

**REPORT OF THE  
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE STUDYING**

**THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING  
AN AIRCRAFT DIVISION WITHIN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



**House Document No. 19**

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
RICHMOND  
1984**

**MEMBERS OF SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mitchell Van Yahres, Chairman  
Arthur R. Glesen, Jr.  
Benjamin J. Lambert, III

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**STAFF**

**Legal and Research**

Oscar R. Brinson, Counsel

**Administrative and Clerical**

Office of the Clerk, House of Delegates

**Report of the Joint Subcommittee Studying  
the Feasibility of Establishing an Aircraft Division  
Within the Department of State Police  
To  
The Governor and the General Assembly of Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia  
1984**

To: Honorable Charles S. Robb, Governor of Virginia  
and  
The General Assembly of Virginia

**INTRODUCTION**

In 1980, the Virginia State Police Planning Division developed a concept plan charting the course for aviation development within the Department of State Police during the 1980's. This plan recommended the establishment of a centralized aircraft division within the Department. Following promulgation of the Planning Division's report, the 1983 Session of the General Assembly called for a study of the feasibility, efficiency and cost of establishing such an aircraft division staffed by full time State Police personnel.

House Resolution No. 4 (See Appendix A) authorized the creation of a study subcommittee. Delegate Mitchell Van Yahres from Charlottesville was selected to chair the subcommittee. Other members of the General Assembly chosen to serve on the subcommittee were Delegates Arthur R. Giesen, Jr., and Benjamin J. Lambert, III.

**BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS**

Currently the Department of State Police has five fixed-wing aircraft and three helicopters which are assigned to and disbursed among seven field divisions. There are six helicopter pilots who fly full time but occasionally fill in for regular troopers and seven fixed-wing pilots who fly part time and are full time state troopers.

The 1980 study report by the State Police Planning Division concluded that record keeping, repair problems and deficiencies existed with respect to these aircraft. Inadequate pilot training was also indicated. The basic study recommendation was to establish a centralized aircraft division with full time, better trained pilots. A centralized division would, it was felt, provide more effective aircraft use and correct those deficiencies revealed in the study. Also, an air medical evacuation system, as authorized under § 32.1-112 A(8) of the Code, could be organized by the Department of Health in coordination with the State Police. This system could provide rapid transport in various life-threatening situations, including the transfer of critically ill patients and vital medical supplies.

The Department of Health has long recognized the value of rapid transport by air medical evacuation. Although various air transport programs already exist in some sections of the Commonwealth, such transport is badly needed in other sections.

Until recently no funding was available for the establishment of the statewide air medical evacuation system envisioned under § 32.1-112 A(8) to be an integral part of a comprehensive and coordinated emergency medical care system in the Commonwealth. However, the 1983 Session of the General Assembly increased the motor vehicle registration fee by one dollar. The revenue from this increase was earmarked for the Department of Health to fund emergency medical care services, with high priority being placed on air medical evacuation.

Since that time, the Department of Health has been working with the Department of State Police to develop an air medical evacuation system which will serve to fill the gaps between other available help. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed (See Appendix B) between the two departments to set out the best way to achieve their mutual goals. Funds have already been set aside, and the Health Department will provide continuing support in the future

for the air division.

The Department of State Police has formulated a proposal to set up an air division commanded by a lieutenant and assisted by two sergeants. There will be eight full time pilots (six of whom will be paid under the present budget) who are to be on a higher pay scale to compensate for the increased risks and more refined skills involved. Pilots will be cross-trained to ensure that each pilot is adept at flying both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

All costs, other than operational expenses and salaries for six of the eight pilots, will be paid by the Department of Health. These costs have been estimated as follows:

Fiscal Year '83-'84 - \$323,015

Fiscal Year '84-'85 - \$210,330

Fiscal Year '85-'86 - \$219,900

The figure for fiscal year '83-'84 includes one-time costs to equip helicopters with advanced life-support systems. Some of the expenses reflected for the first year may not be actually incurred until fiscal year '84-'85. Operational expenses will be absorbed by the State Police budget.

The Air Division has been given two proposed bases of operation, Richmond and Roanoke. The air medical evacuation unit will be based in Richmond where the need is deemed greatest. However, aircraft will be available for emergency use throughout the Commonwealth.

#### FINDINGS

The subcommittee determined that the establishment of an air division within the Department of State Police is both feasible and in the best interests of the Commonwealth. Funding for the air division is available and an administrative plan for implementing its establishment has been developed and is endorsed by the subcommittee.

(On January 3, 1984, immediately prior to the printing of this report, the Department of State Police Air Division became operational.)

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Van Yahres

Arthur R. Giesen, Jr.

Benjamin J. Lambert, III

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 4

*Requesting the establishment of a subcommittee of the Committee of Militia and Police of the House of Delegates to study the feasibility of establishing an aircraft division within the Virginia Department of State Police.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 17, 1983

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of State Police has operated fixed-wing aircraft in support of its law-enforcement mission since 1946; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of State Police currently utilizes five fixed-wing aircraft and three helicopters; and

WHEREAS, these aircraft are used for the promotion of highway safety and enforcement of criminal laws and their use includes surveillance, rescue operations and locating lost persons; and

WHEREAS, the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters are currently under the operational control of seven field divisions, and the pilots are police officers who voluntarily participate in part-time flying of the aircraft; and

WHEREAS, in 1980 the Department of State Police made a concept study of its aviation operations and recommended a centralized division with full-time flight personnel; and

WHEREAS, a study is needed to determine the feasibility, efficiency and cost of establishing an aircraft division with full-time personnel within the Virginia Department of State Police; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That a subcommittee is hereby created to study the feasibility of establishing an aircraft division within the Virginia Department of State Police. Three members of the Committee of Militia and Police shall be appointed by the Chairman thereof to serve on the subcommittee; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the subcommittee shall submit its recommendations, if any, to the 1984 Session of the General Assembly.

The cost of this study shall not exceed \$1,920.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
between  
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
and  
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

I PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Department of Health is the state agency given the authority and responsibility, by law, to develop a comprehensive, coordinated, emergency medical care system in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS Section 32.1-112 of the Code of Virginia calls for the establishment of a statewide air medical evacuation system which shall be developed by the Department of Health in coordination with the Department of State Police; and

WHEREAS the establishment of an Aviation Division within the Department of State Police will provide for the most effective and efficient use of state aviation resources for both law enforcement and emergency medical services needs in the Commonwealth;

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the State Department of Health and the Department of State Police enter into the following memorandum of understanding.

II MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A. PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

The parties to this agreement shall be the State Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of State Police (DSP).



STATEMENT OF WORK

The DSP shall be responsible for the establishment and operation of an Aviation Division, to include implementation of a pilot medevac program, as provided for in Attachment A, Outline Proposal to Establish An Aviation Division. Detailed planning of the pilot medevac program shall be a cooperative effort between the DSP, Aviation Division and the DOH, Division of Emergency Medical Services.

C. TERM OF AGREEMENT

This agreement shall be in effect for the period of July 1, 1983, through June 30, 1984.

D. COSTS

The DOH shall advance to the DSP on a quarterly basis, funds needed to meet expenses to be incurred as a result of this memorandum and as outlined in Attachment A, provided such reimburseable costs shall not exceed \$250,000 for the term of this agreement. Operation cost for the DSP aviation division projected to be in excess of \$250,000 will be resolved in advance of the actual expenditure and may require amendment to this agreement.

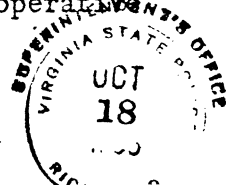
Settlement between the DOH and the DSP shall be made on a quarterly basis in a manner agreed upon by the fiscal officer of the two parties.

E. PERFORMANCE

It is required that progress reports be submitted quarterly to DOH by DSP. This report shall include all the activities undertaken by DSP in accord with the Statement of Work.

F. FURTHER CONDITIONS OF THE AGREEMENT

1. The Aviation Division, including the pilot medevac program, shall be evaluated within one year after implementation. This shall be a cooperative effort of both DSP and DOH.





2. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as authority for either party to make commitments which will bind the other party beyond the Statement of Work outlined in this agreement.
3. Each paragraph and provision of this agreement is severable from the entire contract; and, if any provision is declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall nevertheless remain in effect.
4. Both the DOH and DSP shall establish appropriate procedures to insure that before a final decision is made with regard to responsibilities or matters that affect the responsibilities of the other party, consultation will occur.

G. MODIFICATION OR AMENDMENT

This agreement may be modified or amended by mutual agreement of both parties and any such modification or amendment shall be attached to and become part of this agreement.

H. EXTENSION OF THIS AGREEMENT

This agreement shall be extended beyond June 30, 1984, subject to mutual consent of both parties and the availability of funding to support the provisions of the agreement.



In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this agreement:

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

Susan D. McHenry  
Susan D. McHenry, Director  
Division of Emergency Medical Services

Date August 19, 1983

Colonel D. M. Slane  
Colonel D. M. Slane  
Superintendent

Date August 18, 1983

Robert J. Triebly  
Robert J. Triebly, Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Administration and Staff Services

Date August 22, 1983

Franklin E. White  
Franklin E. White  
Secretary of Public Safety

Date 9-23-83

James B. Kenley, M.D.  
James B. Kenley, M.D.  
State Health Commissioner

Date 8/22/83

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Joseph L. Fisher  
Joseph L. Fisher  
Secretary of Human Resources

Date 10/1/83

Assistant Attorney General  
Assistant Attorney General

Date August 19, 1983





