

# PARTNERS team up to TRAIN PILOTS

By Michael Rogers, President/CEO - Los Angeles Helicopters

Photos courtesy of Los Angeles Helicopters

Los Angeles Helicopters is owned and operated by highly experienced pilots and business and maintenance professionals. Based in Long Beach, CA, the company is an FAA-approved Part 135 air carrier, Part 141 flight training facility, Part 133 external load operator and an authorized service and overhaul facility with years of experience in helicopter sales.

Longtime friends Bob Muse and Andre Hutchings conceived Los Angeles Helicopters in 1999. While both had extensive aviation experience, they realized the need for an additional partner with a business and aviation-related background. Michael Rogers joined the team, and the company was founded in mid-2000.

Muse and Hutchings had worked closely together developing law enforcement programs and are responsible for creating very successful regional law enforcement programs in Southern California. They traveled extensively around the world and throughout the U.S. assisting government, military and law enforcement agencies in training and developing airborne law enforcement programs.

Muse brought to Los Angeles Helicopters his experience as a police officer and chief pilot for El Monte (CA) Police Department. Hutchings, also a former police pilot with Baldwin Park (CA) Police Department, offered his

expertise as a command pilot with one of the largest heavy-lift companies in the world, where he flew Boeing Vertol and Chinook helicopters.

The partners saw a need for a helicopter company that focused on a high standard of safety, service and professional training. Los Angeles Helicopters was built by staying true to its vision of quality services versus quantity of services. The company modeled itself after well-established airborne law enforcement programs and heavy-lift companies. By offering a higher standard, Los Angeles Helicopters soon earned recognition throughout the helicopter training industry.

One of the many programs the partners assisted in starting was in the Netherlands Antilles. Muse and Hutchings traveled to the islands to assist in a start up police aviation support program. They brought with them a team of experienced police pilots to assist in building a unit capable of meeting the needs of the geographical area. The region consisted of three tropical islands that are approximately 20 miles apart. The goal was to build a law enforcement unit capable of operating safely over water and land, while flying patrol missions in an effort to deter general crimes, drug running, smuggling of immigrants and limited search and rescue roles. They provided training for pilots and tactical flight

officers in addition to developing standard operating procedures, technical training manuals and safety, pre-mishap plan and risk management programs. Muse and Hutchings also provided general counsel on how to run an aviation unit. The program has been running for many years now and is deemed a great success by the individual governing bodies.

In addition to serving the law enforcement community, Los Angeles Helicopters is an air carrier for Hollywood celebrities and business executives. The company offers initial pilot training, re-currency and advanced emergency procedure training to professional helicopter pilots. Los Angeles Helicopters is contracted by one of the world's largest heavy-lift companies to train its new employees in 200-foot, long-line Part 133 external load and vertical reference flying. Prospective students often choose Los Angeles Helicopters because of the company's vast network of law enforcement, heavy-lift and tour operator contacts and impeccable reputation. The flight school is also one of few flight-training companies accredited by the Veteran Affairs Administration to accept the Montgomery GI Bill.

For additional information on Los Angeles Helicopters' turnkey law enforcement programs, visit [www.la-helicopters.com](http://www.la-helicopters.com).



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