



# ***BRPD News Item***

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Date:	2/23/10
Slug:	Police Introduces New Helicopter
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The Baton Rouge Police Department is inviting all local media to the official introduction of the Baton Rouge Police Helicopter. This unit has been put in place to provide the city with aerial coverage in deterring crime and provide support for officers on the ground. The Air Support Unit consists of 4 full time pilots with two who have extensive training as military helicopter pilots.

The helicopter is a Robinson R-44 Raven II Police Interceptor Helicopter that is equipped with high tech surveillance technology that will allow police to track fleeing suspects in the dark.

The helicopter was purchased with stimulus monies from a 2009 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) from the United States Department of Justice. The acquired amount of stimulus money was \$1,892,237.00 that was split in half and shared with the East Baton Rouge Sheriff Office.

The press conference will be held this Wednesday, February 24, 2010, for 10:00a.m., on the grassy area north of the USS Kidd Memorial on River Rd.