



October 6, 2022

TO: GEORGEANNE WHITE, City Manager
Office of the City Manager

FROM: PACO BALDERRAMA, Chief of Police
Office of the Chief

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Paco", with a stylized flourish at the end.

SUBJECT: FIND SAFRAN HELICOPTER ENGINES UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO
PROVIDE SUPPORT BY THE HOUR SERVICES TO THE FRESNO
POLICE DEPARTMENT AIR SUPPORT UNIT

Safran Helicopter Engines USA, Inc is a subsidiary of the Safran Group that specializes in the design, production, sale, and support of gas-powered turbine engines for helicopters. Specifically, Safran Helicopter Engines manufactures and provides service support for the Arrius 2F engine, which powers the EC120 Colibri helicopters currently being used by the Fresno Police Department's Air Support Unit.

Engine service repair and overhaul generally account for a substantial portion of our aircraft maintenance budget. Time life components and engine inspection requirements are based on hours flown on the engine and can generally be forecasted to determine a timeline for repair, which is commonly referred to as scheduled maintenance.

Unscheduled maintenance occurs when an unexpected problem with the aircraft requires an inspection, repair, or service. Unscheduled maintenance of the engine may also occur if an Airworthy Directive (AD) related to the engine is disseminated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Whether maintenance of the engine is scheduled or unscheduled, the aircraft is grounded until the inspection, repair, or service has been complete and the aircraft is deemed airworthy. This frequently requires the engine to be removed from the aircraft and shipped to Safran for repair. Safran will complete the necessary repair, inspection or overhaul and ship the engine back to be re-installed in the aircraft. Absent another available engine, the aircraft will remain grounded until the repaired engine is re-installed back into the aircraft.

In 2004, shortly after the acquisition of the EC120 helicopters, the Fresno Police

RT/rt