Thank you for joining us during this special combined ATF + DEA tour & special briefing hosted by LAPD Air Support Division and ASD Captain Al Lopez.

Friday – 2016 January 15th
Hosting facility: Hooper Memorial Heliport.
LAPD Air Support Division

The SKY GUARDS event mission was designed to provide our CA3 members with an educational overview on the history of airborne law enforcement and public safety in Southern California and learn about the unique aviation missions of LAPD and LA City Fire Department’s Aviation several of the leading air units operating in So Cal. The briefing also highlighted the force multiplier effect which aviation resources provide to the community as well as how local, regional and Federal airborne resources often work together in the interest of public service.
A special Citizens’ Academy “Thank you” to LAPD Air Support Captain Al Lopez for hosting our briefing at their awesome Hooper Memorial Heliport conference center.

You can see the main rotor of one of the LAPD helos on their rooftop helipad.

Special BIG thanks to LAPD team for providing comfortable transport of our members from the Denny’s restaurant rally point up to the Hooper Memorial Heliport atop Piper Tech – downtown LA.

Below, a view in the LAPD ASD hanger area with the Bell Helicopters Jet Ranger model in the foreground.

Below, a view from the ground of Piper Technical center – base for LAPD Air Support – the largest rooftop heliport in the country.
right, LAPD Lt. Phil Smith provides an overview of the history and development of LAPD Air Support Division

right, we thank member Barry Maiten who attended with his father, Sid Maiten - a decorated WW II Veteran -- 
... always great to have some additional adult supervision on these tours !!!
left, a special thanks to Commander Horace E. Frank with LAPD Counter-terrorism & Special Ops Bureau for joining us. Commander Frank briefed us on a new technology / app where citizens can, if they see something, they can report it confidentially ... members can go online via smart phones to acquire for free

www.iwatchLA.org

Below standing, LA City FD – Fire Pilot Lance Messner profiles the multi-mission capabilities of the LA City Fire Department Air Operations team.

Members of the Air Support Foundation were also on hand and opened up their store of logo’d items for our members shown left. Ted Cooper models the latest day wear in LAPD colors along with Barry and Sid Maiten.
Member Dean Grose tour review: “...An amazing opportunity to look inside the workings of the nation’s largest law enforcement aero detail and the finite work they perform keeping themselves, their fellow officers and the citizens safe. 24/7/365 they are on duty. Equally informative was the joint role they play with the Los Angeles City Fire Department, in personnel movement, rescue and heavy lifting. Thanks to the DEA / ATF citizens academies for this special "behind the scenes" opportunity...”

Above, Sgt Steve Roussell briefs our team about the diverse technology onboard the LAPD’s Airbus Helicopter ‘A-Star’ … and keeps a close eye on our group while out on the flight ramp....
Member James Paules
“... I truly appreciated all the help provided by the LAPD Air Support team under the leadership of ASD Captain Al Lopez. From my initial discussions with Captain Lopez, his group provided enthusiastic guidance and support along with a host of resources to make this a convenient tour for our Alumni Association members … “

Below, ATF SA Meredith Davis and ATF CA3 President Dean Grose during a break in the briefing.

‘above, … ATF President Dean Grose (left) and DEA President Fred Thomas on the deck at Air Support ramp tour

right, LAPD Sgt. Roussell – head of Special Flights section – briefs our crew on the many benefits … and dangers pilots face from emerging ‘drone’ or UAS / UAV technology.

Sgt. Roussell is also President of the Airborne Law Enforcement Association – a world wide association of airborne public safety professionals

Learn more about the ALEA at www.ALEA.org

Below, concluding the briefing & tour, we get our team photo on the heliport ramp as we frame the Air Support logo
Learn more about the organizations you met today via:

www.DEACAAA.org

www.Facebook.com/groups/DEA.CA3

www.Facebook.com/ATF.CA3

You can find information on LAPD Air Support and purchase additional logoed gear via their non-profit ANGELS Foundation

www.LAPDairSupport.com

If you “... see something – say something...” via the new app profiled for us by LAPD Commander Horace Frank download it for free via:

www.IwatchLA.org

Learn more about the public safety services provided by the Los Angeles City FD at their website www.LAFD.org

Learn how you can support the LAFD mission via the non-profit Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation:

https://www.facebook.com/lafdfoundation/

https://twitter.com/LAFD

Thanks again to our members for supporting our Citizens’ Academy Alumni Association your participation!
Tour review / notes from participants

“... thanks for the opportunity and it was truly a great day. It was nice for Captain Lopez to be there and welcome this group as I know they all have plenty to do. Nice they seemed to see value in both organizations to do this presentation.

Just a few of my thoughts:
Per Lt. Phil Smith I learned that the LAPD Air Support was the largest unit in the Nation and the largest roof top which is the size of an aircraft carrier. Pilots need to have 5 years as street cops before they can fly as a air support officer. The LAPD program started n 1956 an the 50th anniversary video we saw gave us such good insight as to what these folks actually do. The moto is "Mission the same ... only the vehicle has changed."

Learning about the various operations for us civilian folks and how the aircraft purchased are considered "green bone basics" and that saves the City over $440,000 to purchase this way in the example that Lt. Smith used. That the City has lots of mechanics that work on these choppers and other City vehicles only makes sense. So much budget for this very important department but the return on the stats in helping keep the safety of the officers and fire fighters on the ground is amazing. Not to mention the civilians whose lives they save.

I learned that the LAFD Air Operations work out of Van Nuys airport and Fire Pilot Lance Messner gave a great presentation on the difference in the helicopters work done by the FD and the close work that both departments work on together. I know a bit about mutual aid but it was refreshing to know that both LAPD and LAFD help other cities in their fighting crime and fires on a regular basis.

Sergeant Steve Rousells’s presentation on the drones was eye opening and it appears laws and not just rules may be on the horizon. That would be the good news as these drones are causing such troubles with air craft.

Learning about the LAPD Air Support Angel's Foundation was good to hear about and I hope members of both Citizen's Academy organizations will consider donating to them beyond the t-shirt sales, etc. that took place on Friday. ...“

Christyann Evans
ATF Citizens’ Academy Graduate & Alumni Association member
A+ on tour notes and thanks for bringing out the cookies ！！！！ jim paules

“... had a great time ... did not know they had so many things going on up there. You all did a great job Thanks. I would have liked to see the tower if possible... I’m a pilot. Other than that great ...“

Pete Eliopoulos
ATF Citizens’ Academy Graduate & Alumni Association member

“... Excellent event! ... Professional, informative, interesting, exciting, memorable! Many thanks for your planning and execution ... !

Ted Cooper
DEA & ATF Citizens’ Academy Graduate and Alumni association member