

# WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE FLIGHT OPERATIONS UNIT

2012

Operation Report

**Contents**

**1. REPORT SUMMARY ..... 2**

**2. OPERATION ..... 2**

Contracts..... 2

Staffing..... 2

Training..... 3

Unit Organization Chart..... 4

Flight Operations Unit Objectives ..... 4

Safety ..... 5

Laser Incidents ..... 5

Noise Complaints ..... 6

Operational Highlights ..... 6

Assistance to Outside Agencies..... 11

Public Displays ..... 11

Presentations..... 11

**3. PERFORMANCE ..... 12**

Quarterly Summary of Flight Hours ..... 12

Flight Hours by Month..... 12

Quarterly Summary of Flight Time Lost (by day)..... 12

Summary of Incident Type by Activity January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012..... 13

AIR1Flight Activity - Density of Occurrences by Atom January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 .... 14

Quarterly Summary of Incidents Attended..... 15

Total Incident Volume by Month ..... 15

Quarterly Summary of Dispatched Incidents..... 15

Calls for Service..... 16

Pursuits ..... 16

Financial Considerations..... 16

Year to Year Comparison..... 16

**COVER PHOTO BY DAVE BROWN**

# Winnipeg Police Service Flight Operations Unit

## OPERATION REPORT 2012

### 1. REPORT SUMMARY

The following document presents an operation report of the Winnipeg Police Service Flight Operations Unit (FOU) during 2012.

### 2. OPERATION

#### **Contracts**

The Winnipeg Police Service renewed all contracts from the previous operating year, which include:

- **Engine:** Turbomeca Canada – Support By the Hour (SBH)
- **Maintenance:** Novex Helitrades Incorporated
- **Fuel:** Imperial Oil in partnership with the Province of Manitoba
- **Leased office space and hangar:** 17 Wing Winnipeg
- **Insurance:** As organized through the City of Winnipeg Insurance Branch

#### **Staffing**

##### ***Pilots***

In October 2011, the Unit hired the 12 month contract pilot into the vacant Chief Pilot position as a staff member of the Service. In December 2011, the Service advertised for an experienced civilian pilot with 2000+ hours of experience to fill the line pilot vacancy and support the police member pilot who had 150 hours of experience. No suitable candidates were identified in this process.

In February 2012, the Service advertised again for an experienced civilian pilot with 2000+ hours of experience to fill the line pilot vacancy. As a result of this process, a pilot was hired by the end of April 2012.

In March 2012, the recently assigned Chief Pilot unexpectedly resigned. In April 2012, the Service advertised for a Chief Pilot. No suitable candidates were identified in this process.

In July 2012, the civilian line pilot hired in April 2012, was promoted into the Chief Pilot position, leaving a vacancy in the civilian line pilot role.

In October 2012, the Service advertised for an experienced civilian line pilot. At years end the Service was finalizing the hiring of a 7000+ hour pilot who will report for duty in Winnipeg in February 2013, at which time our "Hybrid-Pilot Program" consisting of a civilian Chief Pilot, civilian line pilot and a police line pilot will be intact.

### ***Tactical Flight Officer (TFO)***

During the first year of operation, the Unit complement of TFO was four Constables operating on two shifts. In April 2012, one of the TFO was promoted to Patrol Sergeant and transferred from the Unit. This position within the FOU remained vacant for 2012 where we operated with three Constables.

## **Training**

### ***Pilots***

All Unit pilots have attended Canadian Helicopter in Penticton, British Columbia for annual re-current training on the EC120 where they are exposed to and tested on a series of in-flight emergency procedures.

The Chief Pilot also travelled to Toronto, Ontario to attend a safety seminar hosted by the Peel Regional Police and facilitated by the Airborne Law Enforcement Association (ALEA).

### ***Tactical Flight Officer (TFO)***

To further develop the TFO skills and knowledge base, two of the three Flight Officers also received training from ALEA.

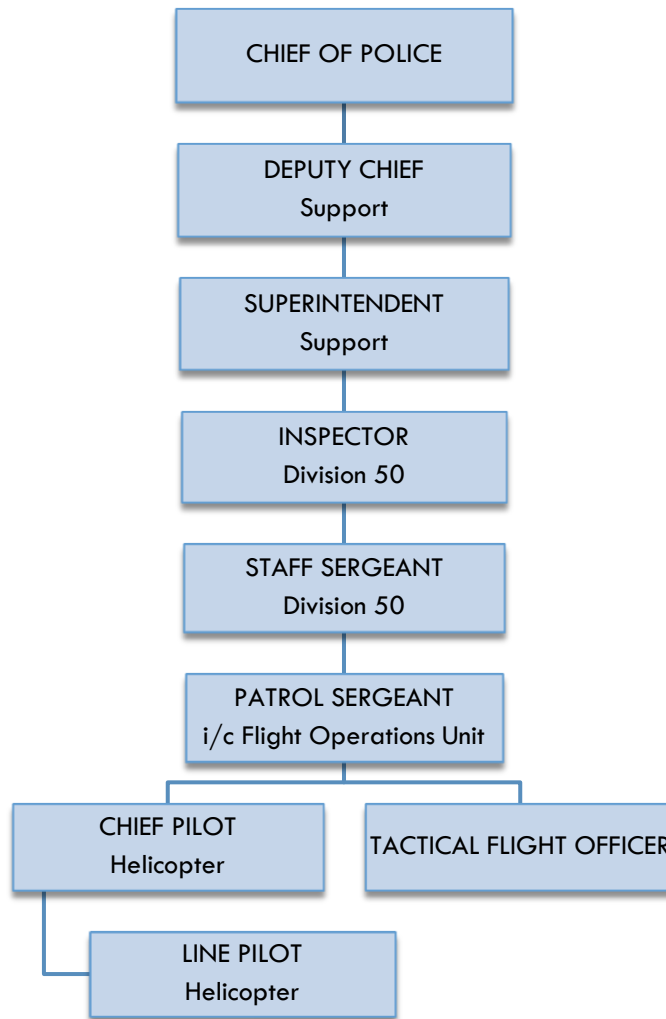
One member gained a certification in advanced Tactical Flight Officer skills, which includes a certification in the use of the Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR).

The second Flight Officer attended a flight safety seminar facilitated by the Airborne Law Enforcement Association in Toronto, Ontario.

### ***Unit Supervisor***

The Administrative Patrol Sergeant completed an internationally recognized Unit Managers Course facilitated by the Airborne Law Enforcement Association. The course focused on safety management systems and development, general administration of a law enforcement aerial support unit, budgeting issues, aircraft maintenance, personnel selection, pre-accident planning, and unit training standards.

## Unit Organization Chart



## Flight Operations Unit Objectives

The primary purpose of the Flight Operations Unit is to support all operational and investigative Service units in the detection of criminal acts and the apprehension of suspects. The Unit has budgeted to fly 1000 hours a year on missions with a variety of scopes. Air crews are able to provide assistance with the following, weather permitting:

- response to crimes in progress for aerial containment and investigation
- infrared searches for suspects and evidence, and co-ordination of ground response
- tracking and surveillance of suspect vehicles during police pursuits and subsequent co-ordination of ground resources
- illumination of crime scenes, collision scenes, vehicle stops, search areas, disturbances, and foot pursuits
- aerial searches for missing or lost persons
- aerial reconnaissance and photography or videotaping of crime scenes, traffic collisions, high-risk incidents or remote areas

- aerial platform for Emergency Services for major fires, environmental disasters, or other major incidents
- Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) scans to provide evidence of illegal grow operations relating to drug investigations
- rapid deployment of Canine Unit members to remote locations under exigent circumstances

**Safety**

The issue of Flight Safety is taken very seriously by the Winnipeg Police Service. The location of the Unit on a Canadian Forces establishment has lent itself to developing a safety culture with the Unit. The Winnipeg Police Service and 17 Wing Winnipeg work together to ensure the highest safety standards are followed. There were no major safety concerns in 2012.

**Laser Incidents**

Prior to the launch of AIR1 there was no local capability to address the problem of lasers or other forms of projected bright light being shone at aircraft arriving or departing from the Winnipeg area. As a result of the Winnipeg Police Service working together with Nav Canada and Transport Canada, new protocols have been implemented to streamline all stakeholder response to reports of aircraft, including AIR1, being struck by lasers.

As a result of this partnership AIR1 has successfully directed ground units to locate and identify suspects who violate the Air Regulations and Aeronautics Act of Canada, and create hazardous flying conditions for pilots.

**Summary of Incidents**

DATE	TIME	RESULT	TYPE	SUMMARY
2012 02 18	2300 hrs	1 Suspect Arrested	White light	2 three second exposures
2012 04 28	2310 hrs	1 Suspect Arrested	Red laser	Several exposures
2012 07 06	2145 hrs	Not Identified	Green laser	3 exposures
2012 07 08	0319 hrs	Not Identified	Green laser	4 exposures
2012 07 26	0022 hrs	1 Suspect Arrested	Green laser	2 exposures
2012 07 28	0220 hrs	1 Suspect Arrested	Green laser	Several exposures
2012 09 15	2208 hrs	Not Identified	White light	Continuous strobe
2012 09 23	0224 hrs	Not Identified	Green laser	1 exposure
2012 10 28	0015 hrs	Not Identified	Green laser	2 exposures

## Noise Complaints

There is a process in place to track all noise complaints and the Unit supervisor ensures that each complainant is contacted to discuss the complaint. This response has been well received by the public and in a majority of cases the complainants were satisfied that the cause was justifiable.

In total, there were 10 noise complaints submitted during 2012, with the majority occurring during summer months when residents are more likely to keep their windows open at night.

## Operational Highlights

### *STOLEN VEHICLE – ARRESTS*

On February 23, 2012 at approximately 2:30 am a patrolling East District police unit observed a stolen vehicle proceeding southbound on Lagimodiere Boulevard at Dugald Road.

A number of police units including the Canine Unit and AIR1 responded to the area to assist. In a coordinated effort lead by the Tactical Flight Officer in AIR1, the stolen vehicle was tracked within the 1400 block of Regent Avenue West. After a brief foot chase took place, all 5 suspects were taken into custody without incident.

All 5 suspects were charged with the following offence:

- Possession of Goods Obtained by Crime.

### *ASSAULT WITH A WEAPON*

On February 18, 2012, at approximately 9:50 pm, numerous police resources, including members of the Flight Operations Unit AIR1, responded to a stabbing incident in the area of the 100 block of Aikins Street.

The investigation revealed that the suspect produced a knife and stabbed the victim to the upper body, after which he fled the area on foot.

AIR1 attended to the area within seconds and located the suspect as he fled the scene to an address on Flora Avenue. As a result of coordinated efforts, the suspect was taken into custody and arrested.

The suspect was charged with the following offences:

- Assault with a Weapon
- Breach of Probation
- Fail to Comply with Condition Undertaking

### TRAFFIC PURSUIT INVOLVING AIR1

On May 4, 2012, at approximately 5:00 am, Uniform Patrol members observed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed in the area of Roblin Boulevard near Assiniboine Park. As a result, officers attempted a traffic stop however, the vehicle fled from police at a high rate of speed.

Members of the WPS Flight Operations Unit, AIR1 were requested and immediately responded to the area. The suspect vehicle continued to flee from police, having no regard for public safety. With AIR1 assuming control of the pursuit, ground units attempted to deploy two tire deflation devices, however the suspect vehicle continued to evade officers.

Due to the coordinated efforts of AIR1 and Uniform Patrol members, the suspect vehicle was successfully tracked to the area of Lee Boulevard and Shore Street.

The suspect was charged with the following offences:

- Dangerous Operation – Motor Vehicle
- Flight from Police Officer



PHOTO BY VITEK ZAWADA

### ROB PERSON

On November 3, 2012, at 2:00 am, the victim was in the vicinity of the convenience store in the 800 block of Ellice Avenue. At this time the accused confronted the victim and pulled out a knife in a threatening manner. The accused subsequently fled the area but was immediately located by members of the Flight Operations Unit. With direction from the Tactical Flight Officer, the armed suspect was safely taken into custody.

The accused was charged with the following offences:

- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose
- Minor Consume



### *GARAGE BREAK-IN & DAMAGE*

On May 16, 2012 at approximately 2:57 am members of the Winnipeg Police Service attended to the area of the 100 block of Arrowwood Drive North regarding a break-in to a garage. The suspect had committed numerous thefts and damages at multiple locations.

AIR1 was the first unit in the area and completed a search, locating the suspect attempting to evade officers by climbing on the roof of a house. With the assistance of the Canine Unit, the suspect was taken into custody and charged with the following offences:

- Break and Enter commit indictable offence
- Mischief Under \$5000 X 3
- Possess Property Obtained by Crime Under \$5000
- Fail to Comply with Recognizance X 2

### *DRUG ARRESTS*

On June 29, 2012, at approximately 12:06 am, members of the Winnipeg Police Street Crime Unit became involved in a Controlled Drug and Substance Act search warrant in the 600 block of Langside Street. The warrant was executed with the assistance of the Tactical Support Team and AIR1. Thirteen individuals were located in the residence and detained as a result of the investigation. One individual attempted to evade officers by climbing out a third story window and hiding on the rooftop. Members of the Flight Operations Unit immediately observed the suspect attempting to escape and alerted the officers on scene who were able to take the suspect into custody.

The fleeing suspect along with four other co-accused, were charged with the following offences:

- Possessing Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking
- Possess Proceeds of Crime

### *COMMERCIAL ROBBERY*

On July 22, 2012, at approximately 1:55 am, members of the Winnipeg Police Service responded to the area of the 1000 block of Henderson Highway for the report of a commercial robbery of a convenience store.

Responding General Patrol Officers, a Canine Unit and the Flight Operations Unit immediately flooded the area. With the assistance of the Canine Unit, a preliminary direction of travel was determined. Members of AIR1 began to scan ahead, and quickly located the suspects attempting to flee the area.

Both suspects were charged with the following offence:

- Robbery

### COMMERCIAL BREAK AND ENTER

On August 18, 2012, numerous resources of the Winnipeg Police Service were dispatched within the East District Area in regard to three consecutive commercial break and enters in the area of Nairn and Archibald.

At 3:57 am, a fourth commercial alarm came in the 200 block of Riverton. Within seconds, AIR1 arrived overhead and located the suspect fleeing the scene. Members of the flight crew continued to track the suspect while coordinating units into the area. With the assistance of the Canine Unit, the suspect was taken into custody.

Further investigation linked the suspect to all four of the incidents.

### STABBING ARREST

On October 15, 2012, at approximately 12:00 am, members of the Winnipeg Police Service responded to the area of the 1800 block of Midmar Avenue for the report of a stabbing.

Attending members located an 18 year old male with injuries to his upper body.

The attending Canine Unit along with members of the Tactical Support Team began tracking the suspect from the scene. As a result of the Canine Unit's direction of travel, members of the flight crew located the suspect further ahead hiding in a yard beneath a picnic table. Between the combined efforts of units, the suspect was safely taken into custody without incident.

The suspect was charged with the following offences:

- Aggravated Assault
- Possession of Weapon for Dangerous Purpose
- Fail to Comply with Condition of Recognizance X 4.

### MAJOR INDUSTRIAL FIRE

On October 1, 2012, at approximately 5:40 pm, emergency personnel responded to a business located in the area of Nicolas Avenue and Marion Street as a result of a fire incident.

AIR1 assisted the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) with on scene aerial support. AIR1 provided vital information to both police units and fire crews on the ground. The video AIR1 obtained was later provided to the WFPS for follow-up action as well as a measure for future operational deployments and training.

### DRUGS

On November 12, 2012, at approximately 10:15 pm, members of the Winnipeg Police Service attended to the area of the 400 block of Maryland Street regarding a male wanted by police.

Attending members observed a male fleeing the area which resulted in the deployment of AIR1 and the Canine Unit.

AIR1 located the suspect fleeing the area and directed uniform members along with the Canine Unit until which time the suspect was apprehended. During the attempt to flee, the suspect was observed by AIR1 discarding evidence pertinent to the investigation. With the direction of the flight crew, ground officers were able to return to the area and recover all the evidence.

The suspect was charged with the following offences:

- Possessing Controlled Drug or Substance (Cocaine)
- Possessing Substance for the Purpose of Trafficking (Cocaine)
- Breaching Conditions of his Supervision Order X 2.

#### *IMPAIRED DRIVER*

On November 29, 2012 at 2:55 am, members of the Flight Operations Unit observed a vehicle operating in an erratic manner in the 2100 block of McPhillips Street. The vehicle was subsequently observed to narrowly avoid striking pedestrians and eventually struck a light standard head on. With direction from the flight crew, uniformed officers attended and stopped the vehicle, at which time the driver was found to be impaired.

The accused was charged with the following offences:

- Impaired Driving – Motor Vehicle
- Failure to Provide Breath Sample
- Drive While Disqualified

#### *STOLEN VEHICLE*

On December 10, 2012, at approximately 1:00 am, Uniform Patrol members were dispatched to the area of the 700 block of Nassau Street after Flight Operation Unit members observed a suspicious vehicle.

Initially, AIR1 observed the vehicle being operated in a suspicious manner while driving up and down several back lanes in the area. A short time later, the suspect vehicle collided with a parked car subsequently fleeing the area.

While Uniform Patrol members, including members of the Canine Unit, were attending to the area, AIR1 continued to follow the fleeing vehicle to the 300 block of Maplewood Avenue.

With support from AIR1, Uniform Patrol members and members of the Canine Unit, two suspects were taken into custody. Further investigation confirmed that the vehicle had been recently stolen from the Riverview area.

The suspects are facing the following charges:

- Motor vehicle theft
- Failure to remain at the scene of an accident and exchange particulars
- Drive without a licence (HTA).

## Assistance to Outside Agencies

AIR1 worked closely with a number of internal and external stakeholders, both operationally and in training. AIR1 worked closely with other provincial bodies and police agencies including the Brandon Police Service, Morden Police Service, RCMP and Manitoba Finance Special Investigations. As well, AIR1 worked closely with the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service on several occasions.

## Public Displays

- Winnipeg Police Service Half Marathon
- WPS Community Golf Challenge - Rossmere Golf Course (for inner city youth scholarships)
- Air Force Half Marathon

## Presentations

### *Presentation to Winnipeg Police Service Units*

- Recruit Class, Recruit family night, Patrol Sergeant Sense and Meaning lecture series, Duty Office Unit, various General Patrol shifts throughout the city

### *Community Presentations*

- Aboriginal Youth Career Camp, Canadian Aviation Historical Society, Nav Canada, Manitoba Aviation Council Conference, Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials Conference (APCO), Chief for a day opportunity



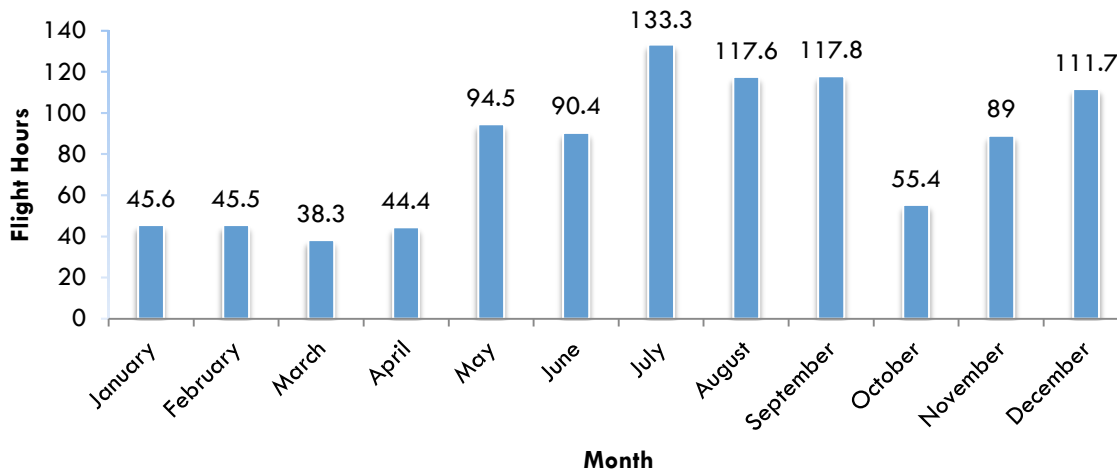
PHOTO BY COREENA LLOYD PHOTOGRAPHY

### 3. PERFORMANCE

#### Quarterly Summary of Flight Hours

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2012
<b>Total</b>	129.4	229.3	368.7	256.1	983.5

#### Flight Hours by Month



During 2012, the Flight Operations Unit logged 983.5 flight hours. While the above table illustrates the distribution of flight hours by month, the Unit achieved a monthly average of 81.9 flight hours.

Between the months of January and April 2012, flight hours were impacted by scheduled and unscheduled maintenance, staffing shortages and re-current training involving exposure to and testing on a series of in-flight emergency procedures. This training was conducted by HNZ Topflight (Canadian Helicopters) located in Penticton, BC.

#### Quarterly Summary of Flight Time Lost (by day)

Factor	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2012
<b>Weather</b>	6.5	0	.5	18	25
<b>Maintenance</b>	19	13	18	11	61
<b>Staffing<sup>1</sup></b>	14	5	2	7	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>39.5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>114</b>

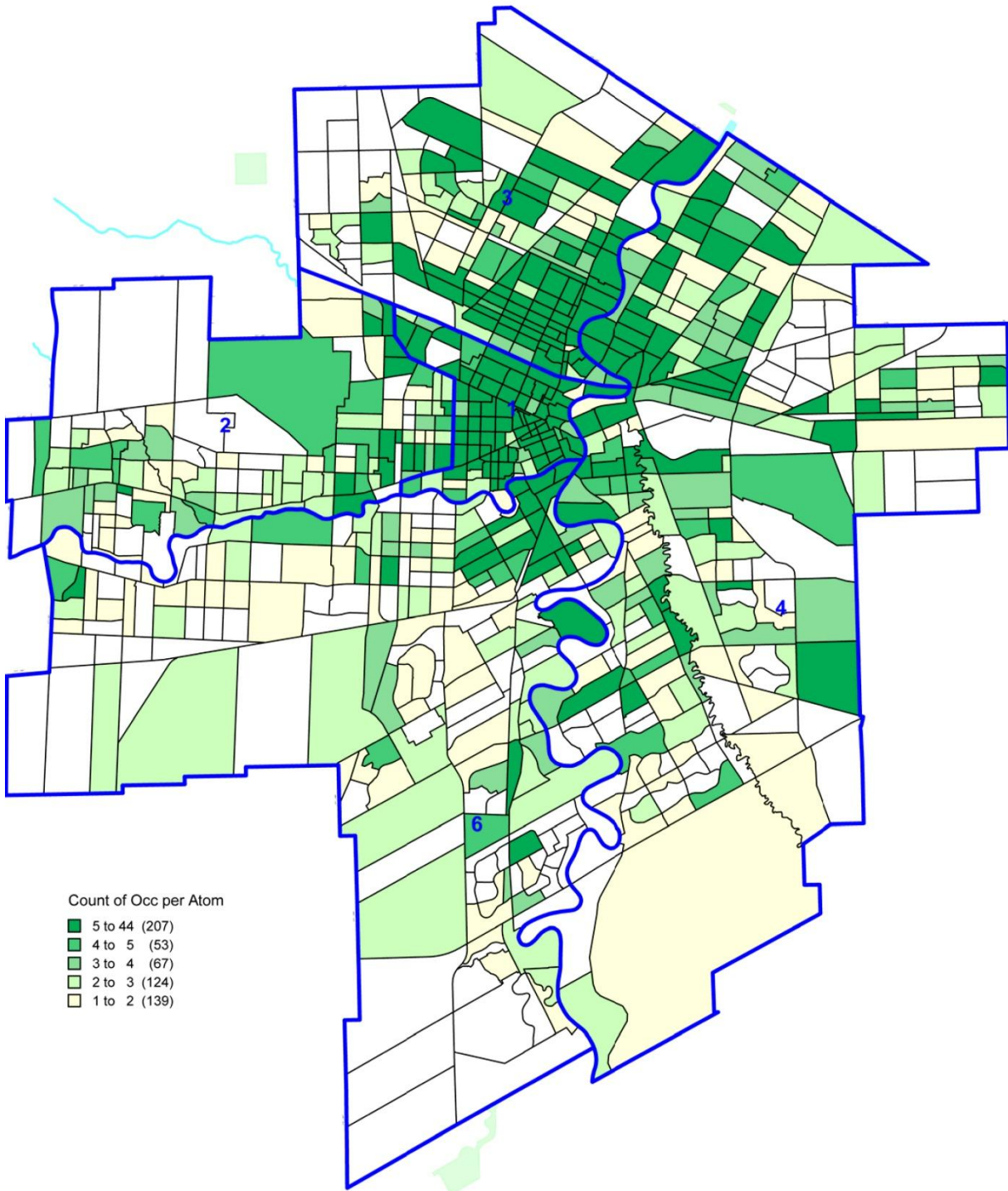
<sup>1</sup> Staffing shortages first tracked in 2012.

**Summary of Incident Type by Activity January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012**

The following table contains a summary of the most frequently attended incident types:

SUSPICIOUS PERSON	240	WARRANT EXECUTION	16
DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE	219	MISSING PERSON ASSIST	15
B&E (ALL)	192	STOLEN VEHICLE	15
WELLBEING	174	PROWLER	13
TRAFFIC STOP	158	OFFICER	12
ASSAULT	147	SEXUAL ASSAULT	12
DISTURBANCE	147	SPECIAL ATTENTION	12
ALARM (ALL)	138	GUN KNOWN	11
FIGHT	128	MEDICAL CALL	11
SHOTS FIRED	77	CHILD SAFETY	10
GUN SEEN	76	BREACH	9
ROBBERY - PERSON	75	E911 HANGUP	9
WEAPON	69	DISPUTE	8
TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS	66	GUN SHOT WOUND	7
DAMAGE	60	TRAFFIC PURSUIT	7
ROBBERY - COMMERCIAL	60	INVESTIGATION	5
SUICIDE THREAT	54	WARRANT	5
FAMILY TROUBLE	53	ANIMAL	4
IMPAIRED DRIVING	50	ABDUCT	3
DANGEROUS SITUATION	42	INSECURE PREMISIS	3
ASSAULT WITH WEAPON	40	STOLEN VEHICLE LOCATED	3
STABBING REPORTED	40	IPDA	2
MVC	38	NOISE	2
FIRE	37	VICE	2
THEFT	27	FLIR REQUIRED	1
FOLLOW	25	GRAFFITI	1
THREAT REPORTED	22	SHOPLIFTING	1
ASSISTANCE REQUIRED	17	SPOTCHECK	1
SUBJECT STOP	17	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2688</b>

**AIR1 Flight Activity - Density of Occurrences by Atom January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012**



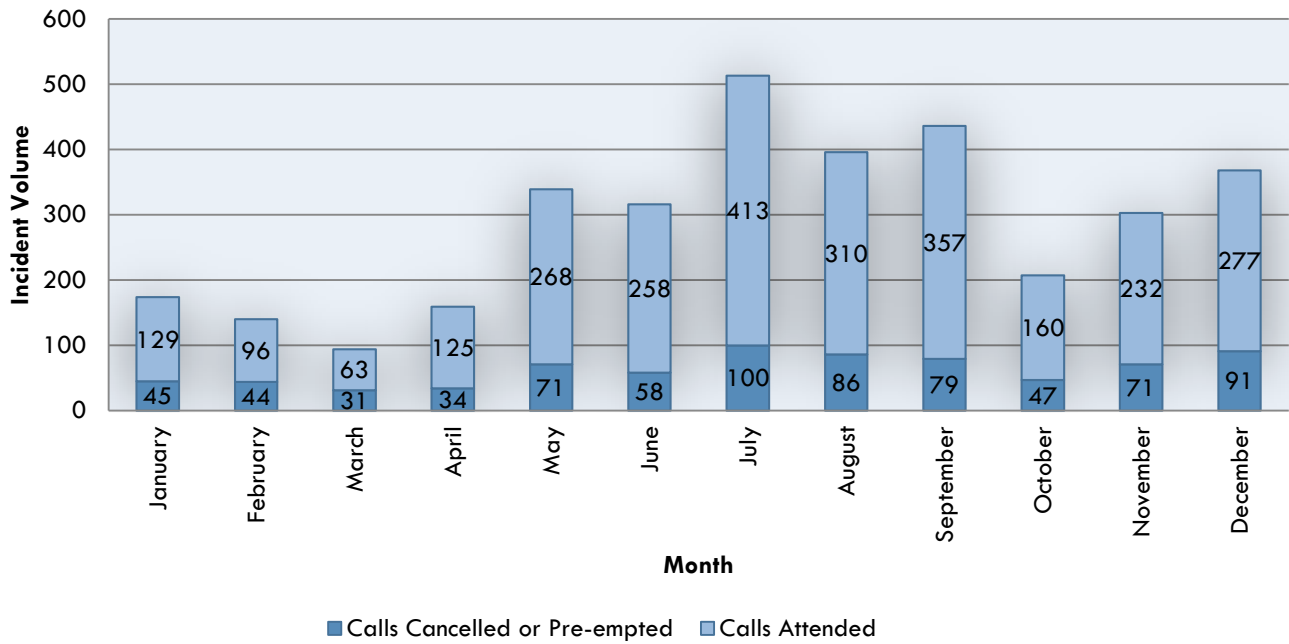
**Overview of AIR1 density of occurrences in Winnipeg (795 Atoms total)**

- 205 atoms had zero calls for service where AIR1 responded

**Quarterly Summary of Incidents Attended**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2012
<b>Total</b>	288	651	1080	669	2688

**Total Incident Volume by Month**



**Quarterly Summary of Dispatched Incidents**

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2012
<b>Total</b>	408	814	1345	878	3445

Note: Total dispatched incidents (3445) includes all calls that AIR1 attended (2688) as well as the total events that were cancelled or pre-empted (757) prior to arriving on scene.



**Calls for Service**

AIR1 continues to have a dramatic influence on the outcome of calls for service. As detailed in the Unit records, the helicopter attended 2688 events. As a direct result of this presence, AIR1 was instrumental in the capture and/or arrest of 185 persons.

**Pursuits**

	<b>2012 Pursuits</b>	<b>36 total</b>
AIR1 Dispatched	5	– resulting in 8 apprehensions
AIR1 Dispatched, arrived post pursuit	2	– due to short duration of event
On Duty, not involved	5	– due to short duration of event
Grounded	12	– due to maintenance, weather or staffing
Off duty	12	

**Financial Considerations**

Purchase price of Eurocopter EC120 = \$3,120,000.00

2011 Flight Operational Unit costs billed to the Province of Manitoba = \$1,196,693.90

2012 Flight Operational Unit costs billed to the Province of Manitoba = \$1,327,590.00

**Year to Year Comparison**

	2011	2012	% change
<b>Dispatched Calls</b>	1972	3445	75% increase
<b>Arrived on Scene</b>	1780	2688	51% increase
<b>Apprehensions</b>	127	185	46% increase
<b>Prime Unit Calls</b>	652	1987	205% increase*
<b>Noise Complaints</b>	20	10	50% decrease

\* The Prime Unit Calls as it pertains to AIR1 is more accurately a measure of being the first police unit to arrive on scene for the assigned event.



## Operation Report

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