

Update to the Board of Supervisors

March 12, 2013

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY AIR SUPPORT UNIT



# Mission of the Air Support Unit

The mission of the AIR SUPPORT UNIT is to provide air resources to regional and local governments and on State, Federal and local lands and in related waters; in support of law and fire operations, emergency medical services, and search and rescue operations.

We strive to accomplish this mission within the confines of fiscal responsibility and a strong emphasis on safety management.

# Personnel Status

- ◎ Personnel: (per BOS Staffing Plan)
  - Lt. Bob Mott – Unit Manager
  - Four Full Time Pilots
  - Two Full Time Crew Chiefs (Sheriff and Fire)
  - Two Full Time Mechanics
  - Utilization of extra help pilots and collateral crew chiefs

# Air Asset Status

## ● Air Assets and Status

- Copter 1 OH-58: In service and awaiting “carding” status.
- Copter 2 OH-58: In service and awaiting “carding” status.
- Copter 3 UH-1H: In service and “carded.”
- Copter 4 UH-1N: Out of Service due to major engine issue.
- Fire 308 UH-1H: Out of Service due to inspection/repair issues
- Fire 309 UH-1H: Out of Service awaiting inspection
- Air 50 Cessna 206: Out of Service receiving its annual inspection

# Air Support Activity

July 1, 2012 to March 1, 2013

- ◎ Fire Missions: 18
- ◎ Law Missions: 180
- ◎ Search and Rescue Missions: 23
  - People rescued: 12
  
- ◎ Flight Hours:
  - Type 2 (Copter 3, 4, 308, 309): 182 hours
  - Type 3 (Copter 1, 2): 125 hours
  - Fixed Wing: 31 hours

# Administrative Status

- ⦿ Operations Agreement has been signed by the Sheriff and Fire Chief
- ⦿ Operation Manual has been combined and is awaiting final review prior to signatures by Sheriff and Fire Chief
- ⦿ Scheduling of Personnel
  - Seven day a week coverage 0800-2200
  - Fire and Law aircraft available each day

# Challenges

- ▣ Aircraft Availability
- ▣ Training
- ▣ Budget
  - FY 12/13 Total Budget: \$1,997,369
  - Estimated Actual: \$2,192,503
  - Due to unanticipated costs of inspections and maintenance of Helicopter 4 and 308, we expect to be \$195,134 over budget. Department anticipates covering this through our overall current budget.
  - FY 13/14 needs to reflect increases in fuel, training, and maintenance costs for airships

# Accomplishments

- ▣ Copter 3 commissioned and “carded”
- ▣ Operations manual combined and awaiting final review by Sheriff and Fire Chief
- ▣ All full time pilots trained in all missions
- ▣ All full time pilots “carded” in Type 2 helicopters
- ▣ Fire Paramedics and Air Support Crews training together and providing emergency medical services
- ▣ Air Support Offices have been combined



# Future Goals

- Increase Pilot and Crew Chief training in both fire and law missions – ongoing
- Develop additional extra-help pilots and crew chiefs to provide shift relief factor and additional flexibility in scheduling
- Build up maintenance reserve fund

# “Simul Nos Sucedunt”

