

Air Support

417.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The use of air support can be invaluable in certain situations. This policy specifies situations where the use of air support may be requested and the responsibilities for making a request.

417.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police Department to prioritize requests for air support to enhance law enforcement objectives and provide additional safety to officers and the community.

417.3 REQUEST FOR AIR SUPPORT

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

417.3.1 CIRCUMSTANCES FOR REQUESTS

Law enforcement air support may be requested under conditions that include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Whenever the safety of officers or the community is in jeopardy and the presence of air support may reduce such hazard.
- (b) When the use of air support will aid in the capture of a suspected fleeing felon whose continued freedom represents an ongoing threat to officers or the community.
- (c) When air support is needed to locate a person who is lost and whose continued absence constitutes a serious health or safety hazard.
- (d) Vehicle pursuits.
- (e) Pre-planned events or actions that require air support.
- (f) When air support is activated under existing mutual aid agreements.
- (g) When the Patrol Commander or equivalent authority determines a reasonable need exists.

417.3.2 ALLIED AGENCY REQUEST

After consideration and approval of the request for air support, the Patrol Commander or the authorized designee will call the closest agency having available air support and will apprise that agency of the specific details of the incident prompting the request.