

# HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT

## POLICY LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

January 1, 2003

Policy Number 4.10

### HELICOPTER SECTION

#### I. POLICY

The Helicopter Section, Specialized Services Division (SSD), shall operate in accordance with this directive.

#### II. FUNCTION

- A. The primary function of the Helicopter Section is to conduct regular aerial patrol and provide aerial support to units of the Honolulu Police Department.
- B. The Helicopter Section will provide the following special support operations:
  - 1. Surveillance and photographic missions for operational planning and the gathering of evidence;
  - 2. Traffic monitoring and reporting;
  - 3. Recovery of stolen vehicles and property in remote areas;
  - 4. Eradication of marijuana and other illegal drugs;
  - 5. Tactical operations, to include rappelling and other personnel transport operations;
  - 6. Searches for fleeing suspects; and
  - 7. Assistance to the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) in searches for lost or missing persons; and

8. Any other mission deemed necessary by the Chief of Police.

III. ORGANIZATION, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Command

The Helicopter Section is under the command of the SSD commander and under the direct supervision of an SSD sergeant.

B. Observers

1. Observers assigned to the Helicopter Section, on either a permanent or temporary basis, shall be qualified and commissioned police officers.
2. Observers shall be responsible for all activities of the helicopter with the exception of the maintenance and in-flight operation.
3. The observer and assigned pilot shall perform as a team and shall be accountable to the sergeant in charge of the Helicopter Section.

C. Pilots

1. Pilots assigned to the Helicopter Section shall be civilian employees of the department and shall be qualified and accredited helicopter pilots.
2. Helicopter pilots shall be commissioned as police reserve officers and hold a rank equivalent to that of metropolitan police officer.
3. Helicopter pilots shall not have command authority over police or civilian personnel other than that which is necessary for the safe operation of the helicopter.
4. Pilots shall have complete authority relative to the competent and safe operation of the aircraft. Whenever this authority is questioned, the pilot shall justify such action to the observer or any superior officer.

5. Pilots shall be responsible for the maintenance and in-flight operation of the helicopter and shall respond to all directions given by the police observer.
6. Pilots and police observers shall perform as a team and shall be accountable to the sergeant in charge of the Helicopter Section.

IV. AIRCRAFT TYPES AND FEATURES

- A. The Helicopter Section currently has two helicopters in use:
  1. MD 500D helicopter (with conventional tail rotor); and
  2. MD 520N NOTAR (no tail rotor).
- B. The police helicopter does not have rescue capabilities. It will, at times, be involved in search activities; however, requests for rescue should be directed to the Honolulu Fire Department.

V. UTILIZATION OF THE HELICOPTER SECTION

- A. Emergency Use
  1. Any police officer may request the helicopter by contacting the Communications Division. The Communications Division will immediately contact the helicopter crew, if the helicopter is in flight, or the officer in charge of the Helicopter Section.
  2. If the Helicopter Section has no one on duty, the watch commander of the Communications Division shall be notified and shall contact the SSD commander. The SSD commander shall be responsible for contacting the necessary section personnel.
  3. When directed to a scene by the police observer, ground units should respond as instructed. The police observer shall maintain directional control of ground units until relieved by a ground unit supervisor.

B. Routine Requests

- 11-19-2007
1. A request to ride the police helicopter shall be submitted via e-mail or in writing through the requestor's chain of command to the SSD commander.
  2. The officer in charge of the Helicopter Section will coordinate requests from elements desiring helicopter support.

VI. COMMUNICATION

A. Call Signs

1. When airborne for routine patrol or police-related activities, the assigned police radio call number shall be used.

11-19-2007

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. When the police helicopters are used for civil defense, fire department support, or other activities not involving the police department, [REDACTED] shall be used.

B. Emergency Transmission

1. In the event an emergency arises in flight, the police observer shall make the following transmission: [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]

3. When the helicopter is located, the Communications Division shall immediately be notified of the location and informed of the situation. The Communications Division shall then take necessary actions.

VII. REPORTS

- A. The Helicopter Section shall maintain the following logs:
  1. The helicopter maintenance and utilization log (used to furnish complete information on fuel and oil consumed, flying hours, and special support and maintenance problems); and
  2. A daily flight time log (used for verifying qualification time for hazardous duty pay for police observers).
- B. The flight time log shall be filed in the Helicopter Section. However, copies shall be forwarded to the Finance Division for the correlation of time periods with pay periods.
- C. All logs shall be reviewed in the preparation of a monthly report to the Finance Division commander outlining the operating expenses, flying hours, and activities of the Helicopter Section.

11-19-2007

BOISSE P. CORREA  
Chief of Police

Post on bulletin  
board for one week

Policy first issued  
March 29, 2002