


**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
GENERAL ORDERS**

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TITLE	DIVISION AIRCRAFT	EFFECTIVE DATE	July 21, 2008
CHAPTER	GENERAL ORDER 24	PAGES	3
APPROVED		RESCINDS/AMENDS	January 1, 2003

**1
POLICY**

- A** It is the policy of the FWC Division of Law Enforcement that the Division's law enforcement aircraft are to be used primarily to:
- (1)** Protect the fish and wildlife resources of the state through airborne patrol.
 - (2)** Protect human life and property, respond to search and rescue requests, assist other agencies, and promote boating safety.
 - (3)** Provide flights for the purpose of providing expedient transportation in situations of an urgent or emergency nature.
 - (4)** Provide flights in support of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's biological surveys or biological resource management with approval from the Aviation Administrator.

**2
RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A** Any person on board a Division aircraft, regardless of rank or stature, shall follow the pilot-in-command's instructions and orders at all times.
- B** Pilots of Division aircraft are responsible for the safe and efficient operation of assigned aircraft at all times.

**3
PROCEDURES**

A Scheduling of Aircraft

- (1)** Any sworn member, with the approval of a sworn supervisor, may request aircraft support. If an aircraft is currently operating in the area, any sworn member may request local airborne assistance without prior supervisory approval.
- (2)** Scheduling of law enforcement aircraft shall be coordinated with the regional law enforcement staff and the respective pilot or the regional aviation supervisor where the requested flight will originate.
- (3)** Requests may be verbal or written depending on the complexity of the mission.
- (4)** Requests for aviation services shall include at a minimum:
 - (a)** Time and date of proposed aircraft use.
 - (b)** Type of mission.
 - (c)** Special equipment needs (if any).
 - (d)** Area of operation.
 - (e)** Identity of surface/ground unit being supported, if applicable.
- (5)** Emergency requests such as search/rescue or "officer needs assistance" requests take precedence and should be made in the most expeditious manner.
- (6)** Pilots shall make every effort to fly all requested flights, but will accommodate unscheduled law enforcement flights based upon the critical nature of the mission.
- (7)** If a schedule conflict exists it shall be resolved by the regional commander in conjunction with the regional aviation supervisor.

B Passengers

- (1)** Division aircraft will only be used for transportation with the Division Director's or a Deputy Director's approval.
- (2)** The Aviation Administrator or a Section Leader or above in rank must give prior approval to carry non-agency personnel other than sworn law enforcement officers on board Division aircraft except in emergency situations. Any Commission employee, court official, Division reservist, or sworn employee of any law enforcement or conservation agency may serve as an observer on board Division aircraft during any law enforcement flight, survey, or search and rescue mission.
- (3)** Sworn members must be on duty and have approval from their immediate supervisor prior to accompanying any flight.
- (4)** OC spray shall not be carried aboard Division aircraft.

C Regulations

- (1)** The pilot-in-command of a Division aircraft shall be a rated and current pilot assigned to the Division's Aviation Section. The pilot-in-command must meet all pilot qualifications as required in the State of Florida aircraft insurance policy regarding the aircraft being operated. Exceptions are maintenance test flights conducted by vendors performing maintenance on the aircraft.
- (2)** Division aircraft shall be operated and maintained in compliance with all applicable Federal Aviation Regulations and the Division's "Flight Operations Manual."
- (3)** Pilots shall not operate aircraft under conditions that would be hazardous for flight. The pilot-in-command of an aircraft will have final authority in determining if weather, aircraft mechanical condition or passenger safety require a change in the flight profile.
- (4)** Aircraft are not to be used to transport personnel for the sole purpose of meeting attendance or

other non-operational missions unless the meeting is in direct support of urgent business. Examples would be transportation to disaster sites, or to a meeting concerning the disaster, or expedient transportation to the area of an incident requiring immediate management or legal attention.

- (5) All policies and procedures as outlined in the FWC's Internal Management Policies and Procedures (IMPP) 5.3, *Use of Commission Vehicles, Vessels, Equipment and Aircraft* shall be followed.

4 FORMS

N/A