



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

Officer Johnna Watson
PST Lea Rubio
Media Relations Office
510-238-7230
opdmedia@oaklandnet.com

News from: **Oakland Police Department**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Oakland Police Helicopter Receives A Donation

Oakland, CA – Today the Oakland Police Department received a donation for fuel from *Fueling California* for the Oakland Police Department's Helicopter Unit known as, "ARGUS."

Oakland Police Chief Howard Jordan and the helicopter flight crew were joined by Fueling California board member Bruce DD Mac Rae and Fueling California executive Austin Lee and representative Christie Dayton as they presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to Chief Jordan for helicopter fuel.

Chief Jordan said, "today I am proud to announce that ARGUS will be able to fly more often because of the generous donation made by Fueling California."

Bruce DD Mac Rae said, "Fueling California is very pleased to provide a \$10,000 donation to assist the Oakland Police Department as they protect and serve their community. With the economic troubles facing our state and local governments it is important that organizations like Fueling California, as well as private corporations, lend their support to help vital public services like public safety."

Bruce DD Mac Rae, is the vice president of State Government Affairs of United Parcel service- UPS-West Region.

Fueling California: Consumer Alliance for Responsible Fuel Policies, a 501(c) 4 nonprofit group that provides a new and united voice on behalf of major fuel consumers and engages actively in the debate on public policies impacting the cost, availability, and supply of fuel, as well as advancing alternative fuels and technologies. The non-profit group learned of the value of ARGUS and the need for additional funding.

The Oakland Police Department and the City of Oakland are grateful for the donation.

For further information visit www.fuelingcalifornia.org.

Background: ARGUS is the name of the Oakland Police Department's air support unit. It has been in existence since 1971. The City of Oakland has two (2) patrol aircraft and one (1) training aircraft. The name ARGUS comes from Greek mythology and is a giant creature that has 100 eyes and is "all-seeing." For our purposes ARGUS stands for Air Reconnaissance Ground Unit Support.

The last year ARGUS was in full operation was 2008-9. At full strength the unit consists of six (6) officer pilots and a sergeant. ARGUS averaged approximately

six (6) flight hours a day, four (4) days a week, more than 1200 hours a year. ARGUS was involved in 476 felony arrests and 167 misdemeanor arrests. Of the felony arrests, 12 were for Murder, 26 were for Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and 92 were for Stolen Vehicles.

ARGUS provided air support for 27 vehicle pursuits and 72 foot pursuits. The average response time to calls when in service was 17 seconds. ARGUS was the first police unit "on scene" over 95% of the time.

Currently, ARGUS is staffed with only one (1) pilot who logs 200-300 hours of flight time per year. This is because the direct operating costs are \$500 per hour. The aircraft burns 28 gallons of fuel per hour. The \$500 figure includes scheduled maintenance and fuel costs, not costs associated with personnel.

ARGUS provides vital assistance in:

- 1.High speed vehicle pursuit-allows ground units to back off minimizing danger on the ground
- 2.Foot pursuits-uses FLIR technology to locate hiding/fleeing suspects
- 3.Surveillance
- 4.Searches
- 5.Providing video to ground units
- 6.Preventing escapes
- 7.Search and Rescue
- 8.Quick response to major crimes
- 9.Regional assistance
- 10.Port Security
- 11.Homeland Security
- 12.Fire spotting

For more information please contact the Media Relations Office at 510-238-7230 or opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.

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