



Falcon Air Support Unit

Working Together to Keep Our City Safe



The Metropolitan Police Department's Air Support Unit is an invaluable public safety resource, enabling MPD to conduct airborne law enforcement operations, support search and rescue missions on land and water, and perform countless other, often lifesaving assignments.

Improved Capabilities

The Air Support Unit is indispensable, and the new Falcon is poised to augment the capabilities and safety protocols of the Air Support Unit. A two-person helicopter crew can spot and quickly supply images and information that may be helpful to address fast-moving situations safely and effectively.



It is especially effective in supporting MPD's Special Operations Division — for example:

- Helping to manage and ensure the safety of large-scale First Amendment assemblies.
- Using its infrared cameras to guide canine units on nighttime or woodland searches.

A Look at Falcon Stats

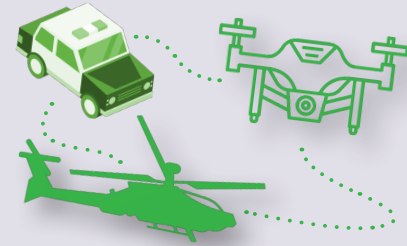
In 2023, the Air Support Unit:

- Flew more than 600 flight hours
- Responded to 1,517 calls for service
- Assisted in 194 arrests/recoveries
- Assisted with 1,083 traffic checks
- Assisted outside agencies 851 times

Flight to the Future

In 2024, the Air Support Unit will launch into a new era with a new helicopter. The Airbus H-125 is:

- Faster, more agile and more fuel-efficient than the AS 350 B3 it will replace.
- Equipped with a state-of-the-art camera system that will send high-resolution digital images to MPD's Real-Time Crime Center.



The new copter will mark the next milestone in the history of MPD's airborne operations:

- MPD launched its first airborne unit, called the Helicopter Branch, in 1962.
- The Helicopter Branch was shut down in 1996 because of budget cuts.
- MPD launched its Air Support Unit in 2001, using the call signs "Falcon 1" and "Falcon 2."



Learn more at

mpdc.dc.gov/falcon



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR