

# American Eurocopter: Thinking Without Limits

By Ed Van Winkle, Law Enforcement Market Manager

Just pick up any helicopter magazine from your desk, and it's easy to see that American Eurocopter products have become the reference standard for airborne law enforcement rotorcraft in the U.S. Large and small agencies from coast to coast are flying Eurocopter helicopters, and for good reason. Eurocopter helicopters are maintenance-friendly and continue to provide low operating cost solutions to law enforcement agencies. American Eurocopter works with local, state and federal operators throughout the U.S., providing not just the right helicopter for the mission, but also state-of-the-art factory training and full after-sales support.

An analysis of research data from industry consultant Conklin & deDecker shows that Eurocopter products offer lower maintenance time per flight hour than other helicopters in the same class. Extensive use of composites in fuselage and blade construction results in excellent mission availability for law enforcement agencies that fly Eurocopter products. Maintenance technicians enjoy the fact that their Eurocopter products routinely go between 100-hour inspections without major problems forcing unscheduled maintenance events.

## Training for the 21st Century

The American Eurocopter Training Center defines "leading edge." Our experienced instructors provide initial training in all models of the Eurocopter product line, in addition to recurrency training at our facility in Grand Prairie, TX, or at your location. With the increasing use of night vision goggles (NVGs) by law enforcement agencies across the country, our training department can provide FAA Part 141 NVG pilot and instructor courses.

Simulator training is also currently available in our EC135/145 Level 6 full-motion flight simulation training device, and an AS350 full-motion simulator offering mission-specific scenario training will be introduced next year. Both simulators will provide the ability to conduct law enforcement tactical training for tactical flight officers, special operations personnel and incident command staff.

In order to keep our customers in the air and available, American Eurocopter is dedicated to providing parts and service support 24 hours a day. We are currently in the process of building a state-of-the-art call service center, which will combine customer service representatives and technical representatives to support and help manage customers' AOGs for quicker back-to-flight solutions. This new facility will be located on the campus of our Grand Prairie headquarters.

## Made for the Mission

American Eurocopter has maintained a 49 percent share of the law enforcement market from 1999-2008. This is due to our extensive product line that provides solutions for the wide range of law enforcement missions. And since many law enforcement operators perform multiple types of missions with the same model of aircraft, versatility is a crucial component when choosing a platform.

Technology also plays a major role in the decision process, especially as missions evolve and the industry looks for safety improvements that reduce pilot workload. All

Eurocopter models currently operated by law enforcement agencies come standard with the Vehicle and Engine Multifunction Display (VEMD). The VEMD combines T4 (engine temperature), Ng, and torque into the First Limitation Indicator (FLI). The FLI provides a single gauge for the pilot to monitor engine performance and limits. This reduces the pilot's workload and helps keep his or her view outside the cockpit, which can improve mission safety.

## Aircraft Choices

From patrol operations and coordinating perimeters from above, to search and rescue and tactical operations, American Eurocopter has a helicopter for every agency's mission.

EC120 – The EC120 is the most capable light single-engine turbine helicopter in its class. Excellent visibility, efficient fuel burn and plenty of useful load have made the EC120 a popular patrol helicopter from coast-to-coast. The EC120's Fenestron tail rotor and light composite structures make it quiet for the citizens and quick to respond to in-progress calls for law enforcement service.

AS350 – Well-known as the "A-Star," the AS350 B2 and B3 have maintained market leadership of the medium single-engine turbine market for law enforcement from 2004-2008 with a 59 percent share of the market. The AS350 models are widely used for patrol missions, search and rescue operations with hoist capacity up to 500 pounds, firefighting, tactical team deployment and other mission profiles.

The AS350 B2 and B3 are in wide law enforcement use across the U.S. The B2 offers excellent performance and capability, and the B3 builds upon the solid base provided by the B2 with additional performance for "hot and high" missions. The B3 has seen several enhancements in the past few years, including the addition of dual hydraulics, increased maximum gross weight from 4,960 pounds to 5,225 pounds, as well as dual channel FADEC in the Arriel 2B1 engine. The AS350 is clearly the most versatile medium single-engine helicopter on the market today. Period.

EC135 – The EC135 combines twin-engine performance with a low noise signature from the Fenestron tail rotor. Law enforcement operators can expect multi-mission performance from the EC135 without high operating costs. The Fenestron and rear clamshell doors make the EC135 a prime candidate for mixed law enforcement and EMS mission profiles, offering the additional margin of a second engine over congested metropolitan areas.

EC145 – In the "STAR-145" configuration (STAR=Security Tactical Airborne Response), the EC145 offers the most capable medium twin-engine platform in its class. The STAR-145 shines in the roles of tactical team deployment via fast-rope or rappelling, in addition to proven search and rescue mission capability with a 600-pound hoist. The U.S. Army chose the EC145 to fill its need for a light utility helicopter, which will make it even more familiar in the search and rescue landscape as the Army's UH-72 Lakota becomes the platform of choice for RAID missions.

## Wise Purchases

During these challenging economic times, it is important for law enforcement agencies to make wise purchases while continuing to provide airborne law enforcement services to support the men and women on the ground. American Eurocopter has a long

history of dedicated partnership with airborne law enforcement, and we have become a trusted partner to local, state and federal operators throughout the U.S.

We offer a wide range of platforms to fulfill any agency's mission requirements. Our helicopters are "made for the mission," and American Eurocopter provides the maintenance, training and support to keep these helicopters in the air and to help our customers complete their missions safely and successfully.