

Contact: Joel Brumlik, Chief of Police
Ph. 847-872-2131
chiefbrumlik@whpd.org

Winthrop Harbor Police Department
830 Sheridan Road
Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096



Press Release

Law Enforcement Aviation Coalition Receives Helicopter *Press Conference scheduled for August 8, 2006*

Winthrop Harbor, IL – August 3, 2006. The Winthrop Harbor Police Department, coordinating agency for the *Law Enforcement Aviation Coalition* (“LEAC”), has taken receipt of one Bell OH-58 jet helicopter through a Department of Defense surplus program. The State of Illinois Law Enforcement Support Office (“LESO”) and U.S. Congressman Don Manzullo were both instrumental in arranging for this aircraft acquisition.

LEAC is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation comprised of cooperating law enforcement and fire service agencies from Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin. It was formed with the purpose of providing no-charge air support to all agencies at the local, county and state levels throughout the region. The unit is staffed with pilots and tactical flight officers from multiple agencies who are all sworn officers volunteering their time to provide this much needed service. The addition of the Bell OH-58 single-engine light helicopter enables LEAC to enhance its mutual aid and multi-jurisdictional services with emphasis on Northern Illinois response. The unit supports Illinois homeland security missions involving weapons of mass destruction, terrorist threats and activities, search and rescue operations, counter-drug activities, and numerous other law enforcement related missions.

LEAC currently operates a twin-engine Eurocopter EC135 helicopter which is privately owned and donated for police operations. The OH-58 will be upgraded with state-of-the-art police equipment and avionics, with funding for upgrades and operations coming from both private and government resources, including donations from member agencies.

A press conference will be held, with the helicopter on display, on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the North Point Marina administration building in Winthrop Harbor.

Further information about the LEAC program can be found on-line at www.whpd.org. ##

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE