

TRAINING AND EXERCISES

Our Air and Communications teams are ready to schedule training and/or exercises with your local emergency services agency.

DONATIONS

The Ocean Air Support Squadron is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization providing air search and surveillance services to the Ocean County Sheriff's Department and the county Office of Emergency Management.

Tax deductible contributions can be sent to:

Ocean Air Support Squadron, Inc.
P.O. Box 178
Beachwood, N.J. 08722
(609) 312-9170
www.oceanblacksheep.com

The squadron greatly appreciates your support as we protect the citizens of Ocean County.

Emergency Assistance is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year by contacting the Ocean County Sheriff's Department Communication Center at:

(732) 349-2010



CONTACT INFORMATION

Commander:

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January 2012

OCEAN AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON, INC.

"The Ocean Black Sheep"

AIR WING FOR THE OCEAN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



AIRBORNE SEARCH

AND

RECONNAISSANCE

"That Others May Live"

MISSION

"That Others May Live" is the motto of the search and rescue community. The dedicated volunteers of the Ocean Black Sheep Squadron respond wherever and whenever they are needed; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week 365 days a year.

RESPONSE

An urgent response to an emergency saves lives. The Black Sheep strive to have our teams in the air within 30 minutes of the initial notification.

ALERTING PROCEDURE

Assistance is available 24/7, 365 days a year whenever an emergency arises. The Black Sheep's services are coordinated through the Ocean County Sheriff's Department. Once notified, our Duty Officer will scramble the aircraft and crew to support the emergency

Contact the Sheriff's Department Emergency Communications Center by:

Radio (SPEN 3)

Telephone (732) 349-2010

and request the ***Ocean Black Sheep***.

www.oceanblacksheep.com

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Black Sheep provide the following services:

Air to Ground direction of surface units – guiding fire, police, rescue and ground-based units to their targets from aerial observation points.

Airborne Search – an aerial search to find people missing from the ocean, lakes, bays, and forests. Fixed-wing aircraft can cover large areas in a short space of time, increasing the likelihood of rescue and recovery.

Photographic Tasks – aerial photography for crime prevention, evidence recording, traffic, fire ground, general planning, and other types of operations.

Covert Aerial Surveillance – observation, tracking and photography of criminal activities.

Traffic Monitoring – airborne monitoring of major highways and road to provide Emergency Vehicles with the fastest route to the incident.

Communication Relay – aircraft can relay message traffic to/from units unable to establish point to point communication due to terrain or distance limitations.

Sunset Patrols (May – September)

Aviation expenses are provided free of charge to the requesting agency under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ocean County Board of Freeholders.

FLIGHT OPERATIONS

The majority of search patterns are flown at altitudes between 500-1000 feet above ground level. A typical search grid is 10 square miles and takes approximately two hours to cover thoroughly. Careful coordination between the pilot and observer ensures maximum effectiveness during the search.

The aircraft flown by our pilots are equipped with GPS navigation systems enabling grid searches and pin point locations using latitude and longitude. Aircrews will augment the GPS position with landmarks to assist the ground teams in finding the location quickly.

While our aircrews are enroute to the search area, our ground based radio communications team will respond directly to your incident command staff. Our radio operators will coordinate and relay communications between incident command and the Air SAR teams.

SAFETY

Above all, the Black Sheep operate with the highest degree of safety. Weather is the main limiting factor to our aerial operations. Strong winds, low visibility, fog, rain, snow and ice make flying conditions hazardous. Both air and ground teams constantly monitor weather conditions to ensure they are above our established minimums.