

MOBILE LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES WITHDRAWS FROM NYS POLICE LIFEGUARD MEDEVAC SERVICE

On 4/25/13 Mobile Life Support Services posted a notice on its Facebook page advising "Today we have notified our staff and the counties that we serve that Lifeguard will launch for the last time on April 30, 2013. For the past 19 years the New York State Police Aviation Division and Mobile Life Support Services have worked together to provide over 1,000 Medivac and Search & Rescue Missions to the surrounding areas. The emergency services field has seen many changes since Lifeguard first launched in 1994. Taking all these changes into consideration, Mobile Life administration carefully reevaluated the program. There were many factors that played a role in the decision to end this program, including medical advances in the pre-hospital and hospital setting that are now offered to patients by EMS agencies throughout the area and local hospitals. Over the years there have been many different paramedics who have worn the blue flight suit and Mobile Life is very proud of each and every one. Lastly we want to thank the New York State Police Aviation Unit, who for 19 years got us home safe each and every time." A MLSS official indicated reasons for the decision included decreasing runs for flight medics resulting from area hospitals handing more patients as well as competition from other medevac services. The LifeGuard 18 unit stationed at Stewart International Airport in Orange County has been the busiest of the five NYS Police medevac programs in the state

Air Methods/LifeNet of NY's LifeNet Air 2 based at Kobelt Airport in Ulster County continues to serve the Hudson Valley region. It is only 3 minutes flight time from Stewart. Speculation about replacing the NYSP medvac service mentions services in nearby New Jersey such as Hackensack UMC AirMed 1 in Passaic County or Atlantic Air 3 in Sussex County coming into the state. Mention has also been made of 2 year old Orange Regional Medical Center in Middletown becoming a trauma center negating the need to fly critical patients across the Hudson River to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.