



# HUNTINGTON BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT AIR SUPPORT CONTRACT SERVICES



*A PROPOSAL TO:  
Costa Mesa Police Department  
June 15th, 2024*



## PURPOSE

In 2011 the Airborne Law Enforcement program, which provided air support services to Costa Mesa, ceased operations. Since that time, the City of Costa Mesa has contracted air support services with the Huntington Beach Police Department. The current contract expires on June 30, 2024. The Huntington Beach Police Department is proposing an additional three-year contract to continue air support 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 Department Air Support Unit (HBP DASU) 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**

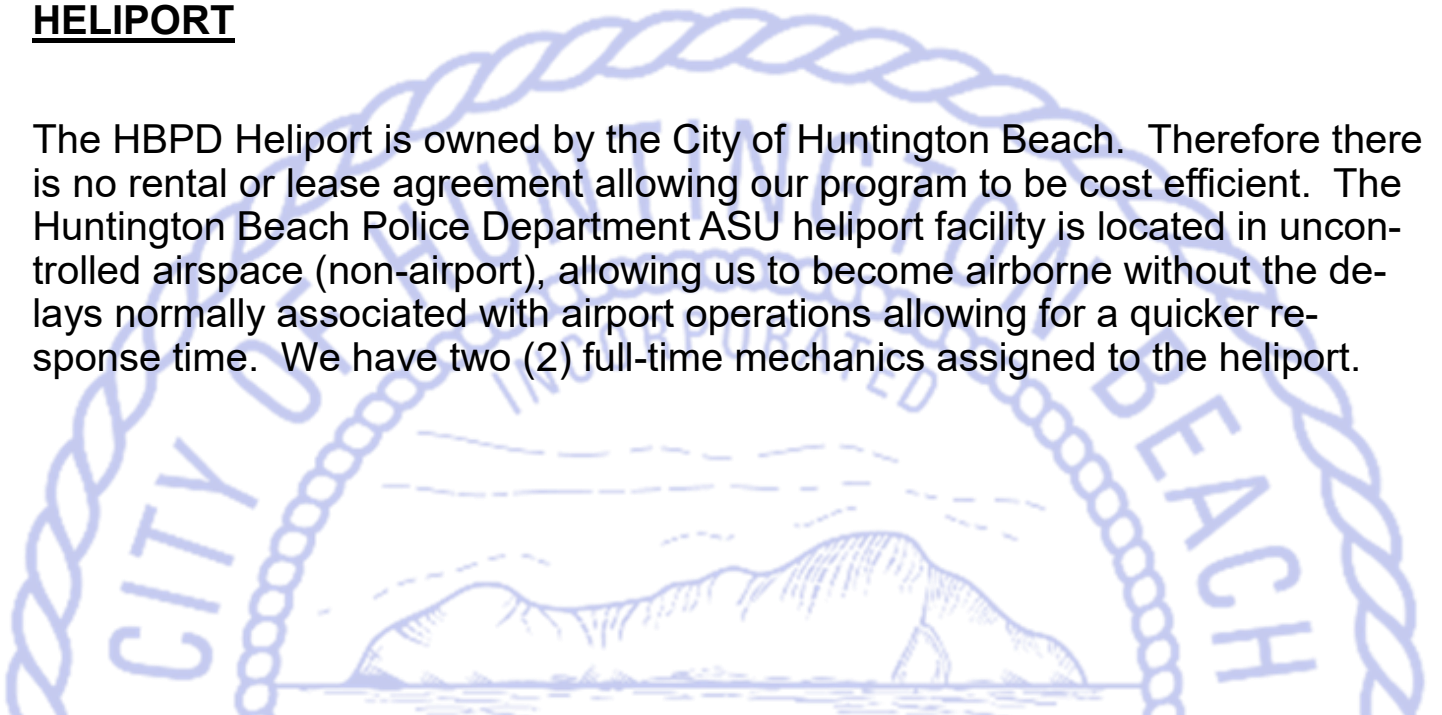
**Huntington Beach (PCH/Anaheim Harbor Bridge) to Costa Mesa (Airport Loop Drive/405 FWY): 5 minutes 49 seconds**

**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 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) MD 530FF delivers increased operational capabilities, greater mission versatility, and superior performance. Equipped with the 650 shp Rolls-Royce 250-C30 engine, the MD 530FF operates more effectively in hot, high environments than other helicopters in its class.



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:



Wescam MX-10 High-definition camera capable of infrared.

Night sun spotlight (50,000,000 candle power)

Churchill moving map system/GPS

Technisonic VHF/UHF radio (allows for multi state/federal law enforcement agency communications)

Tyler Seats for SWAT / Marine Safety operations

Aerial digital photography equipment (for multiple uses including CSI/Traffic collision investigations)

Handheld/Aircrew delivered life rings (automatic inflation upon contact with water)

Night Vision Goggles

## **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 three 2-officer flight crews. Currently there are two Certified Flight Instructors assigned to the unit. The following is our normal schedule deployment.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1500-0300	1500-0300	0800-0300	0800-0300	0800-0300	0800-0300	1500-0300

## **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 for scheduled special events and operations, as well as unforeseen events such as protests and rallies.

## **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: **\$850 / hour** with an increase tied to the Consumer Price Index each year.

## 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 discussing this further.



# Huntington Beach Police Department

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