

## Obtaining Air Support

### 418.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The use of a police air support can be invaluable in certain situations. This policy specifies potential situations where the use of air support (fixed wing plane or helicopter) may be requested and the responsibilities for making a request.

### 418.2 REQUEST FOR AIR SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

If a supervisor or officer in charge of an incident determines that the use of air support would be beneficial, a request to obtain assistance may be made.

#### 418.2.1 REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM ANOTHER AGENCY

Depending on the immediacy of the need, pursuit or a planned operation, Dispatch may be requested to ascertain if air support is available. For planned operations the supervisor in charge of the operation with the approval of the Operations Commander may make the request directly to the agency with the necessary craft.

#### 418.2.2 CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AIR SUPPORT MAY BE REQUESTED

Police air support may be requested under any of the following conditions:

- (a) When the aircraft is activated under existing mutual aid agreements
- (b) Whenever the safety of law enforcement personnel is in jeopardy and the presence of the air support may reduce such hazard
- (c) When the use of the air support will aid in the capture of a suspected fleeing felon whose continued freedom represents an ongoing threat to the community
- (d) When air support is needed to locate a person who has strayed or is lost and whose continued absence constitutes a serious health or safety hazard
- (e) Vehicle pursuits

While it is recognized that the availability of air support support will generally provide valuable assistance to ground personnel, the presence of air support will rarely replace the need for officers on the ground.