

Police Aviation - a chronology



1914 WORLD: Miami, Florida, USA police use Curtiss F type seaplane to capture escapee on ship to Barbados. A New York City patrolman undertakes training in an attempt to become the first police pilot.

1915 WORLD: In the USA the Coast Guard undertake trials with a Curtiss F-boat.

1916 WORLD: USA the San Francisco Police Dept operate a Martin Tractor Trainer on Aerial Patrolling.

1917 WORLD: The US Coast Guard undertakes further trials with a Curtiss R6L. These last into the following year.

1918 WORLD: New York City, USA police start to form a volunteer air section with Great War vintage USN flying boats. [November]

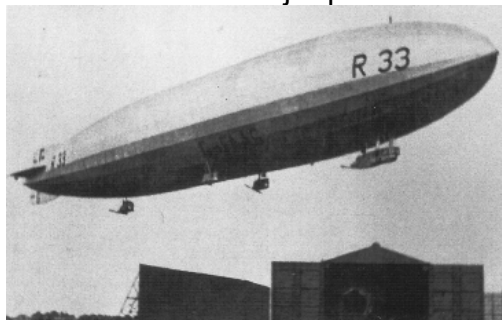
1919 WORLD: The New York air section receives its first flying boat aircraft [April]. The police in Atlantic City, Wyoming claim a first use of an aircraft spot for suspect in a car. The police in Dayton, Ohio claim the first instance of transportation of a prisoner by air [May]. The recently defeated German and Austrian nations set up and use short lived police air wings based on war surplus aircraft [August]

1920 WORLD: In Brazil the police in Sao Paulo order nine Curtiss aircraft [January]. Using a range of aircraft loaned by the US Navy, the Coast Guard commences coastal patrols. The Allies veto the German and Austrian operations under the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles in fear that it is a means of operating a clandestine military air arm. In Istres, France, police use flying club aircraft to tracing a missing safe [August]. Following an arson attack in Chattanooga, Tennessee, an aircraft is used to carry dogs to search [November]

UK: There is some correspondence between aviation companies and Scotland Yard following an article in "The Times" [29 July 1920]. Unsubstantiated stories claim a first use of an aircraft on behalf of the Metropolitan Police at the Derby Day meeting, Epsom Racecourse [June]. Another further article in "The Times" has a similar effect to the first [October].

1921 WORLD: A highly colourful news report in the Paris edition of the New York Herald claims that a aerial police chase occurred in Winnipeg, Canada [January].

UK: The UK Government sanctions the use of war surplus airships R33 and R36 on police traffic duties as major public events [June and July]



1923 UK: The police in London arrange for the use of a radio equipped Vickers Vulcan airliner to cover the traffic duties around the annual Derby Day Race meeting at Epsom [June].

1924 UK: The Epsom Race meeting traffic is watched over by police in a tethered observation balloon. [June].

1926 WORLD: The US Coast Guard commences operations with its own aircraft fleet [October].

UK: A Blackpool, Lancashire, police officer uses an airline to transport himself to collect a prisoner from the Isle of Man. A first for the UK.

1927 WORLD: In Queensland, Australia, the police use an early QANTAS DH50 aircraft to transport a search team in a successful pursuit of criminals [December].

1928 WORLD: A Philadelphia Police patrolman is under training for flight duties [March]. An aircraft is used to support search efforts in Southern Manitoba, Canada [August].

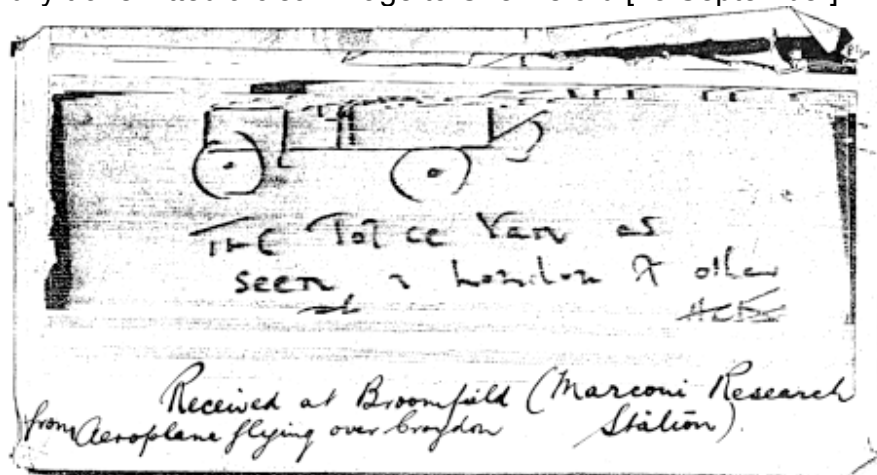
UK: Imperial Airways is approached by Scotland Yard regarding the hire of DH50 aircraft as police transportation. In the event the required service was deemed to be too expensive [March].

1929 WORLD: The Los Angeles Police create a part time unit using the aircraft of citizens, In New York City the eleven year old voluntary unit is replaced by the first known full time Air Service Division with its own aircraft [24 October].

1930 WORLD: The New York ASD, employing full time officers, becomes operational with four aircraft [28 March]. Argentina reported using aircraft [October].



UK: Marconi of Chelmsford continues trials with early facsimile [FAX] system equipment. A demonstration aircraft overflying Croydon successfully transmitted a clear image to Chelmsford [18 September].



1931 WORLD: Panama set up police air unit.

UK: A small aircraft manufacturer, Redwing Aircraft, approaches Scotland Yard proposing the formation of a flying club for police. Although initially rejected, this matter re-emerges periodically over the next six years.

1932 WORLD: In Australia, the New South Wales police use a Moth aircraft on an unsuccessful crime search.



UK: The London police renew flying over the traffic jamming the roads approaching the annual Derby Day at Epsom. On this occasion they try the use of a Cierva Autogyro, probably the first use of any rotary wing type on police duties in the world [June]. The police in Leicestershire employ a Moth aircraft in chasing and capturing suspects fleeing from a burglary, the first such crime search related event in the UK [18 June]. The Royal Air Force [RAF] supplies a 2 Squadron Atlas aircraft to spot traffic flows for the Metropolitan Police near the annual Hendon Air Show.

1933 UK: The Metropolitan Police use another autogyro at the Derby Races [May]. The RAF supplies an aircraft for the Hendon air display [June]. The Surrey Constabulary uses a hired Puss Moth aircraft to undertake road patrol trials. Later a Moth aircraft is used in a similar role over traffic approaching the Ascot Race meeting [14 June]. The definitive Cierva C30 is demonstrated to police [November].

1934 UK: Liverpool City and Southport police forces undertake training in aeronautics at Speke [February onwards]. Metropolitan continues use of the autogyro with the introduction of the C30 model to the Derby Day duties [June]. Leicester use a Fox Moth for Marconi R/T trials [July]. It is claimed that PC Joseph Lock of the Glamorgan Constabulary is the first operational UK police officer pilot at a "Means Test March". Extended autogyro trials in London result in the aircraft being kept with 24 Squadron at Hendon [August].

1935 WORLD: France undertakes brief experiments with autogyro aircraft. In a series of highly publicised events, the Nazi regime in Germany commences the incorporation of some police air units into a new Luftwaffe.

UK: The police in Glasgow are reported to have used an autogyro at a football international [6th. April]. The Metropolitan Police use another autogyro over the Cup Final at Wembley Stadium. [April] Leicester Air Safety Day is a means whereby police can be introduced to aircraft and air legislation [May]. The volunteer air section of the Reigate Borough police force is created [3rd. August]

1936 WORLD: The Royal Canadian Mounted Police operate an aircraft trial using a de Havilland DH90 Dragon aircraft.

UK: The Metropolitan Police use the Cierva Autogiro at the Cup Final [G-ACUT] and another, that assigned to the Reigate Borough unit, for operations over the Derby Day traffic [June]. The Metropolitan Police hold an air safety day at Heston.

1937 WORLD: Following the aircraft trial in the previous year, the RCMP forms an air support unit purchases four Dragon aircraft and form an air unit.

UK: An airship was offered, but rejected, for police use over the Coronation. An autogyro operates over The Derby traffic [June] Sussex Police operate an air safety day at Shoreham Airport [June]



1938 WORLD: The RCMP take delivery of its first float equipped aircraft, a Noordyn Norseman. Faced with a chronic lack of finance and elderly aircraft,

New York City disbands their air support unit. The Austrian police air unit is incorporated by the Nazi German regime.

UK: The Lancashire constabulary uses a Leopard Moth to undertake traffic and security duty with the King and Queen on a Royal Visit [May]. Reigate Borough loses access to an autogyro.

1939 WORLD: New York City reforms its air support unit after a cash injection [July]. The police in Philadelphia loan a Kellett KD-1 autogyro to undertake traffic control flights during the Army-Navy games.

UK: Television programmes on traffic police and autogyro's. Reigate Borough air unit is wound up in the face of the war. All autogyros are recalled to the Cierva factory prior to being requisitioned for war use. Police flying is reduced to the undertaking of Home Security flights to check on blackout measures across sections of England. Flights over London [9th and 11th. November] and Liverpool [10th. November]



1940 WORLD: Germany operating police air operations.
UK: Wartime home security flight over Witney, Oxfordshire [March].

1941 UK: Wartime home security flight over London [21st. October]

1943 WORLD: The US Coast Guard trial helicopters.



1946 WORLD: The police in New South Wales, Australia, introduce a war surplus Avro Anson trainer to operations.

UK: Lancashire Constabulary uses a military Auster to cover traffic at the first post-war Grand National Race Meeting [March].

1947 WORLD: First known operational use of a helicopter to fight a forest fire took place in California [5th. August]



UK: June Norfolk Constabulary use a helicopter search for escaped prisoners.



1948 WORLD: The Czech Government pass on an Avia VR-3 helicopter to police use. The vintage type only survived in use for a year. The New York City Police introduce the first efficient helicopter, a Bell 47D, to police operations. The formation of the Kenya Police Reserve Air Wing. The Falkland Islands Government Air Service [FIGAS] commences operations with an Auster aircraft available for the use of all official bodies on the islands.

1949 UK: Auster aircraft demonstrate the Tannoy version of a compact airborne public address [Skyshout] system on their aircraft, G-AJIZ. Lancashire Constabulary uses a Miles Gemini to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March]; the same aircraft is also used at the re-opening of the Blackpool Illuminations [September].

1950 WORLD: The NSW police in Australia withdraw its Anson aircraft without replacement [31st. August].

1951 UK: Lancashire Constabulary uses an Auster aircraft to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March]. Auster Aircraft demonstrate an improved Tannoy public-address system on another of their aircraft [16th. May]

1952 UK: Lancashire Constabulary uses an Auster to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March].

1953 WORLD: French Gendarmerie undertakes trials with Hiller helicopters. The Siamese [later Thai] Border Police acquire a fleet of Hiller helicopters.

UK: Lancashire Constabulary uses Auster aircraft to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March].



1954 UK: Lancashire Constabulary uses an Army Bristol Sycamore helicopter to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting. This is the first known operational use of the helicopter in the UK [March]. The police in Cumberland and Westmorland use Royal Navy helicopters on flight co-operation trials. The Metropolitan Police co-operate with the Automobile Association to operate a traffic observation helicopter over the Wimbledon lawn tennis championships [June].

1955 WORLD: The police in Austria purchase a number of light aircraft to reform a police air unit. The State Police form an air unit with light aircraft. The Federal Border Guard in Germany forms a helicopter unit. The French Gendarmerie forms a helicopter unit with law enforcement duties.

UK: All UK police forces are obliged to start up use of Civil Defence War Duties Air Observer courses making use of a combination of University Air Squadrons and the Army Air Corps. The Home Office sign a contract with British European Airways Helicopters to provide long-term helicopter support to police in the Civil Defence role [August]. Lancashire Constabulary use an unknown type to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March].

1956 WORLD: In Australia vigorous attempts by the local airlines ANA and TAA to interest a number of police forces in operating aviation units are spurned.

UK: Pye Television of Cambridge and Bristol Aircraft demonstrate a miniature heli-tele equipment to the military and police at Bristol and Cambridge [January and September]. Lancashire Constabulary uses a Civil Defence helicopter to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March]. The

Hertfordshire Constabulary forms the first UK Police Flying Club to operate a DH Tiger Moth G-ANOH from Pashanger [April]. Civil Defence helicopters visit a number of police services to undertake CD and police duty trials. The units were Cheshire, Glamorgan, Liverpool, Metropolitan, Nottingham, Southampton, Stafford, West Riding, Worcestershire [May and June]. Buckinghamshire start using a hired DH Hornet aircraft to cover traffic at major events. Metropolitan Police use Auster aircraft over Bank Holiday traffic [August]. The AA stops using a hired Airspeed Consul aircraft [G-AIAH] and buys an Auster aboard which police and other observers are welcomed.

1957 UK: Lancashire Constabulary uses a fixed wing type to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March]. The Agusta-Bell 47J is put on trial by police [15th. June]. Hampshire use a Civil Defence configured BEAH helicopter [July]. The AA changes their Auster for a DH Rapide and offers more seats to police and other observers. The Metropolitan Police start regular traffic reporting flying using three Auster light aircraft operating from Denham, Croydon and Stapleford.



1958 WORLD: The Government in Hong Kong takes delivery of the first of two Westland Widgeon helicopters for police and other duties.

UK: Hampshire obtains a helicopter to undertake a one off air search [March]. Saunders Roe and Hiller demonstrate the one man Rotorcycle to a number of police forces, including Cheshire, Lincolnshire, City of London and Metropolitan [13th. May]. Helicopter hired for crime search by Surrey Police at Gatwick [July].

1959 WORLD: The Japan National Police Agency commence use of helicopters for investigation, rescue and surveillance.

UK: The police in Ulster are using RAF Bristol Sycamore helicopters.

1960 UK: The Metropolitan Police Auster operations are scaled down to the use of a single machine operating from Biggin Hill. The Hampshire Constabulary contemplates the use of a Tiger Moth over the traffic approaching the Farnborough Air Show [August].

1961 UK: All Metropolitan Police Auster operations are halted by a change in the single engine type overflight of London regulations. Lancashire Constabulary uses an aircraft operated by the AA to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March].

1962 UK: The Brantly B2 is demonstrated to chief police officers at the summer ACPO Conference held in Torquay, Devon. Operations with this type commence in Durham [6th. November].

1963 WORLD: The police in Spain start using Agusta-Bell helicopters on traffic control duties [August]. Jamaica Police AW formed [July]

UK: Lancashire Constabulary uses helicopters to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March]. The AA changes their elderly Rapide for a small new Piper Apache aircraft [June]. The first duty for the AA Apache is a survey of London's roads in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police and local authority. Helicopter purchase by Warwickshire Police is deferred [June]. The Oxford City Police trial BEAS Brantly helicopters as a "flying dog kennel". An Army Beaver is used in investigations into the Great Train Robbery.



1964 WORLD: Sweden form police air support unit.

UK: Lancashire, Cheshire and Staffordshire co-operate on a motorway policing trial using an Agusta-Bell 47J helicopter over the M6 motorway [March-June]. The Brantly trial in Durham is halted by a withdrawal of central government funding. Metropolitan Police fly officers from Northolt to Lydd thence to coastal trouble spots in a RAF Argosy transport [August].

1965 WORLD: the Watts Race Riots strike US. The Bahrain State Police form an air wing with helicopters

UK: Lancashire Constabulary uses Agusta-Bell 47J to cover traffic at the Grand National Race Meeting [March]. The Home Office places a BEAH S61 helicopter on reserve at Gatwick Airport to enable the staging of a repeat of the coastal reserve flights. Not used [June]. Flight demonstrations are held in London by Shannon based Transworld Helicopters of the Hughes 300 and 500 [October].

1966 WORLD: In the light of the Watts Rioting, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Dept., co-operates with the Hughes helicopter manufacturer to launch a helicopter patrol programme over the Lakewood district called "Operation Sky Knight" [15th. March]

UK: The three police forces covering Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Sheffield City announce a joint air facility using light aircraft provided on loan by the Sheffield Aero Club [January]. Hampshire makes use of helicopters for a total of 42 hours [in the period March to August]. The Metropolitan Police set up its Flying Club. The Devon & Exeter Constabulary are loaned two military helicopters to search for escapee prisoners on Dartmoor. [December into January].

1967 WORLD: The Tokyo Fire Department Aviation Team is formed using a Sud Alouette III [April]

UK: A UK first, Lancashire Constabulary hire two [Brantly] helicopters on the same day to cover traffic attending a number of football matches in the county [January]. UK police, including Essex, Hampshire Kent, Surrey, Thames Valley, Wiltshire and Metropolitan, are loaned three or four military helicopters in a series of aid to the civil power trials affecting a number of police forces [March to August]. A further trial, Aerial Peeler I, is launched in London [November and December].



1968 WORLD: The Police in Uganda take delivery of the Westland Scout.

UK: Continuing the Aerial Peeler series, UK police are loaned three to four military helicopters and fixed wing types in a series of aid to the civil power trials affecting a number of police forces in England, Scotland and Wales [January - August]. Special Branch oversees similar operations designed to protect water supplies from terrorism in the Welsh border regions.

1969 WORLD: The Tokyo Fire Department acquires its second Alouette III helicopter. [See 1967].

UK: Special Branch continues the waterwatch operations. The Chief Constable of Dumbarton is seriously injured when operating a helicopter on trial [3rd. September].



1970 UK: The Metropolitan Police inaugurates its "Emergency" helicopter use scheme with an area search looking for missing children in North East London. The force continues and evolves helicopter use from this point on. [April]

1971 UK: The AA changes their aircraft from the Apache to a Navajo. The Lancashire Constabulary operate helicopters at the Grand National [April] and the Preston Guild [September].

1972 WORLD: 450 people are lifted to safety from the roof of a 31 storey Andreus Building in Sao Paulo, Brazil [February] Malta forms its Police AW [July]

UK: "Good Year" have one of their airships visiting the UK and offer it for police use. Not taken up except for trials.

1973 WORLD: After the blaze was detected by a passing civil helicopter on traffic patrol, 500 people were rescued from the roof of the 40 storey high Avianca Building in Bogota, Colombia. In a further incident in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 100 were rescued from the 25-storey Joelma Building. Following these fires the Brazilian Government decreed that in future new building's should have roofs strong enough to support helicopters.

1974 WORLD: The Middle East state of Qatar form a police air unit with dedicated Gazelle helicopters to replace a pair of Westland Whirlwind's used on security [November]. An engineer working for Westinghouse in Canada, J Noxon Leavitt bought the rights to the WESSCAM sensor turret and left to set up a new company ISTECH [Inertial Stabilisation Technology] Ltd., based itself in Hamilton, Ontario to develop it. One change was to alter the equipment name to WESSCAM.



UK: Lancashire uses a fixed wing Piper PA32 light aircraft to cover traffic approaching the Open Golf Championships at Lytham St.Annes. [July]. The Home Office undertake trials with Wallis autogyro's fitted with sensors. The AA adds a Golden Eagle to its fleet alongside the Navajo. Army commence the development of "heli-tele" for use in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

1975 UK: Strathclyde have their request to purchase Enstrom helicopters vetoed. A Wallis autogyro is used to search for the missing murder suspect Lord Lucan in Sussex [May].

1976 WORLD: The air section of the Royal Oman Police, constituted in 1975, forms operationally. Sudan forms a Police Air Wing [July].

UK: After a period making use of multiple suppliers after the liquidation of their former supplier, the Metropolitan Police settle down to use Enstrom F28s which feature in one of the first BBC police aviation documentaries [April]. After instances of damage to Enstrom's left parked outside at Elstree operations are moved to a police site at Lippitts Hill, Epping Forest. The police in Sussex undertake light aircraft operations over Seasalter for Kent [24th. August]

1977 UK: Modern "skyshouting" equipment displayed to a military and police audience by the army in Hampshire. Surrey and Sussex are using Cessna light aircraft. Northumbria use loaned JetRanger helicopter to cover the visit of US President Jimmy Carter [May] and the Queen's Jubilee celebrations in the autumn.

1978 WORLD: Qatar Police Westland Lynx enters service.

UK: Devon & Cornwall have £10,000 budget to cover summer weekends with helicopter. The first full use of a fixed system of the Marconi 'Heli-Tele' by civil police is carried using an Alouette G-AWAP over the West London Notting Hill Carnival [August].

1979 WORLD: Portland, Oregon, USA based FLIR Systems Inc [FSI] first developed a commercial TI system as a hand held unit. This equipment was used by the California Dept. of Forestry to image forest fires. They soon mounted the hand held unit in a pod on a plane, effectively pre-empting the first Series 1000 [August].

UK: Thames Valley undertakes a 6-week trial in support of anti-CND operations around Greenham Common USAF Base. Hampshire commences fixed wing operations.

1980 WORLD: A user on the Pacific Northwest of the USA used a TI unit on a fixed wing single engine aircraft. Among other things it was used to image the Mount St. Helens volcano eruption. To achieve the necessary coolness to the image sensor they had to pour liquid nitrogen into the system while airborne.

UK: West Mercia using Bell 47 ad-hoc. Cambridge set up "Operation Eagle" for ad-hoc air coverage. After taking delivery of new machines in the August, the Metropolitan Police set up the first full time UK Police ASU at Lippitts Hill Camp [November].

1981 WORLD: The first FSI TI system was sold into law enforcement;

the purchaser was the Texas Dept. of Law Enforcement. The first Series 1000 unit, a simple unit offering pan and tilt, was produced in 1981 and entered service with the San Bernardino Sheriff's Dept in California.

UK: Metropolitan Police take delivery of their second aircraft.

1982 WORLD: US Park Police JetRanger rescues survivors from the Potomac River air crash [13 January]. Ireland uses Puma helicopters provided by the Bundesgrenzschutz in Germany [June]



UK: During the visit of the Pope to the UK a number of forces hire air cover. Warwickshire and Greater Manchester share the services of Helicopter Hire's Bo105 and Alouette to provide daylight and TI "Heli-Tele" coverage backed up by a BBC "Good Year" airship. Strathclyde operate a Gazelle [May-June]. Hampshire loan an Optica for the Farnborough Air Show [September]

1983 WORLD: Belize Defence Force formed with police role [July].
UK: Metropolitan Police take delivery of a pre-owned Bell to provide their third owned aircraft [September].

1984 UK: Devon & Cornwall purchase its first helicopter [August].

1985 WORLD: The current South African Police ASU is set up.
UK: Sussex police trial the Optica. Hampshire takes delivery of a leased Optica but it crashes on its first operational flight killing two on board [15th.May].

1986 UK: The annual ACPO conference has the kite balloon "Top Shot" demonstrated to it. Devon & Cornwall sell their first aircraft and buy a Bo105 [October].

1987 UK: Hampshire purchases an Optica Scout. A number of forces attend a demonstration of the "Top Shot" kite balloon in Lincolnshire [July]. With the assistance of the Home Office Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Mercia and West Midlands form the Midland Air Operations Unit [MAOU]. Sussex trial Gazelle for the Home Office [July & August]. Robinson R22 trial by Wiltshire [October to December]

1988 WORLD: Jordan creates Police Air Wing.
UK: West Midlands opt out of the MAOU, which evolves into the CCAOU. Lockerbie air crash results in the small Dumfries and Galloway force hiring helicopters for searches [December].

1989 UK: Greater Manchester and Merseyside trial helicopter to stop theft problems between the cities [December]. Police Aviation Services re-registers its aircraft fleet with its initials. Surrey undertakes helicopter trial that is cut short by IRA terror campaign developments. West Yorkshire form unit with their own Bo105 [November]

1990 WORLD: Modern day Cyprus Police ASU formed [June].
UK: Warwickshire buy their own helicopter and leave CCAOU [April]. Merseyside and Cheshire purchase helicopter to be based at Speke [May] Dyfed-Powys purchase JetRanger helicopter [May]. Hampshire loses Optica through fan failure and transfer operations on to an Islander [July]. Metropolitan Police use an airship over the Notting Hill Carnival [August].

1991 UK: After trial period spread over some months, Essex go full time on a leased aircraft [April] Demonstration of Eurocopter BK117B to a number of forces by the manufacturers agent [August - September] Hampshire take delivery of their own Islander aircraft [December].

1992 WORLD: The Belgian Gendarmerie/Rijkswacht is taken out of the military service and becomes a civil police force [January].
UK: Dyfed-Powys changes the JetRanger for an AS355N, the first of this sub-type in UK police service [April]. Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire buy time in the Thames Valley helicopter operation. Cumbria commence trials with a fixed wing single [July- September] North Wales commence operations using a leased helicopter [October].



1993 UK: Cumbria purchase their first aircraft, a pre-owned Cessna 337 [April], Metropolitan Police take delivery of their fourth owned aircraft after a break of 10 years with the delivery of a new Eurocopter AS355N [August]. Thames Valley acquire their own AS355F [August]

1994 WORLD: The first police helicopter unit on the mainland is set up at Wuhan, the capital of Hubei Province with an Enstrom Shark helicopter. As part of the "Peace Dividend" associated with the break up of the Warsaw Pact, the US Government announces a large programme of defence aircraft disposal to government agencies, many go to law enforcement groups.

UK: The East Midlands ASU, a combined unit taking in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire is set up [April] The Police Air Operation Certificate finally takes hold. Cheshire parts from Merseyside and sets up its own fixed wing unit [April] Lancashire purchases a new helicopter and sets up operations [November].

1995 WORLD: A failure of Japanese emergency services to react to the January 17, earthquake in Kobe results in a major shake-up in helicopter resources. The earthquake was at a magnitude of 7.2 and killed over 6,000 as 270,000 buildings crumbled. Palestine Police formed [May]. Greece forms civil police ASU.

UK: Western Counties ASU set up at Bristol, Filton.

1996 WORLD: Belgian Gendarmerie/Rijkswacht re-equip with the MDH 900 Explorer [December]. Eire orders types for its first police air support unit [December].

UK: The Chiltern ASG is formed as an expansion of the Thames Valley operation and a further aircraft is added to operate from Luton Airport. [January] Police Aviation News is launched [March], Police air unit in Norfolk forms [October], Police air unit in Humberside [December].



1997 WORLD: The Belgian Rijkswacht acquire their first Explorer helicopter. The police in Eire form their first ASU with a PBN Defender 4000 and Eurocopter AS355N operated by the army [July/August].

UK: Police ASU in South Yorkshire, Police ASU in Cambridgeshire forming a joint Essex-Cambridge Consortium. IRA disruption [April], Wiltshire police take delivery of the first UK MD902 [November],

1998 WORLD: PACE [Police Aviation Conference Europe] formed. Norway trial an AS350.

UK: North Midlands ASU to form [April], Dorset ASU to form. Devon & Cornwall introduce the BK117C1 replacing a Bo105. First UK police EC135 enters service with Central Counties.

1999 UK: After trialling leased aircraft for operations in the summer months Dorset Police set up an air support unit based upon a MD902 Explorer.

2000 UK: Suffolk Police commence operations [October].

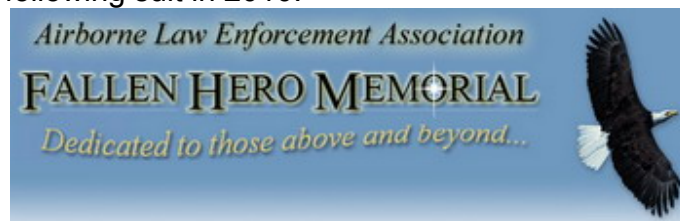
2001 WORLD: Austrian Police transfer EMS operations to ÖAMTC [January]. Peruvian Air Force shoot down light aircraft flown by a missionary killing a woman and child whilst operating on the orders of US Authorities.[April]

UK: Hampshire Police take delivery of the first UK BN-2 4000 [March] Devon & Cornwall are the first UK police force certified to operate with NVG's. [May]

2002 WORLD: First China Police Show is open to World markets and includes aviation content [June]. First Eurocopter EC145 delivered to the Gendarmerie in France [December].

2003 WORLD: MDHI Deliver the first of five MD900 helicopters to Baden-Wurttemberg Police in Germany. Norway activates its air support operation using a leased Eurocopter AS355N [September].

2004 WORLD: In Canada a private company in Winnipeg, CitiScan, launched a crime-fighting helicopter-based security and surveillance that led to the local police following suit in 2010.



2005 WORLD: The Airborne Law Enforcement Association [ALEA] launches its web based Fallen Hero Memorial designed to commemorate fallen aviation officers worldwide.

UK: First police helicopter is delivered to the police in Northern Ireland [June].

2006 WORLD: The largest operator of the MD520N, Phoenix Police Dept. In Arizona sells off its complete fleet in ongoing difficulties acquiring spares.

UK: The first in a new series of Police Aviation Conferences is launched at Olympia, London, by the Shephard Group [November].

2007 WORLD: Kazakhstan takes delivery of a Robinson R44 for police operations [January] Cayman Islands orders its first police air support helicopter.

UK: Metropolitan Police, London take delivery of a new fleet of three EC145 helicopters.

2008 WORLD: The Austrian Police take delivery of the first of a fleet of Eurocopter EC135 helicopters to transfer to twin engine operations [May] federal Police in Germany withdraw the SA330J from service [December]

UK: Eurocopter EC135T1 G-NESV becomes the first UK police helicopter to reach 10,000 hours wholly in police service. [February]

2009 WORLD: police in Botswana take delivery of the first of three AS350B3 helicopters to create and air support operation [January]. The first PAvCon Police Aviation Conference [London]. The Border Guard in Saudi Arabia

take delivery of their first helicopters – examples of the Schweizer/Sikorsky 434 trainer [December]

UK: The first bulk buy of identical aircraft involves six Eurocopter EC135P2 helicopters destined for different police forces. ACPO [the Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland] published within their own ranks and the police side of the air support industry a report called the Police Air Operations review of the National Strategy 2009 making a number of recommendations linked to the establishment of a National Air Support Unit [NASU] for England and Wales governed by a single corporate body.

2010 WORLD: Bulgaria's border Police take delivery of their first Western helicopter [March]

UK: UK Association of Chief Police Officers [ACPO] agree to the creation of a National Police Aviation Service [NPAS] to take effect from April 2012. Hampshire Police Air Support Unit closes down as part of NPAS cuts and marking the demise of most Britten-Norman Islander and Defender fixed wing aircraft from police air service. [October].

2011 WORLD: First Asian International Police Aviation conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia [November]

UK: Merseyside and Norfolk police helicopters are closed in line with the NPAS ideals. All police constables agree to accept the requirements of the NPAS but not all police authorities had followed suit by end date of September.

2012 WORLD:

UK: The National Police Aviation Service is launched at Redhill in Surrey [October]

2013 WORLD:

UK: Helicopter crashes into Clutha Bar

2014 WORLD: One hundred years of police aviation [January]

UK:

2015 WORLD:

UK: All police authorities except Cumbria sign up to NPAS. Metropolitan Police air support joins NPAS [31/3]

2016 WORLD:

UK: All police air support units now part of NPAS. Fixed wing first delivery