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New Sheriff's Helicopter

- WHAT:** Unveiling of the new San Diego County Sheriff's Department Helicopter Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Agencies (ASTREA) BELL 407 GXi
- WHEN:** Tuesday, January 28th
2:15 p.m.
- WHERE:** Sheriff's ASTREA Base
1745 North Marshall Avenue, El Cajon
This is a secure facility. Please report to the gate promptly at 2:15 p.m. and show your current, valid SDPD media credential to a deputy for access. You will be escorted to the parking area. This event is not open to the public.
- WHO:** Sheriff Bill Gore and ASTREA Pilots available for on-camera interviews
- WHY:** Sheriff's ASTREA is a regional asset that has been providing support to the department and partner agencies in the county since 1971. It currently has ten helicopters. It averages 2,000 missions a year to support patrol, fire, as well as search and rescue calls around the clock. Two more helicopters will be added to the fleet in the summer.

A fact sheet about the new helicopter is on page two of this new release.





San Diego County Sheriff's Department
ASTREA BELL 407 GXi

- This is a patrol helicopter, but can be equipped with a bucket to help with water drops during a fire.
 - It is not a hoist helicopter, but it has sliding doors so it can hover just above the ground.
- Cost: \$5.4 million
- Among the new features include high tech displays which give the pilots critical flight information at a glance for quicker information, response and increased safety.
- We can fly at night with improved heat detecting/infrared camera. Increased zoom capabilities. Better GPS location on the camera image to help deputies on the ground. This enables the helicopter to fly higher and reduce noise over a search area.
- The crew is made up of a pilot and a Tactical Flight Officer (TFO). The pilot flies the helicopter. The TFO communicates with ground personnel, operates the search light, public announcement system, infrared camera, map system, etc.
- The helicopter can carry a total of seven people.
- This helicopter replaces an aging fleet of MD500 helicopters. The oldest patrol helicopter we have was built in 1981 and we retired it in lieu of expensive repair.
- The helicopter was certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in April 2019.
- Including this helicopter, ASTREA has a total of ten helicopters in its fleet.
- We are also in the process of purchasing two additional BELL 407 GXi helicopters.
- Learn more about Sheriff's ASTREA: <https://www.sdsheiff.net/astrea/index.html>

