

# JOB DESCRIPTION: Police & Law Enforcement Pilots

## Helicopter Pilot Careers in Law Enforcement

*Aviation/Pilot Humor*

In recent years there has been an increase in the use of helicopters by law enforcement. Helicopters provide a clear advantage to law enforcement. They offer speed, a bird's eye perspective, and the use of specialized sensors such as infrared that enable them to "see" in the dark. A career flying law enforcement helicopters is definitely within your reach and can offer excitement as well as financial rewards and job security.



As you might expect, the police helicopter unit is a specialist department within the force, so years of training and experience will be required to gain the qualifications needed to become a police helicopter pilot. This can be one of the most rewarding jobs within the police force – provided you have the patience and persistence to work towards the role.

The majority of police helicopter pilots will be promoted from within, so you'll need to be committed to learning regular police work for a number of years before you can be considered for a position within the police helicopter department. Most, but not all law enforcement agencies require that you be a law enforcement officer before you become a pilot. This means attending the police academy and spending time in a patrol car or walking a beat. This will expose you to the situations that police officers on the ground encounter daily and you'll be better able to determine the best way to assist with an air unit. Some police aviation units, like the Maryland State Police Aviation Unit, are comprised of civilians. Others hire agencies to provide the helicopters and the pilots.

The scope and depth of law enforcement operations varies with the department. In general, larger departments have more capabilities than smaller departments. Some departments fly under VMC (visual meteorological conditions) only which means they need to be able to see the horizon to maintain the proper orientation of the aircraft while others operate in IMC (instrument meteorological conditions) which is flight solely referenced to the flight instruments. Some departments have forward looking infra red while others only have a spot light and others fly using night vision goggles.



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Law enforcement flying can be very exciting and rewarding. Each police department has its own guidelines on how it recruits and trains its pilots. If you're interested in flying for a certain department contact them and ask about their requirements. You also may want to speak to one of their pilots. They're usually very willing to share information.

### **Job Duties:**

- Flying single-engine turbine helicopters.
- Supporting various units in Metro Government.
- Performing the duties of a Tactical Flight Officer including using a variety of navigational aids, monitoring flight instruments, and communicating with air traffic control/police dispatch and requesting units.
- Completing appropriate post-flight paperwork and maintaining duty hour log.
- Operating a Windows XP based PC.

### **Requirements:**

- 1000 hours helicopter time and 500 or more hours turbine PIC (pilot in command) time
- Recent experience in Bell OH-58/206 and MD-500E (within the past twelve months)
- High School Diploma
- Valid "Class D" Driver's License
- 1st or 2nd Class FAA Medical Certificate
- Commercial Rotorcraft Helicopter Pilot License or higher rating
- Be available for call/shift work 24 hours a day 7 days a week
- Have no significant enforcement action or accident history with previous employer(s).
- Work duty weight of no more than 210 lbs (due to weight and balance requirements).



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### **Special Requirements:**

- Part 135 operating experience or police operations experience.
- Ability to solve problems and make sound decisions quickly.
- Knowledge of FLIR 8500, BMS Microwave Downlink, Avalex Moving Map. Techsonic Radio.

### **Links to more Law Enforcement Pilot Information click below:**

[http://www.governmentjobs.com/view\\_job.cfm?JobID=65748](http://www.governmentjobs.com/view_job.cfm?JobID=65748)

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