

2280

**CITY OF RIVERSIDE**  
**HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION**

---

07/06/04

Recised

**TITLE: POLICE PILOT**

**DEFINITION**

Under general supervision, to perform sworn officer duties in the piloting of a police helicopter and/or act as an observer in support of general and specialized aerial law enforcement and crime prevention work; to assist in the maintenance and inspection of police helicopters; to provide flight instruction to pilot trainees; and to perform related work as required.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

This is a regular full-time sworn classification. This classification is distinguished from the police Pilot (Civilian) classification by ability of incumbents to act in a sworn capacity in performing law enforcement responsibilities in addition to the operation of a aircraft.

**REPORTS TO:** Police Sergeant (Aviation Unit Supervisor)

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED**

Receives general supervision from the Police Sergeant assigned as the Aviation Unit Supervisor. Exercises direction over Police Pilot Trainees in providing flight instruction and has responsibility for the training and evaluation of Pilot Trainees and observers.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES**

Typical duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Pilot a police helicopter, or act as observer; act as a team member with another Police Pilot or Police Officer Observer in the enforcement of local, state and federal laws.
- Aid, assist, and coordinate from the air with ground units in all phases of Police and Fire department activity, including routine patrols, general law enforcement, traffic law enforcement, vehicle pursuits, responses to criminal activity, aerial surveillance and photography, crowd control, search and rescue operations, firefighting and emergency responses.
- Determine paths, altitudes, speeds and general conduct of the flights in accordance with the manufacturer's aircraft flight manual, Federal Aviation Regulations, Police Department procedures and regulations and all standard and conventional flight safety procedures.
- Coordinate and communicate with other agency ground and air units, as necessary.
- Conduct through pre-flight and post-flight inspections of the aircraft and auxiliary equipment; coordinate with mechanics and submit reports as required concerning detected damage, malfunctions, irregularities, and maintenance issues; maintain aircraft flight time logs and other related operational and flight records.
- Submit oral and/or written reports concerning observations of criminal activity and/or law enforcement actions; serve as a witness and testify in legal or administrative proceedings as required.
- Conduct both preliminary and follow-up investigations of aircraft accidents, as required.
- Serve occasionally as uniform patrol in a marked police vehicle.

In addition to the above, when assigned to perform as a Certified Flight Instructor, duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Provide instruction, training and evaluation of Observer Trainees and Pilot Trainees.
- Maintains responsibility for the safety of the aircraft and those persons therein during flight as Pilot-in-Command.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Knowledge of:**

- Police methods and procedures, including aerial patrol, crime prevention, investigation and identification techniques and police records and reports.
- Geography of the City of Riverside and Surrounding areas.
- Uses, characteristics, capabilities and operation of helicopters currently in use by the Department.
- Record-keeping and reporting procedures.
- Applicable laws and ordinances related to the apprehension, arrest and custody of persons; admissibility of evidence and court procedures.
- Aircraft flight manuals, Federal Aviation Regulations and all standard and conventional flight safety procedures.
- Pre-flight and post-flight aircraft inspection guidelines.
- Rules, policies and procedures contained within the Operations Manuals of the Riverside Police Department and Police Aviation Unit.

In addition to the above, when assigned as a Certified Flight Instructor:

- Instructional methods, materials and evaluation.

### **Ability to:**

- Operate a police helicopter in patrolling the City on routine and special assignments, and periodic flights outside the City.
- Perform pre-flight and post-flight inspections of the aircraft.
- Maintain effective working relationships with other law enforcement officers and members of the Aviation Unit.
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Interpret and apply laws and ordinances.
- Analyze situations and adopt effective courses of action, particularly under stressful situations.
- Demonstrate keen powers of observation and memory.
- Work overtime as required.

In addition to the above, when assigned as a Certified Flight Instructor:

- Effectively train and evaluate Pilot Trainees in conformance with conventional flight instruction standards and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules and regulations.

## Education and Experience:

Any combination of experience and education that would likely provide the required knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Education: Graduation from high school or satisfactory equivalent supplemented by specialized course in Police Science and Aviation.

Experience: Three years of municipal law enforcement experience as a Police Officer and a minimum of 500 logged rotorcraft hours as Pilot-in-Command, of which 50 hours must be in the model currently in use by the Department.

## RANGE PROGRESSION

Step 1 - 3 Normal Progression

Step 4 Achievement of step 3 in the salary range with satisfactory (or higher) performance rating, and acquisition and maintenance of a valid FAA Certified Flight instructor rating.

**MEDICAL CATEGORY:** Group 3

## NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT

Possession of a valid Commercial Pilot Rotorcraft certificate, as issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Possession of an appropriate, valid class "C" California Motor Vehicle Operator's License.

Possession of and ability to obtain annually; a valid Class "2" Medical Certificate, as issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Possession of a current Basic Certificate (or higher) as issued by the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission.

Must be willing to work variable hours as necessary including day and night shifts.

Ability to pass a pre-selection psychological examination.

Must be available for emergency duty at any hour.

In addition to the above, when assigned to perform as a Certified Flight Instructor:

Possession of a valid Certified Flight Instructor rating, as issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

## CAREER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**FROM:** Police Pilot

**TO:** Police Sergeant