

Onondaga County Sheriff's Office News

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Sheriff



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The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Air1 Helicopter has a New Home

Onondaga County, New York – Recently the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing joined forces with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office by providing the Sheriff's Office with a new home for their Aviation Unit. Unoccupied hangar space was provided to the Sheriff's Office, which now houses the Aviation Unit's Air1 helicopter. The hangar provides Air1 with enough space to shelter the ship, perform maintenance and effectively train its crew.

The Sheriff's Office Aviation program was established in 1973 by Chief Pilot Carl Mosegard and became operational in 1975. Initially it was a consolidated City of Syracuse Police Department and Onondaga County Sheriff's Office Aviation program known as air-to-surface tactical offensive patrol unit, which utilized three Hiller helicopters before the city police department discontinued its involvement. Since the commencement of the program, it has proven to be a versatile and effective crime prevention and emergency response tool. The Aviation Unit is currently outfitted with a 1999, Bell 407 helicopter, known as Air1, which had been housed at the Sheriff's Heliport in Camillus since it was purchased. Prior to the 1999 Bell 407 helicopter, the Sheriff's Office utilized a 1980 Bell 206 Jet Ranger turbine helicopter from 1980 – 1998.

The first home to the Aviation Unit was a hangar at Tim Bello's in East Syracuse before moving to the Camillus Heliport in the early 1980's. Sheriff Conway has named the new hangar in honor of Retired Chief Pilot Carl Mosegard.

Air1 continues to provide multipurpose law enforcement and emergency service response, with capabilities that include serving as an aerial observation platform, search and rescue, emergency medevac transport, and firefighting capabilities. The helicopter is also equipped with a night light source, a forward looking infrared FLIR system and a video camera system.

Air1 is the only law enforcement helicopter based in Syracuse providing service to Onondaga County.