



DRPS Unveils Air4, Strengthening Air Support and Public Safety Across Durham Region and GTA

The Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS) officially unveiled Air4, its new Airbus H125 helicopter, marking a significant enhancement to the service's air support capabilities and ongoing commitment to public safety. Air4 will be operated by DRPS's Combined Air Support Unit (CASU). The aircraft will provide aerial support to frontline officers throughout Durham Region, delivering real-time intelligence and enhanced situational awareness during critical incidents, missing person searches, major investigations, emergency responses and proactive policing initiatives. The acquisition of Air4 was made possible through Ontario's investment in the Joint Air Support Unit (JASU), a collaborative initiative involving Durham Regional Police Service, Peel Regional Police, Halton Regional Police Service and Toronto Police Service. Supported by funding from the Government of Ontario, JASU strengthens aviation resources across the Greater Toronto Area and helps

ensure specialized air support is available when and where it is needed most. Equipped with advanced law enforcement technology, including thermal imaging, day-and-night camera systems, real-time video transmission, a high-intensity searchlight and advanced situational awareness tools, Air4 will support officers on the ground by providing critical aerial intelligence during rapidly evolving incidents. The new helicopter will help police safely locate missing and vulnerable persons, track suspects and stolen vehicles, support emergency response operations and enhance officer and public safety throughout the region. "Today's unveiling of Air4 represents a significant investment in public safety and the future of policing in Durham Region. Air support has long played a valuable role in helping our officers protect the community, and Air4 enhances that capability through advanced technology, improved operational flexibility and strengthened regional partnerships. We are grateful to the

Government of Ontario for its investment in the Joint Air Support Unit. This aircraft and the enhanced regional air support model it supports would not be possible without the Province's commitment to community safety. Through JASU, police services are working together to ensure specialized aviation resources are available to support communities across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond." – Chief Peter Moreira, Durham Regional Police Service. "From cracking down on car thieves to helping locate vulnerable missing persons, the Air4 helicopter will be a critical asset for the Durham Regional Police Service and policing partners across the GTA. This investment reflects our shared commitment to community safety and will provide DRPS with enhanced capabilities to prevent crime, apprehend offenders, and support frontline officers across Durham Region. Our government will continue to invest in police services to ensure they have the resources they need to pro-

tect Ontario communities." – The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario DRPS will staff the Combined Air Support Unit (CASU) with a team of civilian pilots and Tactical Flight Officers who will provide aerial support and real-time operational intelligence to officers on the ground. Eight full-time Tactical Flight Officers, supported by part-time Tactical Flight Officers, will work alongside experienced aviation professionals to ensure the aircraft is ready to respond when needed. Working with JASU partners, DRPS is helping establish a coordinated 24-hour, seven-day-a-week coverage model that will ensure aviation assets are available throughout the Greater Toronto Area at all times. This enhanced capability has been made possible through the Government of Ontario's continued investment in regional air support policing. Air4 represents the next evolution of air support policing in Durham Region, enhancing the service's ability to respond to complex incidents, support frontline offi-

cers and keep communities safe. The Durham Regional Police Service extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of Ontario for its support of the Joint Air Support Unit. The Province's investment is helping deliver a modern, coordinated air support program that enhances public safety, supports frontline officers and strengthens emergency response capabilities across the region. The Airbus H125 helicopter is one of the most widely used law enforcement helicopters in the world and is equipped with: Thermal imaging (infrared) camera. Day and night vision camera systems. High-definition video capability. Real-time video transmission High-intensity searchlight. Advanced mapping and situational awareness tools. Public address system. The aircraft can fly for up to 4.5 hours and travel at speeds of up to 250 km/h, providing aerial support across Durham Region and partner jurisdictions. The Combined Air Support Unit (CASU) is Durham

Regional Police Service's integrated aviation and aerial technology unit. CASU brings together the Service's air support and remotely piloted aircraft capabilities, including Air1, Air4, the Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) Program and the emerging Drone as First Responder (DFR) Program. By consolidating these resources under a single unit, CASU supports innovation, operational readiness and the continued evolution of public safety service delivery in Durham Region. The Joint Air Support Unit is a collaborative partnership between Durham Regional Police Service, Peel Regional Police, Halton Regional Police Service and Toronto Police Service. Supported by funding from the Government of Ontario, JASU is building a coordinated regional aviation model that enhances public safety, strengthens emergency response capabilities and provides specialized air support resources across the Greater Toronto Area.

October 20-26, 2026

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