

Metropolitan Police Air Support Unit

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Branch / OCU	Air Support Unit. TPOS
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SOP for Night Air Operations

The MPS ASU is a 24hr Operational Unit whose primary roles are;

1. Public and Police Safety
2. Tactical Support to ground units
3. Counter Terrorism
4. Intelligence Gathering

Regarding the obvious environmental impact of operating aircraft over densely populated areas for a full 24hrs, various tasking criteria were examined.

The following option was agreed and approved by the OCU Commander on the 18th September 2003.

The Process map contained at **Appendix A**. will be the Standard operating procedure in relation to night (midnight – 6am) deployment of MPS ASU assets.

Author	2 <input type="text"/>	8 th September 2003
Agreed	Insp Whitelaw UEO	8 th September 2003
Approved	C/Supt Humphrey OCU Commander	18 th September 2003

Appendix A

Air Support Unit Night Tasking Standard Operating Procedure Aide Memoir

- A** **Is there a full crew available?**
(i.e. front & rear observers)
- YES **NO** ➔ Refer to single crew SOP for guidance re suitable tasking.
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- B** **Does the tasking fall within any of the following categories affecting Public or Police safety?**
ROOFTOP SEARCH - **Persons**
VEHICLE PURSUIT - **Active**
RAILWAY SEARCH - **Persons**
HIGH RISK MISPER SEARCH
SEARCH OF WATER - **Persons**
SEARCH FOR SUSPECTS
- YES **NO** ➔ **Serious Consideration must be given to the impact of accepting this tasking on the environment. It is to be born in mind by the tactical commander that the task should be a risk management issue and unable to be completed effectively or safely by ground units.**
- Proceed to accept or decline tasking in accordance with normal SOP's.
If suspect search involved consider also section C below before decision.
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- C** **Is the search for a suspect gone to ground?**
- YES **NO** ➔ **The ASU will not generally undertake street searches.**
Serious Consideration must be given to the impact of accepting this tasking on the environment. As at B above.

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YES

C cont.

Deploy aircraft and record details as directed in normal SOPs' on aircraft log sheet.

REMEMBER, ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS

- 1 Does the deployment at this time of night warrant the environmental impact through noise?
 - 2 Is the deployment of the ASU necessary for, and proportionate to the risk apparent?
 - 3 What is the likely impact of refusing to take this deployment?
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Issued for guidance to Air Support Unit Crews

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DUEO / Operations Manager
MPS ASU

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