U.S. Customs and Border Protection

American Eurocopter AS-350 A-Star

FACT SHEET

The American Eurocopter AS-350 Light Enforcement Helicopter (LEH) is a short-range, turbine-powered helicopter used by CBP's Office of Air and Marine to perform missions such as aerial patrol and surveillance of stationary or moving targets. These LEHs are the optimal aerial surveillance platform in metropolitan areas because their vertical lift capability and maneuverability enable operations from off-airport sites and in close proximity to congested airports.

Electro-optical/infrared sensors and video downlink provide intelligence and communications support that enhance officer safety during high-risk operations and increase covertness during surveillance operations.

Video recorders document suspect activities for evidentiary use. The AS-350s fly with a crew of two (pilot and observer).

Performance and Weights:

- **Maximum Speed**
  120 knots (138 mph)
- **Service Ceiling Altitude**
  16,000 feet
- **Range**
  360 nautical miles (414 miles)
- **Endurance**
  3 hours
- **Maximum Gross Weight**
  4,951 pounds

Features:

- Infrared Detection System, which detects infrared radiation created by objects warmer or colder than ambient temperature.
- UltraMedia Law Enforcement Camera
- Night vision goggle-compatible