

POLICE DIVISION

Metro Aviation Unit

Description

In 1986 the Counties of Henrico and Chesterfield, and the City of Richmond entered into a multi-jurisdictional agreement, which facilitated the use of police aircraft in all three jurisdictions and created the Metro Aviation Unit. As a part of this agreement, the Henrico Police Division is charged with housing the aircraft; supervision of the pilots; fiscal management; and planning the training for the Unit.

Objectives

- The Unit will provide aerial observation and support for all jurisdictions.
- The Unit will conduct patrols of identified high crime areas.
- The Unit will provide transportation of prisoners to and from other jurisdictions upon request.
- The Unit will provide aerial photographs of any location in the metropolitan area upon request.
- The Unit will provide routine and special aerial patrol within the tri-jurisdictional area.

Budget Highlights

The FY2017-18 budget includes \$80,000 for the extradition of prisoners, which is fully reimbursable from the State Supreme Court. The remaining balance of the budget, \$382,000, is divided equally between Chesterfield County, the City of Richmond, and Henrico County. In FY2017-18, Henrico's share of the budget remains constant at \$127,332.

Henrico's Police Division manages the Metro Aviation Unit. This section of the Police Division also handles extradition of prisoners, which is entirely reimbursable from the State of Virginia. The combined budget for Metro Aviation and Extradition totals \$462,000.

The Metro Aviation Unit continues to be a valuable and effective crime fighting tool to the participating localities and the region. The localities continue to increase their usage of the unit and each locality now assigns three pilots to the unit.

The three participating jurisdictions own three aircraft:

- 2006 Cessna 182
- 2000 Cessna 172
- 1979 Cessna 182RG (Transport Aircraft)

Annual Fiscal Plan

Description	FY16 Actual	FY17 Original	FY18 Approved	Change 17 to 18
Personnel	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	0.0%
Operation	277,039	422,000	422,000	0.0%
Capital	1,863	40,000	40,000	0.0%
Total	\$ 278,902	\$ 462,000	\$ 462,000	0.0%
 Personnel Complement	 N/A	 N/A	 N/A	 N/A

Metro Aviation (cont'd)

	Performance Measures			Change
	FY16	FY17	FY18	17 to 18
Workload Measures				
Number of Aerial Transports	50	55	55	0
Flight Hours for Aerial Transports	205	220	220	0
Extraditions (commercial carriers)	22	24	24	0

The eleven-year-old Cessna 182 is equipped with an electronic instrument panel, an integrated spotlight, a forward looking infra-red (FLIR) system, and a video downlink that permits the aircraft to broadcast images while flying for viewing at varying locations within the three jurisdictions.

The Metro Aviation Unit moved to a new hanger

with a fuel storage tank in the Sandston area in December, 2012. The facility is 4,500 square feet, three stories tall, includes 1,100 square feet of office space, and houses the three small planes shared by all localities. This relocation provided combined lease savings to the three participating jurisdictions of roughly \$20,000 per year.