



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AVIATION

Final Report



# Background

- Public safety is greatly enhanced with aviation programs
- Our environment – large area, dispersed population centers, fire danger makes public safety aviation programs critical
- Aviation programs are expensive
- Subcommittee established to identify and prioritize needed resources and capabilities



# History of Public Safety Aviation

## 1990s

Acquired two law enforcement and two fire helicopters

Public safety flight operations begin

## 2000s

Acquired a plane and two more helicopters

Joint operations established and ended

## 2010s

Copter 3 renovations completed

Board Subcommittee established



# Aircraft Inventory

Name	Model	Department	Year Built/ Acquired	Acquisition Program	Flight Hours	Sale Value
Copter 1	OH-58A+	Sheriff	1969/1995	1033	10,000	\$0
Copter 2	OH-58A+	Sheriff	1971/1995	1033	6,000	\$0
Copter 3	UH-1H	Sheriff	1965/2007	1033	10,000	\$0
Copter 4	UH-1N	Sheriff	1971/2009	1033	10,000	\$0
C-308	UH-1H	Fire	1967/1999	FEPP	13,657	\$0
C-309	UH-1H	Fire	1966/1999	FEPP	14,500	\$0
Air 50	Cessna 206	Sheriff	2001	Asset Forfeiture	1,371	\$175,000



# Mission Capabilities

Name	Model	Dept.	Mission Capabilities			
			Reconnaissance & Search	Water Drops	Rescue	Medical
Copter 1	OH-58A+	Sheriff	Yes		Yes	
Copter 2	OH-58A+	Sheriff	Yes		Yes	
Copter 3	UH-1H	Sheriff	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Copter 4	UH-1N	Sheriff	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
C-308	UH-1H	Fire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
C-309	UH-1H	Fire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Air 50	Cessna 206	Sheriff	Yes			



# Mission Data

	2006 Flight Hours		2007 Flight Hours		2008 Flight Hours		2009 Flight Hours		2010 Flight Hours	
	Fire	Sheriff	Fire	Sheriff	Fire	Sheriff	Fire	Sheriff	Fire	Sheriff
Public Safety Missions	138.4	311.8	196.0	340.6	266.0	257.4	204.5	241.0	91.5	275.7
Training & Maintenance	71.4	88.5	112.2	41.2	80.5	62.6	101.2	61.4	60.8	132.8
Mutual Aid & Other	24.8	59.6	35.0	40.3	37.8	80.6	7.3	89.7	9.1	45.6
Department Totals	234.6	459.9	343.2	422.1	384.3	400.6	313.0	392.1	161.4	454.1
Aviation Totals	<b>694.5</b>		<b>765.3</b>		<b>784.9</b>		<b>705.1</b>		<b>615.5</b>	



# Resources

		FY 2005-06	FY2007-08	FY 2009-10
Equipment	Fire	2 – UH-1	2 - UH-1	2 - UH-1
	Sheriff	2 – OH-58 1- UH-1 1-Cessna 206	2 - OH-58 1- UH-1 1-Cessna 206	2- OH-58 1- UH-1 1- UH-1N 1-Cessna 206
Personnel	Fire	2- Pilots 2- Captain 1.5- Mechanic	2- Pilots 2- Captain 1- Mechanic	2- Pilots 2- Captain 1- Mechanic
	Sheriff	1- Sergeant 2-Deputy Pilots 2-Deputy Observers 1- Mechanics	1- Sergeant 2-Deputy Pilots 2-Deputy Observers 1- Mechanics	1- Sergeant 2-Deputy Pilots 2-Deputy Observers 1- Mechanics
Actual \$	Fire	\$ 899,837	\$ 1,362,824	\$ 1,390,884
	Sheriff	\$ 1,227,026	\$ 1,823,045	\$ 1,275,487
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,126,863</b>	<b>\$ 3,185,869</b>	<b>\$ 2,666,371</b>



# Subcommittee Process

- Established project purpose, scope and tasks
- Accessed existing written documents
- Conducted fact-finding interviews
- Held discussions with Sheriff and Fire Chief
- Report with findings and recommendations
- Supported drafting of an Operational Agreement
- Outlined next steps





# Subject Matter Experts

- Fire Chief Michael Dyer, County of Santa Barbara, Fire Chief
- Sheriff Bill Brown, County of Santa Barbara, Sheriff
- Chief Robert Lewin, CAL FIRE, Unit Chief
- Chief John Winder, CAL FIRE, Aviation Operations
- Captain Dave Kenney, Ventura County Aviation Unit
- Chief Bob Roper, Ventura County Fire
- Dr. Takashi Wada, MD, County of Santa Barbara, Director of Public Health
- Dr. Angelo Salvucci, MD, County of Santa Barbara, EMSA, Medical Director
- Nancy Lapolla, MPH, County of Santa Barbara, EMSA, Director
- Chief Francis Moore, Kern County Sheriff's Department
- Battalion Chief Don Brady, Kern County Fire Department
- Chief Nick Dunn, Kern County Fire Department



# Subcommittee Findings

**Finding 1** - The availability of aviation assets is an indispensable component of modern firefighting and law enforcement.

**Finding 2** - Joint firefighting and law enforcement aviation program with an Operational Agreement

**Finding 3** - Professional pilots, mission specialist crew

**Finding 4** - A single chain of command.

**Finding 5** - Medical evacuations and emergency medical transportation



# Subcommittee Recommendations

**Recommendation 1** - Form a joint fire and law enforcement aviation program in Sheriff's Department

**Recommendation 2** - Operational Agreement includes: aircraft and personnel availability, operational procedures, financial policies and leadership expectations.

**Recommendation 3** - Use professional pilots for public safety flight operations.

**Recommendation 4** - Clarify responsibilities for medical evacuation and emergency medical transport



# Staffing Plan

- Improves quality – Capable of two simultaneous law or fire missions
- Provides two multi-mission copters, seven days a week, eight hours a day
- Staffing
  - Flight crews = 6.2 FTEs
  - Mechanics = 2 FTEs
- Aviation assets
  - Available = Copters 1, 3 & 4
  - Ready Reserve = Copters 308 & 2



# Budget Considerations

- Budget
  - Salary/Benefits = \$ 1,347,369
  - Services/Supplies = \$ 650,000
  - Total = \$ 1,997,369
- One of the least expensive options @ \$343 p/h
- Saving over \$255,000 over status quo



# Operational Agreement Overview

- Outlines:
  - Aircraft and equipment
  - Operations
  - Availability
  - Training requirements
  - Communications
  - Management and supervision
  - Policies and procedures manual
- Between Fire and Sheriff's Departments



# Future Considerations

- Implementation status reports
- Planning for and funding aircraft replacement



# Recommended Actions

- Accept and file the Subcommittee's Final Report
- Receive a report about the Operational Agreement
- Request an implementation status report
- Request the development of a helicopter replacement plan