

Air Support

419.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The use of air support can be invaluable in certain Law Enforcement situations. This policy specifies situations where the use of air support may be requested and the responsibilities for making a request.

419.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office to prioritize requests for air support to enhance law enforcement objectives and provide additional safety to deputies and the community.

419.3 REQUEST FOR AIR SUPPORT

If a supervisor or deputy in charge of an incident determines that the use of air support would be beneficial, a request to obtain air support may be made.

419.3.1 CIRCUMSTANCES FOR REQUESTS

Law enforcement air support may be requested under conditions that include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Whenever the safety of deputies or the community is in jeopardy and the presence of air support may reduce such hazard.
- (b) When the use of air support will aid in the capture of a suspected fleeing felon whose continued freedom represents an ongoing threat to deputies or the community.
- (c) When air support is needed to locate a person who is lost and whose continued absence constitutes a serious health or safety hazard.
- (d) Vehicle pursuits.
- (e) Pre-planned events or actions that require air support.
- (f) When air support is activated under existing mutual aid agreements.
- (g) When the Shift Supervisor or equivalent authority determines a reasonable need exists.

419.3.2 ALLIED AGENCY REQUEST

The on-scene supervisor, Duty Officer, or authorized designee may request air support via the Emergency Communications Center who will contact SYSCOM to activate the appropriate aviation unit. The aviation unit will apprise the agency of the specific details of the incident prompting the request.

The Duty Officer or designee may contact the Sheriff's Office sUAS Team to request air support. The Duty Officer or designee will use the Call Out Book and call sUAS Team personnel in the order they are listed to request assistance.