




LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

KRISTIN M. CROWLEY
FIRE CHIEF

September 5, 2023

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 23-088

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners
 FROM:  Kristin M. Crowley, Fire Chief
 SUBJECT: HELICOPTER PILOT CERTIFICATIONS

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

Attached for the Board of Fire Commissioners' review is the spreadsheet detailing the Fire Helicopter Pilots and Flight Crews current certifications.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:
Receive and file.

DISCUSSION

The LAFD Fire Helicopter Pilots are required to maintain:

- FAA Commercial Rotorcraft Pilots license
- FAA Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) rating
- FAA second class medical

The majority of the Pilots assigned to the Air Operations Section far exceed the LAFD's minimum requirements and in addition hold the following FAA licenses:

- Airline Transportation Pilot (ATP) license
- Instrument license
- Certified Flight Instrument Instructor (CFII) license

Of note, the FAA's ATP license and CFI ratings are the highest certification that the FAA issues. LAFD Pilots are also held to ATP standards annually during their mandated FAA Instrument Pilot Check Rides.

The attached (page 3) provides a comprehensive spreadsheet that details each of the Pilots certifications and flight hours. This spreadsheet is contained in the Department of Health Services (DHS) form 418.1, in which the LAFD is required to submit to DHS annually in accordance with the Air Ambulance provider audit.

Board report prepared by Charles R. Combs, Battalion Chief, Air Operations Section.

Attachment

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY
EMS AIRCRAFT PROVIDER/DISPATCH CENTER DESIGNATION

Application* for: primary air ambulance provider
(check all that apply) back-up air ambulance provider
 primary dispatch center
 back-up dispatch center

Date: June 19, 2023

Agency/Company Name: LAFD Air Operations Section

Name of Applicant/Owner/Officer: Charles Combs, Battalion Chief

Business Address: 16617 Arminta St
North Hills, CA 91406

Business Phone: (818) 756-8635

Contact Person: Brandon Ruedy, Captain II
(Air ambulance operations)

Contact Person Phone: (818) 756-8635

Please submit a narrative description of your air ambulance/dispatch center operations.
*Application shall be submitted on an annual basis no later than January 31

EMS AIRCRAFT APPLICATION

MEDICAL FLIGHT CREW

- The medical flight crew will consist of two attendants, whose scope of practice authorizes them to function at the ALS level.
- Physicians shall be licensed in the State of California and Board certified or eligible in emergency medicine; unless otherwise authorized by the EMS Agency Medical Director.
- Registered Nurses shall be licensed in the State of California and meet the qualifications of an authorized registered nurse as defined in the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 2, Section 1797.56.
- Paramedics shall be licensed in the State of California and accredited in Los Angeles County. (Refer to Ref. No. 418, Policy Section 1 F and G)
- All flight crew members shall be a current provider or instructor in the following:
 - o ACLS;
 - o PALS or equivalent;
 - o BTLS or PHTLS or ATLS or equivalent;
- All medical flight crewmembers shall complete the provider agency's Aeromedical Orientation Program;
- All medical flight crewmembers shall receive a minimum of eight (8) hours annually of continuing education/staff development specific to aeromedical transportation.

NAME	CLASSIFICATION (MD, RN, EMT-P)	BOARD CERT. EXP DTE ¹	STATE LICENSE #	ACLS EXP DATE	PALS EXP DATE ²	BTLS or PHTLS EXP DTE ³	DATE OF ORIENTATION	HOURS OF CONT. ED. ANNUALLY
Geof Balchowsky	EMT-P	5/31/19	P10012	1/23/21	2/4/21	3/29/21	10/21/18	48
Chase Coleman	EMT-P	6/30/19	P20052	1/4/20	2/6/21	3/10/21	10/16/18	48
Chris Dasner	EMT-P	9/30/20	P09077	1/23/21	2/4/21	3/28/22	05/14/18	48
Randal Dyer	EMT-P	6/30/20	P14872	1/23/21	2/4/21	12/31/21	05/18/18	48
Joseph Field	EMT-P	4/30/20	P18627	1/24/21	2/5/21	3/5/20	10/16/18	48
Gary Hoki	EMT-P	3/31/19	P09735	1/24/21	2/4/21	3/28/22	08/11/18	48
Chris Justus	EMT-P	1/31/21	P19542	1/25/21	2/22/20	3/28/22	09/26/18	48
Karl Koller	EMT-P	6/30/20	P03560	1/3/20	2/22/20	3/29/22	10/16/18	48
Scott Carter	EMT-P	3/31/19	P17490	1/25/21	2/5/21	8/30/22	10/13/17	48
Anthony Cecola	EMT-P	9/30/20	P17193	1/23/21	2/4/21	3/30/21	11/01/16	48
Chris Sagara	EMT-P	2/28/21	P15381	10/6/21	2/5/21	7/10/20	10/26/18	48
John Terrusa	EMT-P	6/30/19	P07516	1/5/20	2/21/20	3/11/22	10/24/18	48
York Truin	EMT-P	11/29/19	P20561	1/23/21	2/6/21	3/28/20	10/16/18	48
Brent Ruff	EMT-P	12/31/19	P01234	1/23/21	2/10/21	3/12/21	10/21/18	48
Dustin Hurwitz	EMT-P	12/31/19	P15663	2/20/21	2/5/21	3/30/22	02/08/19	48

¹ if physician is not Board Certified in Emergency Medicine then indicate date of Board eligibility or authorization by the EMS Agency Medical Director

² if medical crew member does not have PALS certification then provide evidence of equivalent curriculum.

³ if medical crewmember does not have BTLS or PHTLS or ATLS certification then provide evidence of equivalent curriculum. For equivalent curriculum submit proof of attending class every two years.

FLIGHT CREW

NAME	FAA MEDICAL CERT. ISSUE EXP DATE	FAA PILOT CERT. CURRENTLY HELD	FAA PILOT RATINGS CURRENTLY HELD	PILOT IN COMMAND (PIC) TOTAL HOURS	PIC TOTAL HOURS LAST 12 MONTHS
Cherif Amin	09/20/2023	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 6A, 7	3366	230
Jorge Arevalo	11/14/2023	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 6A, 7	4532	173
Anthony Cecola	07/08/2023	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 6A, 7	2398	481
Daniel Child	03/01/2024	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 6A, 7	4058	200
Scot Davison	09/21/2023	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 5A, 6A, 6B, 7	5675	175
Dave Habib	11/30/2023	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 6A, 7	2429	373
Jonith Johnson	08/15/2023	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, 6B, 7	2188	306
Brandon Prince	02/15/2024	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 6A, 7	2400	124
Eric Rice	01/28/2022	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 5A, 6A, 7	2010	60
John Romero	06/27/2023	Commercial Pilot	2A, 3A, 5A, 6A, 7	2911	111
Brent Ruff	12/14/2023	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, 6B, 7	4670	184
Joel Smith	04/25/2024	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, 6A, 7	1973	181
Dennis Ward	12/22/2023	Commercial Pilot	2A, 3A, 5A, 6A, 7	3850	100
Rickey Wheeler	08/31/2023	Airline Transport Pilot	1A, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 6A, 6B, 6C, 7	9570	46

LEGEND

- 1A = Airline Transport Pilot Rotorcraft
- 1B = Airline Transport Pilot Single Engine Land
- 1C = Airline Transport Pilot Multi Engine Land
- 2A = Commercial Rotorcraft
- 2B = Commercial Single Engine Land
- 2C = Commercial Multi Engine Land
- 3A = Certified Flight Instructor Rotorcraft
- 3B = Certified Flight Instructor Single Engine Land
- 3C = Certified Flight Instructor Multi Engine Land
- 4A = Certified Flight Instructor Instrument Rotorcraft
- 4B = Certified Flight Instructor Instrument Single Engine Land
- 4C = Certified Flight Instructor Instrument Multi Engine Land
- 5A = Private Pilot Single Engine Land
- 5B = Private Pilot Multi Engine Land
- 6A = Instrument Rotorcraft
- 6B = Instrument Single Engine Land
- 6C = Instrument Multi Engine Land
- 7 = Type Rated AW139