



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

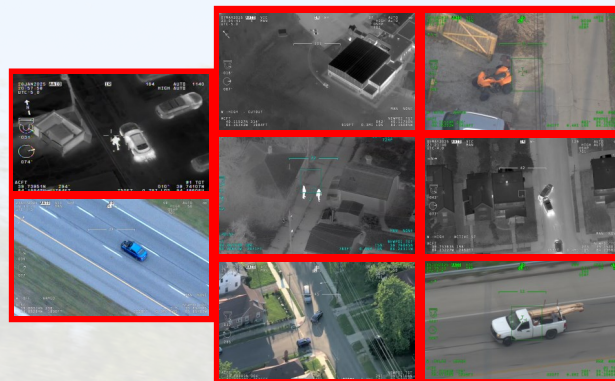
Click Images With RED Boxes for Videos!



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
	31%		20%		46%		
OSHP Missions	38%	Located by Air	353	Search - Missing Person	144	Huntsman Detail	22
			15%				214%
Vs.		Search - Criminal	472	Other	98	Passenger Flight	19
			4%		2%		46%
Outside Agency Missions	62%	ISR Flight	189	Photo Flight	36	Protest / Rally	6
			50%				200%

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.



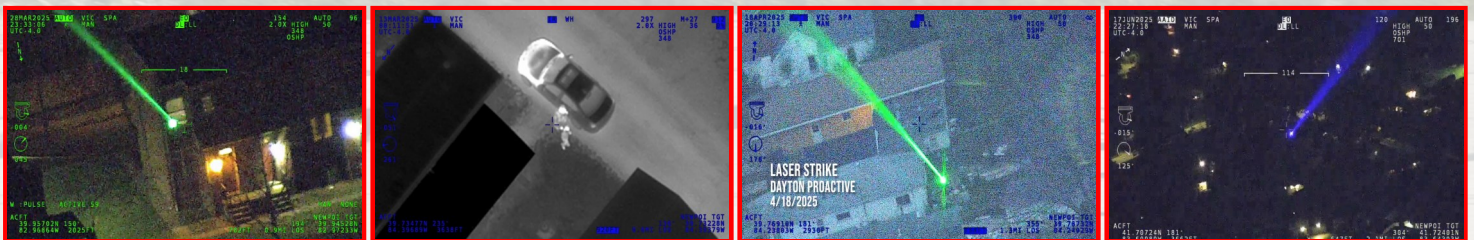
Airspeed Operations

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

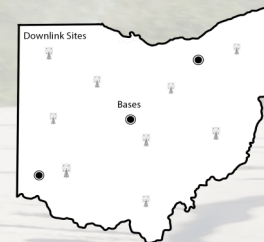
New ISR Platform - Cessna Caravan

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.