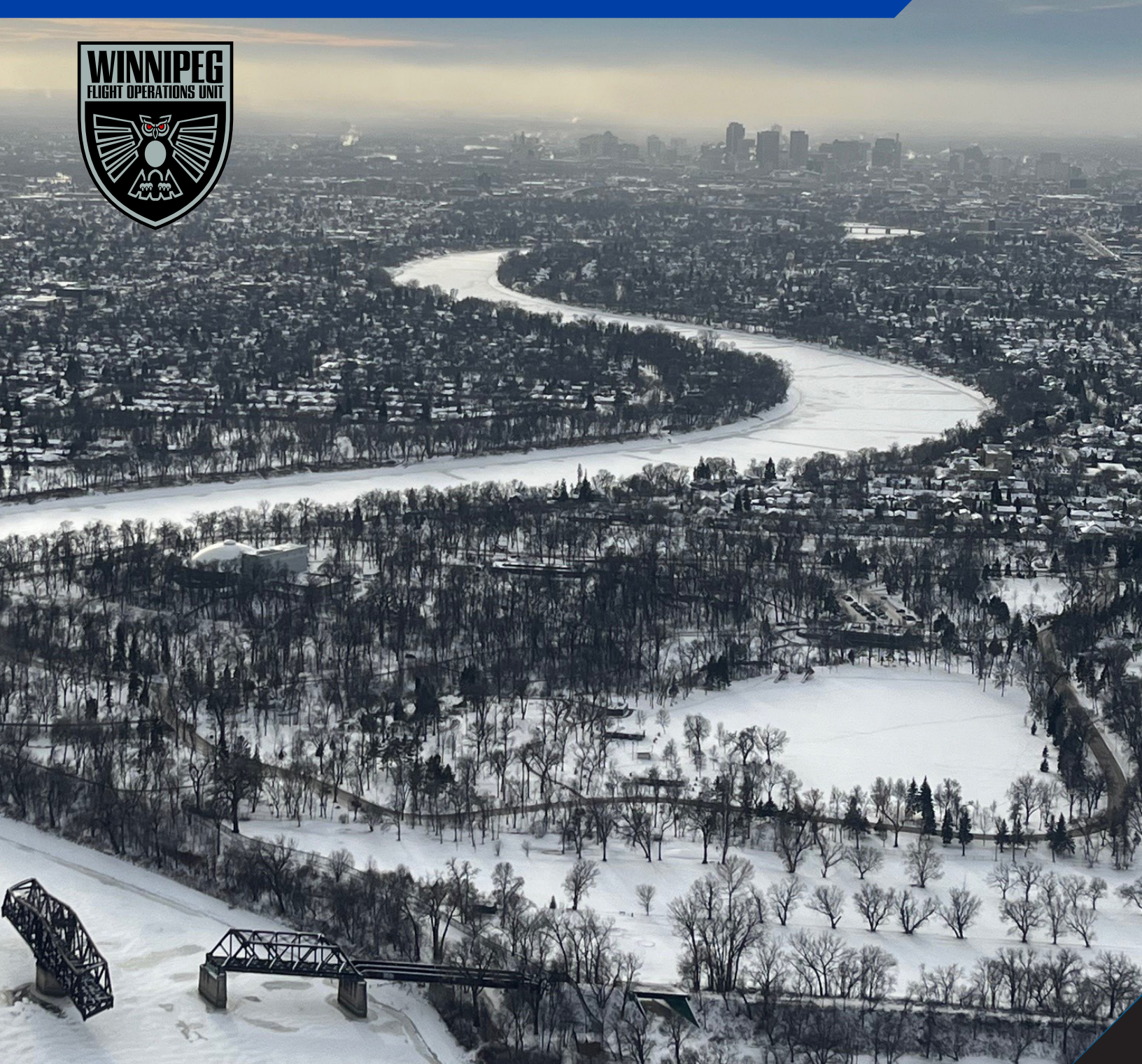




WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE **FLIGHT OPERATIONS UNIT**

2023 OPERATIONAL REPORT



2023 **BY THE NUMBERS**

		2023	2022
Flight Hours		864.4	844.6
Events Dispatched		1941	2149
Vehicle Pursuits and Follows		100	86
Arrest % in Vehicle Pursuits & Follows		64%	67%

Total Persons Located		401	545
Persons Located–Criminal Event		200	281
Persons Located–Non Criminal Event		201	264

FLIGHT OPERATIONS UNIT **MANDATE AND ANALYSIS**

The Flight Operations Unit (FOU) is responsible for supporting ground personnel and providing situational awareness for operations and investigations. The perspective and information provided by FOU increases public and officer safety, aids in the detection of criminal suspects, assists in locating individuals in need of assistance, and enables safer management of large-scale events. The FOU also provides support and assistance to other Manitoba public safety agencies in Winnipeg and the surrounding area.

Aircrews provide the following specific services:

- 1** **Respond to crimes in progress for aerial containment, reconnaissance, and locate criminal suspects and evidence.**
AIR1 responded to 1941 events, of which 75% or 1459 were high risk events.
- 2** **Search for lost, missing, or vulnerable persons.**
AIR1 assisted in the search for 14 missing persons and 44 people threatening self-harm.
- 3** **Track vehicles that have refused to stop for police and reduce the risk in these dynamic events by allowing ground resources to disengage and deploy other tactics to conclude the incident.**
AIR1 tracked 100 vehicles involved in follows or pursuits.
- 4** **Survey of specific locations in support of other police unit operations and mandates, including planning and support for large public events.**
AIR1 attended 11 events, providing aerial support, thereby enhancing public safety at these large gatherings.
- 5** **Conduct proactive patrols to identify and deter criminal activity, as well as detect other types of emergencies which pose a threat to public safety.**
AIR1 initiated 37 proactive events*
- 6** **Provide an aerial perspective and video for incident commanders to aid in decision making and responses to major environmental incidents, fires, and natural disasters.**
AIR1 provided an aerial perspective for 34 fire events.

* Incident observed by aircrew prior to being reported

PURSUIITS & FOLLOWS (WHILE OPERATIONAL)

Traffic Pursuits	Police attempt to stop a vehicle and the driver refuses to obey or evades police.
Vehicle Follows	When a police unit is driving behind (following) a vehicle with the intention of stopping the vehicle and the driver is not attempting to evade or elude police.

Traffic Pursuits	12	8 vehicles located / stopped 8 in custody events
Vehicle Follows	88	44 vehicles located by AIR1 56 in custody events
Total	100	52 vehicles located / stopped 64 in custody events



FEATURED INCIDENTS

MARCH 18, 2023

Vulnerable Person Located

- During the early morning hours, a concerned citizen contacted police after observing a female in distress, walk into a forested area near the Seine River. AIR1 attended and located the female using the on-board thermal camera. Ground units and paramedics were directed to the person through use of the spotlight. The located person reported she was lost and found to be suffering from exposure.

APRIL 8, 2023

Stabbing Suspect Arrested

- In an unprovoked attack, the victim was confronted and viciously stabbed. AIR1 attended to the area and searched for the suspect, who was reported to be wearing distinct clothing. The flight crew located the armed suspect nearby and tracked his movement, directing ground units to his location who took him into custody.

APRIL 25, 2023

Abduction Suspects Arrested

- A woman was abducted by two suspects who stole her vehicle and trapped her inside. Patrol units spotted the vehicle in motion. AIR1 coordinated the vehicle follow with ground units, avoiding a pursuit. The suspects eventually abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. AIR1 tracked the suspects and guided ground units to both the suspects. The woman was found to be physically unharmed.

MAY 3, 2023

Missing/Suicidal Youth Located

- AIR1 was assigned to search the area for a missing and suicidal youth who indicated she was contemplating self-harm. The aircrew located the female standing on a train bridge and directed ground units to her location. The youth was transported to a medical facility for care.

MAY 5, 2023

Carjacking Suspects Arrested

- AIR1 coordinated with both Winnipeg Police and RCMP during a vehicle follow involving a suspect who had obtained the vehicle during a violent carjacking. Two suspects were tracked to the RM of St. Andrews and arrested by ground units.

AUGUST 12, 2023

Missing Person Located

- AIR1 was assigned to search for an 80 year old male who contacted his family saying he did not know where he was. The aircrew located his vehicle partially submerged in a ditch. Ground units were directed to the area and found the male inside, exposed to the elements but unharmed.

AUGUST 21, 2023

Stolen Vehicle Incident

- Members of AIR1 observed a stolen vehicle and coordinated a vehicle follow. The suspects were arrested after stopping at a convenience store, allowing ground units to safely converge.

WFPS ASSISTS

AIR1 provided an aerial platform for the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service for 34 fire events. Eight of these fires were yet to be reported by the public. The crew of AIR1 alerted the WFPS and fire personnel were dispatched

LARGE SCALE EVENT ASSISTS

The Flight Operations Unit provided aerial support to Winnipeg Police Service Incident Commanders on 11 occasions for large scale events.

FEATURED INCIDENTS

OCTOBER 14, 2023

Firearms Incident

- AIR1 located a suspicious vehicle and occupants on the top level of a downtown parkade. Six occupants exited the vehicle and were observed to be in possession of firearms. Tactical Support Team members were directed to the location of the armed occupants, safely arresting them. Several stolen firearms were recovered.

OCTOBER 20, 2023

Firearm Incident

- AIR1 was assigned to assist in searching an area for an object thrown by a suspect during a foot pursuit. Using the on-board thermal camera, an object was located in a nearby playground by the aircrew, allowing ground units to attend and recover a discarded firearm.

NOVEMBER 26, 2023

Stolen Vehicle Incident

- AIR1 tracked and coordinated a vehicle follow that resulted in the arrest of 4 suspects. The vehicle was determined to be stolen and a number of firearms were located inside.

Shooting Arrests

- AIR1 was assigned to the report of a person suffering from stab and gunshot wounds. The aircrew located and tracked the suspects, directing ground units to effect their arrests. Suspects were found in possession of various weapons.

DECEMBER 15, 2023

Stolen Vehicle Incidents

- AIR1 coordinated two vehicle follows, one involving a suspect who was responsible for a violent carjacking where a firearm was discharged. Five suspects were arrested and two stolen vehicles were recovered during this incident.

DECEMBER 16, 2023

Weapons Incident

- A call for service was received reporting 2 male suspects armed with machetes had threatened a person near The Forks. AIR1 spotted the suspects on the Provencher Bridge who were seen to be now approaching a separate group of pedestrians. Fearing for their safety, the aircrew used the on-board spotlight to illuminate the area. The pedestrians were able to flee in the opposite direction and ground units were simultaneously guided to the suspects, who were arrested and found in possession of the weapons.

DECEMBER 24, 2023

House Fire

- While on patrol, members of AIR1 observed an unreported and rapidly spreading residential fire. Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service was requested and AIR1 directed the emergency resources.

DECEMBER 27, 2023

Stolen Vehicle Incident

- AIR1 tracked a suspect who fled on foot from a stolen vehicle. Ground units were directed to a nearby residence, where the suspect was attempting to force entry to evade police. The suspect was taken into custody before he made entry. He was found to be in possession of a firearm and was the subject of numerous outstanding arrest warrants.

FLIGHT OPERATIONS UNIT EVENT STATISTICS

Sorted by the percentage of attendance to specific call types while operational

	Arrived	% Operational
Vehicle Pursuit	12	92.0%
Vehicle Follow	88	54.4%
Foot Pursuit	8	34.8%
Stabbing	61	28.1%
Gun Seen	124	27.5%
Hold-Up Alarm	25	25.0%
B&E - Commercial	48	21.1%
Special Attention	11	20.0%
Gunshots	35	19.6%
Stolen Vehicle	9	18.4%
Abduction	13	18.3%
Dangerous Circ.	53	17.5%
Robbery – Retail	65	17.3%
B&E – Residential	109	16.2%
Weapon Seen	92	14.2%
Distress Alarm	30	13.5%
Burglar Alarm	30	13.5%
Fight	36	11.2%
Fire	34	10.9%
Person Robbery	35	10.9%
B&E - Other	6	10.2%
Damage Property	12	9.4%
Assault/Weapon	34	9.4%
Prowler	6	7.3%
Assault	84	7.2%
Suspicious Circ.	76	7.0%
Residential Alarm	3	6.3%
Stolen Veh. Found	12	6.3%
Sexual Assault	8	5.3%
Traffic Complaint	38	5.1%

	Arrived	% Operational
Officer Needs Asst.	2	4.9%
Theft	5	4.5%
Check Well-Being	155	3.9%
Animal in Danger	3	3.8%
Warrant Arrest	2	3.6%
Domestic Problem	128	3.2%
Threats	28	3.1%
Suicide Threat	44	3.0%
Family Trouble	43	3.0%
Impaired Driver	9	2.8%
Child in Danger	9	2.8%
Assistance	11	2.7%
Motor Vehicle Collision	7	2.6%
Medical Circ.	13	2.5%
Missing Person	14	2.5%
Disturbance	48	2.2%
Found Person	1	1.8%
Person Stop	1	1.6%
Indecent Act	1	1.4%
Sexual Abuse	1	1.3%
Shoplifter	2	1.3%
Breach of Order	4	0.9%
Wanted Person	6	0.7%
Traffic Stop	19	0.6%
Mental Health Issue	1	0.4%
Dispute	1	0.4%
Special Attention	4	0.3%
Community Event	1	0.3%
Intoxicated Person	2	0.3%

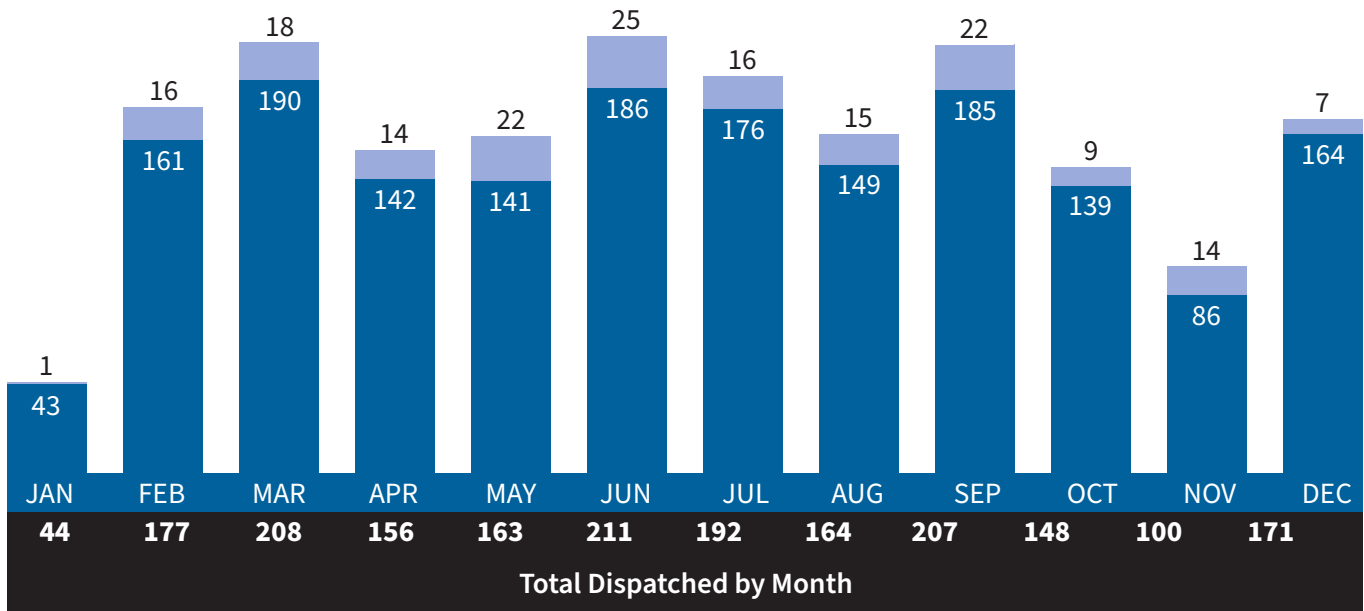
Total AIR1 Arrived: 1762

EVENT VOLUME BY MONTH

Total dispatched events (1941) includes all events attended (1762) as well as events that AIR1 was cancelled while en route or pre-empted themselves from attending (179).

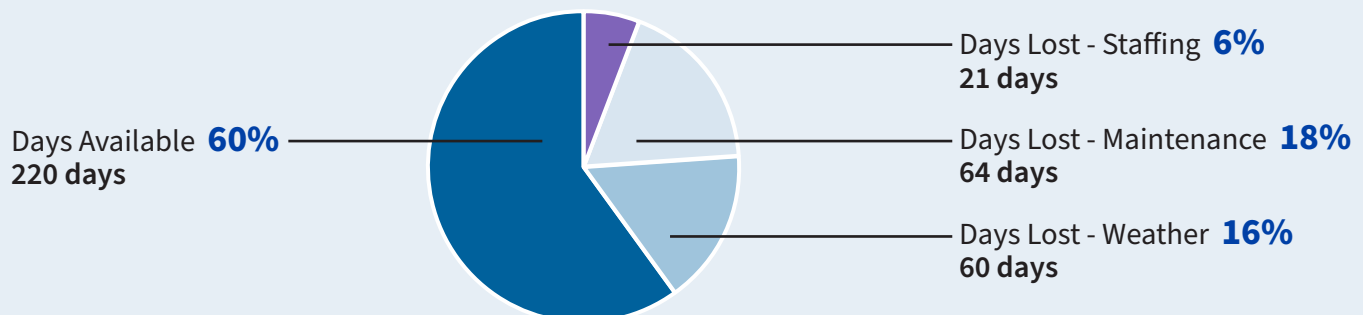
Total Dispatched	2023	
	Total Attended	Total Pre-empted
1941	1762	179

- Events Where AIR1 Attended
- Events Where AIR1 Pre-empted



Total Hours Flown	Total Incidents Attended	Total Captures
864.4	1762	401
		Criminal Captures 200
		Located Persons 201

UNIT AVAILABILITY



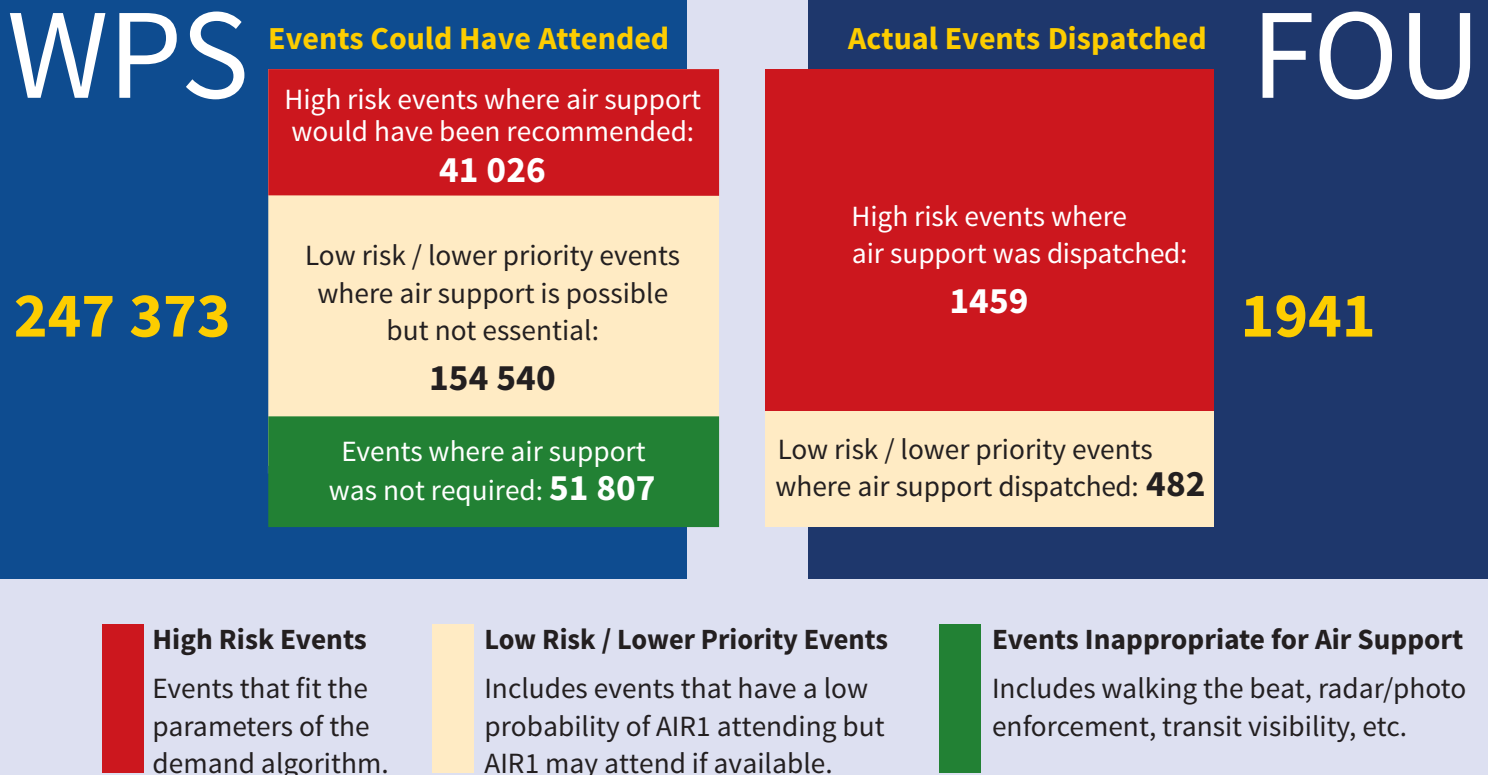
DEMAND FOR THE FLIGHT OPERATIONS UNIT

With the goal of identifying and quantifying calls for service within the year where air support would have been deemed either appropriate and/or recommended (if available), an event algorithm was developed.

The parameters are as follows:

- The event was consistent with the Flight Operations Unit mandate
- The event was prioritized as an emergency or high-risk
- The event was resource intensive (7 or more units utilized)
- The event involved a risk-reducing unit or supervisor
(eg: Tactical Support Team, Canine Unit and/or Supervisor engagement)

The results revealed **41,026 events**, where one or more of the above factors were present.



Operational Advantages of Helicopters and Drones in Law Enforcement

AIR1 and Drones: Complementary and Coordinated:

Drones and helicopters each offer unique advantages that can be used separately or together to improve operations.

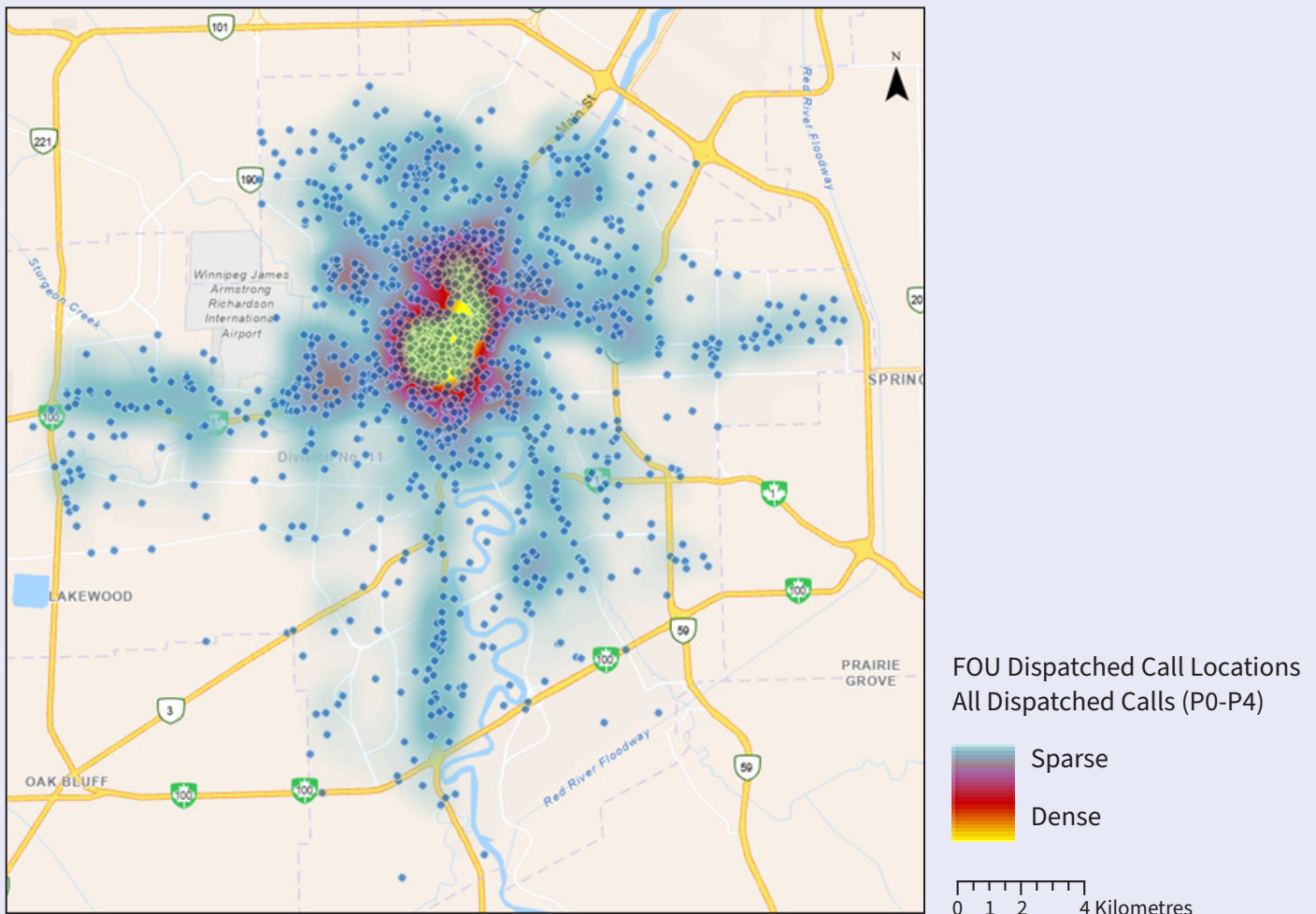
Helicopters are capable of reaching speeds of 200 km/hr or more. They can cover large distances rapidly, respond to emergencies quickly, and safely pursue vehicles fleeing from ground units.

Helicopters can stay in the air for hours making them ideal for extended patrols of the City, search and rescue missions, and large-area surveillance.

Due to their small size and nimble design, drones are ideal for getting close to buildings and navigating through narrow spaces. They are particularly useful for tactical operations.

Drones can be used to document crime scenes and can gather detailed visuals without disturbing a scene.

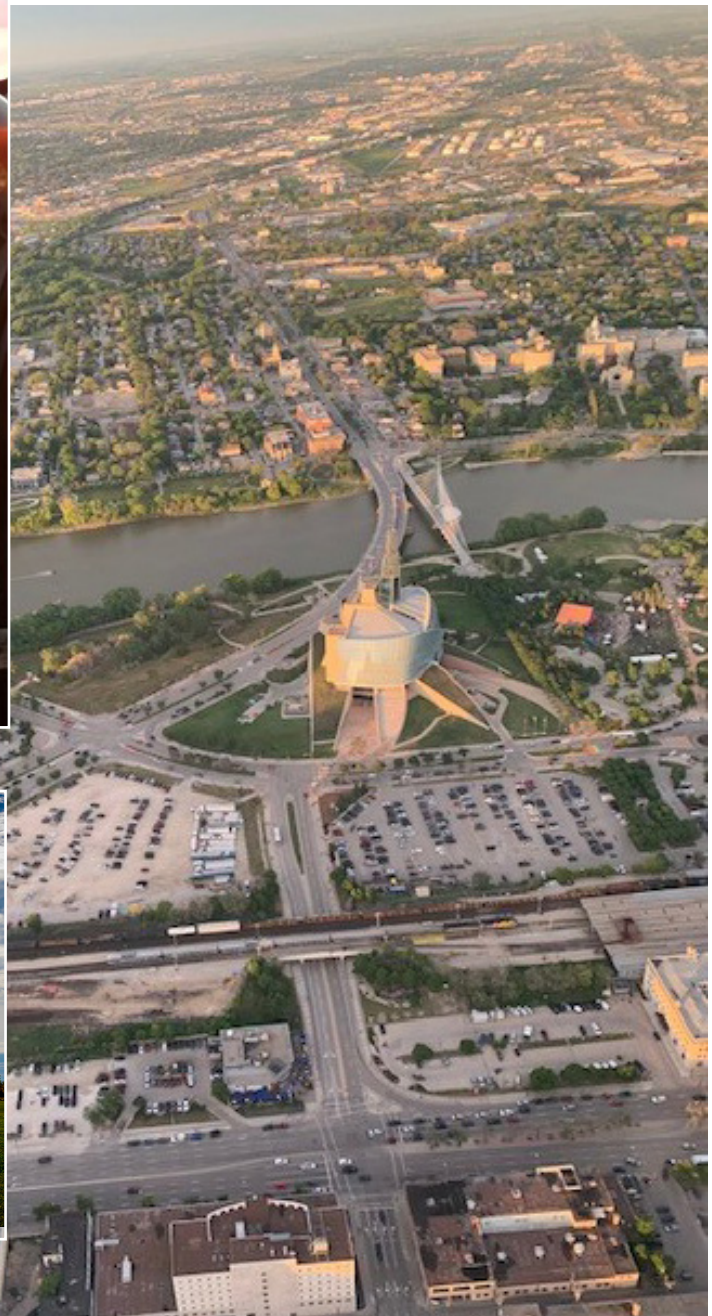
2023 FOU Dispatched Locations Compared to Aggregated Locations for all High Priority Events



FLIGHT OPERATIONS **FINANCIAL HISTORY**

- **2023** Flight Operations Unit operating costs = **\$2 063 178.22**
- **2022** Flight Operations Unit operating costs = **\$2 640 228.06***
- **2021** Flight Operations Unit operating costs = **\$2 130 212.17**
- **2020** Flight Operations Unit operating costs = **\$2 082 456.49**
- **2019** Flight Operations Unit operating costs = **\$2 172 474.46**

** The primary driver of the increase in operating costs in 2022 was an unexpected replacement of the main gear box.*





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