



Ohio State Highway Patrol  
Field Operations

Annual 2025

# Aviation Section

Major David R. Brown  
Commander/Field Operations

Captain Justin W. Cromer  
Commander/Aviation

## OPERATIONS SUMMARY

2025

472 CRIMINAL  
SEARCHES  
144 MISSING PERSON  
SEARCHES  
189 ISR FLIGHTS  
179 PROACTIVE  
PATROLS  
22 HUNTSMAN DETAILS



1213 MISSION REQUESTS

353 LOCATED WITH AIR  
ASSISTANCE  
148 VEHICLE PURSUITS  
121 FOOT PURSUITS  
177 FIREARMS SEIZED  
71 STOLEN VEHICLES  
RECOVERED

Click Images With RED Boxes for Videos!



### Proactive Patrol Operations

In 2025, the Aviation Section assisted local agencies by providing aircraft and crews for 179 separate proactive patrol missions. During the missions, Aviation provided aerial support as ground units conducted traffic stops in an attempt to curb violent crime and theft in cities and suburbs around the state. The following statistics specific to proactive patrol details display Aviation's effort to help reduce crime:

- 226 Aerial Locates and Apprehensions
- 111 Vehicle Pursuits
- 87 Foot Pursuits
- 57 Stolen Vehicles Recovered
- 142 Firearms Seized
- 124 Drug Cases Generated (7 Misdemeanor, 117 Felony)
- 119 Warrant Services (55 Misdemeanor, 64 Felony)



### Operations Summary (% increase from 2024 Statistics in Green)

Total Flight Hours	4312.8	Total Missions	1213	Proactive Patrol	179	Static Display	34
OSHP Missions	38%	Located by Air	353	Search - Missing Person	144	Huntsman Detail	22
Vs.		Search - Criminal	472	Other	98	Passenger Flight	19
Outside Agency Missions	62%	ISR Flight	189	Photo Flight	36	Protest / Rally	6

### OPERATIONS

#### Search Operations

Aviation received 616 requests from across the state to assist with search missions in 2025, resulting in 92 located subjects. For statistic tracking, the Aviation Section splits these missions into two categories - criminal searches and missing person searches. The videos below highlight Aviation's effort to assist agencies in locating individuals of all situations.

##### Criminal Searches



##### Missing Person Searches



#### ISR Operations

Aviation continued to expand its ISR capabilities in 2025, supporting a higher volume and broader range of missions than the previous year. The section assisted in 189 ISR operations, reflecting increased demand from partner agencies for aerial imagery, real-time situational awareness, and investigative support. In addition to the mission types conducted in previous years, this year's operations included more complex surveillance requests, enhanced coordination with investigative units, and greater use of ISR products to support long-term case development. This growth highlights Aviation's continued progression as a critical intelligence and operational asset across the Division.



#### Enforcement Totals

Enforcement Details	596	100+ MPH	198	Motorcycle	62	OVI	14
Total Stops	6647	Seat Belt	271	Commercial	52	Drug	9
Aggressive	4053	DUS	213	Reckless Op	28	Following Too Close	7
90+ MPH	1958	Warrants	79	Distracted Driving	25	Move Over / Slow Down	7

### Additional Operations

#### Huntsman Details

Aviation assisted the United States Secret Service with multiple Huntsman Details and ISR flights in 2025, as part of planned trips for United States Vice President J.D. Vance. Aviation provided aerial surveillance and reconnaissance during the details, as motorcades transported the Vice President across the state for a variety of engagements.



#### Airspeed Operations

The Aviation Section assisted with 596 airspeed enforcement operations statewide in 2025, providing a significant contribution to roadway safety and traffic-law compliance. These operations supported ground units by identifying hazardous speed violations, reducing the likelihood of serious crashes, and promoting safer driving behavior across high-risk corridors. By consistently completing a high volume of enforcement missions, Aviation demonstrated its role as a reliable and proactive public safety asset, helping agencies deter dangerous driving patterns and maintain safer travel conditions for the motoring public.



#### Laser Strikes

The Aviation Section responded to multiple laser-strike incidents in 2025, including 15 strikes directed at our own aircraft. In addition to these direct impacts, the section assisted partner agencies in searching for and locating suspects involved in laser strikes against other aircraft statewide. These missions underscore the threat laser incidents pose to flight safety and highlight Aviation's critical role in rapidly identifying hazards, supporting ground units, and helping safeguard both aircrews and the public.



### Agencies Assisted

#### Police Departments:

Akron PD  
Alliance PD  
Anna PD  
Ashtabula PD  
Athens PD  
Barnesville PD  
Bellefontaine PD  
Bexley PD  
Blendon Township PD  
Blue Ash PD  
Cambridge PD  
Canfield PD  
Canton PD  
Champion PD  
Cincinnati PD  
Circleville PD  
Cleveland PD  
Columbus PD  
Commercial Point PD  
Cuyahoga Falls PD  
Dayton PD  
Delaware PD  
Dublin PD  
East Cleveland PD  
Englewood PD  
Enon PD  
Fairborn PD  
Fairfield PD  
Franklin PD  
Fremont PD  
Galion PD  
Garfield Heights PD  
Goshen Township PD  
Grove City PD  
Hamilton Township PD  
Harrisburg PD  
Harrison PD  
Harrison Township PD  
Hilliard PD  
Huber Heights PD  
Jackson PD  
Lakewood PD  
Lancaster PD  
Lawrence Township PD  
Lima PD  
London PD  
Lorain PD  
Lyndhurst PD  
Madison Township PD  
Mansfield PD  
Marion PD  
Marysville PD  
Massillon PD  
Mechanicsburg PD  
Medina Township PD

Miamisburg PD  
Miami Township PD  
Middletown PD  
Minerva Park PD  
Monroe PD  
Montville PD  
Moraine PD  
Mt. Orab PD  
Newark PD  
North Canton PD  
North Royalton PD  
Northwood PD  
Oakwood PD  
Ohio University PD  
Pataskala PD  
Pickerington PD  
Plain City PD  
Portsmouth PD  
Reynoldsburg PD  
Sharonville PD  
Shawnee Hills PD  
Springfield PD  
Springfield Township PD  
St. Bernard PD  
Sunbury PD  
Toledo PD  
Union Township PD  
Upper Sandusky PD  
Van Wert PD  
Wellston PD  
Westerville PD  
West Jefferson PD  
Whitehall PD  
Wooster PD  
Worthington PD  
Xenia PD  
Youngstown PD

#### Sheriff's Offices:

Adams County SO  
Athens County SO  
Auglaize County SO  
Belmont County SO  
Brown County SO  
Butler County SO  
Carroll County SO  
Champaign County SO  
Clark County SO  
Clinton County SO  
Columbiana County SO  
Coshocton County SO  
Crawford County SO  
Darke County SO  
Defiance County SO  
Delaware County SO  
Fairfield County SO  
Fayette County SO

Franklin County SO  
Gallia County SO  
Greene County SO  
Guernsey County SO  
Hamilton County SO  
Hancock County SO  
Harrison County SO  
Highland County SO  
Hocking County SO  
Holmes County SO  
Huron County SO  
Jackson County SO  
Jefferson County SO  
Knox County SO  
Lake County SO  
Lawrence County SO  
Licking County SO  
Logan County SO  
Lorain County SO  
Madison County SO  
Marion County SO  
Medina County SO  
Meigs County SO  
Mercer County SO  
Miami County SO  
Monroe County SO  
Montgomery County SO  
Morrow County SO  
Noble County SO  
Paulding County SO  
Perry County SO  
Pickaway County SO  
Pike County SO  
Portage County SO  
Putnam County SO  
Richland County SO  
Ross County SO  
Scioto County SO  
Shelby County SO  
Stark County SO  
Summit County SO  
Trumbull County SO  
Tuscarawas County SO  
Union County SO  
Van Wert County SO  
Warren County SO  
Washington County SO  
Wayne County SO  
Williams County SO  
Wyandot County SO

#### Task Forces:

ACE Task Force  
Akron Drug Task Force  
Delaware County Drug Task Force  
FBI Safe Streets Task Force  
Lake County Drug Task Force

Licking County Drug Task Force  
Mahoning Valley Drug Task Force  
MARMET

RANGE Task Force  
SOFAST  
Southeast Major Crimes Task Force  
Summit County Drug Task Force  
US-23 Major Crimes Task Force  
Youngstown IMPACT

#### State Agencies:

BCI  
HIDTA  
ODNR  
ODOT  
ODPS  
Office of the Governor  
Ohio EMA

Ohio House of Representatives  
OPOTA  
State Fire Marshal

#### Federal Agencies:

ATF  
DEA  
FAA  
FBI  
Homeland Security  
National Weather Service  
US Air Force  
US Border Patrol  
USDOT  
US Marshals Service  
US Secret Service

#### Other Entities:

Aiken High School  
American Legion  
Boy Scouts of America  
Buckeye Girls State  
COAST  
Concord Township FD  
Delaware County EMA  
Delaware County EMS  
Fox 19 News Cincinnati  
Huron County Airport  
Indiana State Police  
Jerome Township  
Kent State University  
Lorain County Regional Airport  
McDonald FD  
NCCJ  
Northridge School District  
PAYT  
Primrose School of Hilliard  
Radnor Township FD  
Serbian Air Force  
Shelby County EMA  
Warren County Airport

### Personnel

#### Section Updates

Sergeant Shawn Walters continued to advance his professional qualifications in 2025. He is currently authorized to operate the Cessna 182 and recently earned his Instrument Flight rating—a certification that allows a pilot to fly safely using cockpit instruments alone when visibility is limited by weather or other conditions. In addition to this achievement, he was formally signed off by section supervision to conduct operational flights in the Airvan. These accomplishments reflect his commitment to training and readiness, and they further strengthen the section's overall operational capability. Sergeant Walters is based out of the OSU Airport in Columbus.



Sgt. Walters

Brian Neill joined the Aviation Section in November 2025, becoming the Division's first Certified Flight Instructor (CFI). He brings 29 years of piloting experience and 19 years of flight-instruction experience. Brian will be based at the OSU Airport, where he will support the establishment and growth of the Aviation Section's flight-training program and work directly with both current and future personnel.



CFI Neill

### Aircraft & Equipment

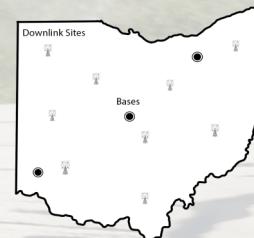
#### New ISR Platform - Cessna Caravan

In November 2024, the Aviation Section purchased a new Cessna Caravan to replace the existing aircraft and its mission equipment, enhancing service capabilities for the citizens of Ohio. Since its arrival, the new Caravan has undergone multiple upgrades and test flights to prepare it for operational deployment. On August 22, 2025 the aircraft returned to the OSHP Hangar and is now mission-ready. It will assume the duties of the previous ISR (intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) platform, equipped with state-of-the-art mission systems to better support agencies requesting Aviation services.



#### Downlink Completion and Optimization

After completing the initial installation of infrastructure and mission equipment for statewide downlink capabilities in 2024, the Aviation Section continued strengthening the system throughout 2025. This included ongoing testing of tower sites and confirming that all helicopters and the Caravan were fully outfitted and operational with downlink equipment. The section also carried out additional mission equipment updates to improve reliability and ensure agencies receive consistent, real-time video during operations. The section also plans to equip all future aircraft with mission systems that support downlink capabilities, ensuring the statewide network remains fully integrated and operational as the fleet grows.



Since 1948, the Ohio State Highway Patrol Aviation Section has been supporting citizens of Ohio from above. With a modern fleet of 11 Cessna 182s, 3 Airbus helicopters, 1 Cessna Grand Caravan, and 1 GA-8 Airvan, and with an array of sophisticated camera technology, we provide a full variety of services to public safety entities throughout Ohio.