

YOLO COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
PRESS RELEASE

RE: Sheriff's Volunteer Aero Squadron New Board Sworn in and Commendations Given Date: February 6, 2008
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Contact: Michele Wallace, Public Information Officer (530) 406-5163

Yolo County Sheriff Ed Prieto recently swore in the newly elected Executive Board for the department's Volunteer Aero Squadron. Aero Squadron Commander is Ken Chan; Shannon Newbold is the Executive Officer; Wendy Lawson was re-elected Treasurer, and Keith Bakula is Secretary of the Sheriff's inflight assistance program.

Undersheriff Tom Lopez presented each Shannon Newbold and Michael Johnson a 'Letter of Commendation' that evening on behalf of the Sheriff's Department, for their assistance during a pursuit of a reckless motorcycle driver on October 18, 2007. Unfortunately, the pursuit resulted in the serious injury of a courageous Highway Parolman.

The Yolo County Sheriff's Department Aero Squadron was founded in the mid 1980s. The squadron consists of up to 50 volunteer members who assist the Sheriff and his deputies with patrolling Yolo County by aircraft and by responding to the Sheriff's radio. They watch out for possible vandalism and thefts in progress, especially at some of the more rural areas of the county. In addition, they assist with search and rescue, high speed pursuits, along with any other needs the Sheriff has for them. Each mission is flown with a patrol qualified pilot and a qualified observer.

The Squadron currently flies a 172 Cessna which is maintained by the membership. The aircraft has Sheriff's lettering that is clearly visible from 1,000 feet away. It can be a great deterrent for potential criminal activity.

"Since Sheriff Prieto has taken office, he has been a huge supporter of the Aero Squadron." stated Wendy Lawson.

Sheriff Prieto has recently obtained funds from the Board of Supervisors to purchase a new aircraft for the squadron. "These people volunteer their time to help my deputies maintain the welfare of our citizens. They attempt to be 'mission ready' at a moment's notice. I am proud of their efforts and want to support them in any way I can." said Sheriff Prieto.