



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HUNTINGTON BEACH AIR SUPPORT BUREAU ACHIEVES MORE THAN 70,000 ACCIDENT-FREE FLIGHT HOURS**

*MD Helicopters celebrates 70,000+ accident-free flight hours by Huntington Beach Air Support Bureau's all-NOTAR® MD 520N fleet*



MD Helicopters celebrates 70,000+ accident-free flight hours with HB-1 officers and maintenance crew.

**Mesa, Ariz., January 30, 2017** – [MD Helicopters, Inc.](http://www.mdhelicopters.com) (MDHI) celebrates Huntington Beach Police Department's [Air Support Bureau](#) with a special commendation for its outstanding record of over 70,000 accident free flight hours. The Huntington Beach Air Support Bureau began flying MDHI-model helicopters in 1984 with the iconic MD 500E. The department acquired its current all-NOTAR fleet of three (3) MD 520N helicopters between 1992 and 2002. Designed to reduce noise by an average of 50% versus helicopters with tail rotors, NOTAR-equipped helicopters are among the quietest helicopters available worldwide.

“We are proud to celebrate this achievement with the Huntington Beach Air Support Bureau,” said Craig Kitchen, Chief Commercial Officer for MD Helicopters. “The Huntington Beach Police department has been part of the MDHI family for more than 30 years; and one of our most dedicated advocates of the MD 520N and our exclusive NOTAR, no tail rotor technology.”

“The MD 520N has proven to be a very good platform for our Air Support Bureau,” commented Huntington Beach Police Department Aero Bureau Sergeant Chris Nesmith. “Noise is the number one citizen

complaint regarding Air Unit operations nationally. The noise abatement offered by the NOTAR no-tail rotor technology, and the performance characteristics of these aircraft – speed, payload, reliability – have allowed them to play an integral role in more than 5,500 calls for service annually.”

Since its inception in 1968, the Huntington Beach Police Department’s Air Support Bureau, known by residents as “HB-1”, has patrolled the skies keeping an eye on the community. Four pilots and two mechanics support the fleet to ensure 7-day-a-week availability. Decades of experience, and thousands of hours of flight time, combined with meticulous maintenance on the helicopters, has helped maintain the Air Support Bureau’s reputation of being accident free.

In addition to a reduced noise profile, NOTAR Technology delivers:

- **Greater Safety**

Studies have shown that 21 percent of all crashes are due to tail rotor strikes or loss of tail rotor effectiveness; NOTAR® systems eliminate these problems.

- **Reduced Pilot Workload**

Using the *Coanda Effect* to provide tail boom lift and anti-torque, the system is more stable and easier to control. This effect reduces the sensitivity to wind direction on helicopter control.

- **Reduced Aircraft Vibration**

The inherent stability of the standard MD 500 is further improved by the elimination of the exposed tail rotor assembly, which reduces overall helicopter vibrations and increases passenger comfort while reducing pilot fatigue.

“It is truly an honor to know our aircraft has played a part in improving the productivity of the Huntington Beach Police department, and protecting the citizens of Huntington Beach, Newport Beach and Costa Mesa for more than 25 years,” Kitchen concluded. “We are proud to recognize and celebrate this incredible accomplishment with Chief Handy and the HB-1 team.”

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### **About MD Helicopters, Inc.**

MD Helicopters, Inc. (MDHI), a woman-owned, small business, is a leading manufacturer of commercial, military, law enforcement and air-rescue helicopters. The MDHI family of rotorcraft is world renowned for its value, versatility and performance, and includes the twin-engine MD 902 Explorer, the MD 530F Cayuse Warrior Light Scout Attack Helicopter, the new MD530G Attack helicopter, and a single-engine commercial fleet that includes the MD 600N, MD 520N, MD 500E and MD 530F. The innovative NOTAR® system for anti-torque control with no tail rotor – a key feature of the MD 902, MD 600N and MD 520N – is used exclusively by MD Helicopters to provide safer, quieter performance and confined-area access capability. For more information about MDHI, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#), or visit [www.mdhelicopters.com](http://www.mdhelicopters.com).

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