeting was held at the Huntington Beach Police Heliport. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Carlos Rojas (SAPD), Commander Jeff Owens (SAPD), Captain Dale Johnson (NBPD), Lieutenant Bill Hartford (NBPD), Captain Les Gogerty (CMPD), Captain Dave Bunetta (HBPD) and me, Lieutenant John Domingo (HBPD). Huntington Beach Police Chief Kenneth Small addressed the staff members prior to the meeting.

During the meeting, Santa Ana PD expressed a desire to have air support contract services in place at the conclusion of their current contract with the Airborne Law Enforcement Joint Powers Authority ("ABLE") on June 30, 2011. Santa Ana PD was exploring contract services with Anaheim PD (Angel), Huntington Beach PD (HB1) and Orange County Sheriffs (Duke). Costa Mesa expressed interest in contract services but could not commit to any exploration at the time of the meeting. Newport Beach PD was possibly interested in contract services if they could not resurrect their own or another joint air support program.

On March 30, 2011 staff members from the Santa Ana Police Department and Costa Mesa Police Department met again with staff members of the Huntington Beach Police Department. At the conclusion of this meeting, a request was made to provide a written proposal for air contract services.

FACTS

The Huntington Beach Air Support Unit was established in 1968. Huntington Beach was the first city in Orange County and fifth in the entire nation to utilize helicopters in support of public safety. The **primary mission** of the Huntington Beach Police Air Support Unit (HBPASU) is to fly in support of police, fire and marine safety operations. Those operations include, but are not limited to patrol ground operations, surveillances, aerial photo/intelligence gathering missions, observation support for police, fire and marine safety operations, as well as SWAT operations and Emergency/Disaster surveying.

Our **primary goal** is to provide a level of service that contributes to the overall success of the mission at hand. We understand that safety is critical to the successful outcome of any mission, so we strive to operate in as safe a manner as possible in all areas of our aviation operations.





RESPONSE TIMES

The Huntington Beach Police Department ASU heliport facility is located in uncontrolled airspace (non-airport), allowing us to become airborne without the delays normally associated with airport operations. During an emergency response, the aircraft can be airborne within **1 minute 30 seconds** of initial start-up/ignition.

Response times from the farthest southwest part of Huntington Beach are as follows:

Huntington Beach (PCH/Anaheim Harbor Bridge) to Santa Ana (55 FWY/22FWY): 6 minutes 52 seconds

Huntington Beach (PCH/Anaheim Harbor Bridge) to Costa Mesa (Airport Loop Drive/405 FWY): 5 minutes 49 seconds

Huntington Beach (PCH/Anaheim Harbor Bridge) to Newport Beach (PCH/Reef Pt Drive, Newport Coast): 8 minutes 31 seconds

HELIPORT

The HBPD Heliport is owned by the City of Huntington Beach, therefore there is no rental or lease agreement allowing our program to be cost efficient. The heliport facility is rated by the FAA as a Repair Station (Limited) which allows for a wider range of maintenance by our mechanics. As mentioned above, The Huntington Beach Police Department ASU heliport facility is located in uncontrolled airspace (non-airport), allowing us to become airborne without the delays normally associated with airport operations allowing for a quicker response time. We have two (2) full-time mechanics assigned to the heliport.

ASSETS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH POLICE AIR SUPPORT UNIT

The Huntington Beach Police Air Support Unit consists of three (3) MD520N, NOTAR (No Tail Rotor) turbine engine helicopters. The single-turbine MD 520N® is a quiet performer with unique safety benefits. It was the first commercial application of the NOTAR system for anti-torque and directional control without a tail rotor, setting a 15-year mark for safety and performance unmatched in its class. The proven five-place workhorse has been the standard of excellence for law enforcement agencies since it was introduced. Now more powerful than ever, the MD 520N features the improved 450-shaft-horse-power Rolls-Royce 250-C20R for increased performance.

Huntington Beach Air Support Helicopters (HB1) are equipped to assist with modern police work from an aerial platform.

Additional support equipment currently attached and used by HB1 includes:

- F.L.I.R. (Forward Looking Infrared Cameras System)
- Day time color camera
- Night sun spotlight (50,000,000 candle power)
- ATV radio downlink for EOC operations
- Avalex moving map system/GPS
- Technisonic VHF/UHF radio (allows for multi state/federal law enforcement agency communications)
- Tyler Seats for SWAT operators
- Fraser-Volpe gyro-stabilized binoculars
- Lo Jack (Stolen Vehicle Recovery Systems)
- Aerial digital photography equipment (for multiple uses including CSI/Traffic collision investigations)
- Handheld/Aircrew delivered life rings (automatic inflation upon contact with water)

***ADDITIONAL AVAILABLE EXTERNAL LOAD CAPABILITIES**

- Bambi bucket fire suppression apparatus (photo)
- Long Line lifting capabilities (*for use in rescue operations/emergency supply delivery during natural disasters*)
- Horse collar rescue harness (*swift water river/ocean rescues*)
- Life Net (*aquatic rescues/multiple simultaneous victim recover*)

** Above items are all currently available and located at the hanger facility; however, equipment inspections and pilot training will be required prior to their use.*





MD520 NOTAR NOISE COMPLAINTS / COMPARISONS

All of our pilots are sensitive to noise complaints and work to reduce complaints by the community we serve. We typically fly at 700 ft during the day and 800 - 1000 ft at night to avoid complaints while assisting ground units.

Helicopter noise complaints are traditionally handled by Air Support Unit Sergeant. However, with the advent of email and the public's increasing ability to contact city officials directly, noise complaints are now addressed in a number of different ways. Emails, telephone calls, written correspondence are all used to help bring some degree of resolution to the situation.

Many times citizens who were initially upset by the noise are surprised to learn the helicopter was supporting some type of police or fire activity. The interaction that takes place more often than not results in a better understanding of what the helicopter's purpose is and under what circumstances it is used. Many positive contacts result from what was initially a noise complaint.

Compared to the Eurocopter EC120, at an elevation of 800 ft, the noise signature is as follows:

- NOTAR 65.0 db
- EC120 78.7 db

HOURS OF AVAILABILITY / FLIGHT SCHEDULE

The Unit is staffed by a Police Sergeant, 6 Police Officer/Pilots, and 2 Helicopter Maintenance Mechanics.

HB1 currently is scheduled to fly 2,000 hours/year for normal patrol functions. The HBPD Air Support Unit provides 7-day a-week coverage with two (2) 2-officer flight crews. The Cover shift consists of a Sergeant in flight training with a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI). An extra pilot, not regularly scheduled is also available to fill in for flight operations. As of July 2011 the tentative schedule will appear as follows:

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Cover	1300-2300	1300-2300	1300-2300	0900-1900	Off	Off	Off
Nights	Off	Off	Off	1730-0330	1730-0330	1730-0330	1730-0330
Training	Off	0900-1900	0900-1900	0900-1900	0900-1900	Off	Off

Three of the six Huntington Beach Pilots live in town and can be available to respond from home in emergency situations.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The advantage of having three (3) fully operational helicopters allows The Air Support Unit to be available for special events and holidays. HB1 can be available in addition to regular patrol times to provide support during but not limited to the following holidays and events:

- Easter Sunday
- Memorial Day Weekend
- Fourth of July
- Orange County Fair (July - August)
- Labor Day Weekend
- Any major event that could benefit from the use of air support

SWAT

The HBPD Air Support Unit is a valuable asset and often used to support SWAT Operations. The ASU is available to train with the SWAT team to maintain proficiency and promote teamwork.





AIR SUPPORT BENEFITS

- The availability of a police helicopter offers an advantage that enhances the capabilities of officers, fire fighters and marine safety personnel on the ground.
- When a police helicopter is used during a vehicle or foot pursuit, public safety is greatly enhanced.
- The ability to observe and report on uninvolved vehicle/pedestrian traffic, road conditions, and suspect actions brings a greater degree of safety to the event.
- The capabilities of the police helicopter make it an invaluable tool during major emergencies and natural disasters.

A study conducted for the Los Angeles Police Department by JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) determined the following:

- One police helicopter provides a level of service equivalent to eight (8) 2-officer patrol cars.
- The presence of the police helicopter operating on routine patrol was found to be an active deterrent to crime.
- During a major incident or tactical operation, the presence of a police helicopter with a well-trained Pilot and Tactical Flight Officer act as a force multiplier for the overall police operation.

PROPOSED HOURLY RATE

The proposed contract rate for air support services by the Huntington Beach Police Department Air Support Unit includes the Direct Operating Cost (DOC) of the helicopter. The DOC can be provided upon request.

The recommended proposal for hourly service of the Huntington Beach Police Air Support Unit is: **\$700 / hour**

CONCLUSION

The Huntington Beach Police Department Air Support Unit prides itself on professionalism. We are fully capable and prepared to extend air support services to your cities. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further.

Additional information is available on our web site at:

<http://www.ci.huntington-beach.ca.us/government/departments/PD/divisions/uniform/Aerounit.cfm>



Huntington Beach Police Department

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Chief of Police