A Report to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee

June 2004
(Issued August 2005)

Richard J. Codey
Acting Governor

Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

NJ Emergency Medical Services
Helicopter Response Program

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SENIOR SERVICES
REPORT TO THE JOINT BUDGET OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON
THE NEW JERSEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
HELICOPTER RESPONSE PROGRAM

Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D., Commissioner
New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services

January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004
(issued October 2005)

The NJ EMS Helicopter Response Program was established by the Legislature in 1988, in order to provide rapid emergency transport and care for trauma victims in NJ. This program is now referred to as Jersey Emergency Medical Shock Trauma Air Rescue (JEMSTAR). JEMSTAR is operated as a cooperative endeavor by:

- The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS)
  Office of Emergency Medical Services
- The Department of Law and Public Safety
  New Jersey State Police
- The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)
- Virtua Health System, West Jersey

The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services is advised on the operation of all air medical activities by the JEMSTAR subcommittee of the Mobile Intensive Care Advisory Council, which was established in accordance with NJSA 26:2K-16. This subcommittee is comprised of all parties involved in the NJ EMS Helicopter Response Program, as well as representatives of the State’s Level I and II trauma centers, the Office of the Attorney General, and staff of the DHSS OEMS. The committee monitors the status of the JEMSTAR program and makes recommendations on medical and operational matters.

Aircraft

Currently, the system consists of 2 dedicated, medically configured Sikorsky S76-B helicopters, with two additional helicopters (also Sikorskys) serving as backup. The helicopters are owned, piloted, and maintained by the NJSP, which is responsible for the oversight of all program aviation operations.

Operations

NorthSTAR and SouthSTAR are the designated helicopters, each covering the named portions of the state. The unofficial boundary line dividing the state is Interstate 195. NorthSTAR is located on top of, and receives staffing and medical command from the UMDNJ in Newark. SouthSTAR is currently located at Virtua Health System – West Jersey Hospital in
Voorhees. Staffing is provided by Virtua, and medical command for trauma patients is provided by Cooper Hospital-University Medical Center in Camden. All pilots for the JEMSTAR program are NJSP troopers with extensive flying experience.

Statistical data for the six-month period of January 2004 to June 2004 on volume of flights, types of patients transported, and time in flight and on scenes is presented in tables and charts in Attachments 1 through 3.

**Funding**

Funds allocated by the Department of Treasury to DHSS and LPS from the surcharge on motor vehicles ($1) do not cover the operating expenses of this JEMSTAR program. In order to compensate for this shortfall, Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) hospitals providing the medical component of the program were directed by DHSS to bill patients $1337 for JEMSTAR services. This fixed charge billed in a manner similar to the billing of patients treated by ground-based MICUs represents only a portion of the cost of the medical services provided during the flight.

A summary of the collections on direct patient billing for medical services is listed in Attachment 4. Data on various program expenses overall, as well as for the medical and aviation components, are shown in Attachments 5, 6, and 7. Revenues collected for the helicopter fund are presented in Attachment 8.

**Current Issues**

Applications are being accepted for air medical licenses by private companies, both in-state and out-of-state.

There is a need to supplement the current funding for the JEMSTAR program; as noted, the $1 surcharge on motor vehicles is inadequate. There have been discussions within the JEMSTAR Advisory Committee to recommend raising the surcharge amount.

There has also been discussion regarding a possible third site for a JEMSTAR helicopter, which would be designated “CenSTAR” for Central New Jersey.

Plans are underway to move NorthSTAR from UMDNJ-Newark to another site that would put it in a more central location in Northern New Jersey. Discussions with various airports and helistops have taken place.

OEMS has been placed within the newly formed Division of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; David Gruber has been named Assistant Commissioner for this division. This is a positive move for OEMS.

The Department has changed the months of this report for the Joint Budget Oversight Committee. The new reporting schedule will now coincide with the fiscal year.
June 2004 Report to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Response Program

Page 3

This report is submitted each six months as required by N.J.S.A 26-2K-35-et seq. The activities, costs and revenues related to the New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Response Program for the six-month period from January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004 are detailed in the Attachments listed below:

ATTACHMENT 1: Comparative Flight Analysis
ATTACHMENT 2: Missions by Category
ATTACHMENT 2A: Mission Profiles
ATTACHMENT 2B: Prehospital Mission Types
ATTACHMENT 2C: Interfacility Mission Types
ATTACHMENT 3: Scene Waiting Times
ATTACHMENT 4: Total Direct Patient Billings
ATTACHMENT 5: Total Program Expenses
ATTACHMENT 5A: Expenses by Category
ATTACHMENT 6: Medical Component Expenses
ATTACHMENT 6A: NorthSTAR Expenses
ATTACHMENT 6B: SouthSTAR Expenses
ATTACHMENT 7: Aviation Component Expenditures
ATTACHMENT 7A: Expenditures for N1NJ
ATTACHMENT 7B: Expenditures for N5NJ
ATTACHMENT 7C: Expenditures for N9NJ
ATTACHMENT 7D: Expenditures for N7NJ
ATTACHMENT 7E: Expenditures by Account
ATTACHMENT 7F: Overall Expenditures by Major Account
ATTACHMENT 7G: Operating Expenditures by Aircraft
ATTACHMENT 8: Helicopter Program Fund Monthly Revenues
ATTACHMENT 8A: Helicopter Program Fund Yearly Revenue

The above data is reflective of information submitted by all participants in the program. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent, and therefore may not total 100%.
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Response Program
Comparative Flight Analysis
COMPLETED FLIGHT SUMMARY

January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTHTAR</th>
<th>Completed Flights</th>
<th>Scene</th>
<th>Interfacility</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2003</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2003</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2003</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2003</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2003</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2003</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>274</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>98</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUTHSTAR</th>
<th>Completed Flights</th>
<th>Scene</th>
<th>Interfacility</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2003</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
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<td>Feb 2003</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2003</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 2003</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2003</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2003</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>359</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>121</td>
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TOTAL FLIGHTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Completed Flights</th>
<th>Scene</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>633</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>219</td>
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January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004

<table>
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<th>NORTHTAR</th>
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<th>Scene</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2004</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Feb 2004</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Mar 2004</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>Apr 2004</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>May 2004</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>June 2004</td>
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<td>302</td>
<td>210</td>
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Change over 2003

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<tr>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>-6.1%</td>
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<th>Completed Flights</th>
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<th>Interfacility</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Jan 2004</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>Feb 2004</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Mar 2004</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 2004</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2004</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2004</td>
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<td></td>
<td>430</td>
<td>292</td>
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Change over 2003

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<tr>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
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TOTAL FLIGHTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Completed Flights</th>
<th>Scene</th>
<th>Interfacility</th>
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<tr>
<td>732</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>230</td>
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Change over 2003

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<th>Completed Flights</th>
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<tr>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
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</table>
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services
Helicopter Response Program

01/01/04 through 06/30/04

Total Program Operations
836 Patient Transportation Missions

Mission Category

Prehospital - 554
Interfacility - 282

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services
Helicopter Response Program

01/01/04 through 06/30/04

Total Program Operations
836 Patient Transportation Missions

Mission Profiles - All Types
Trauma Related - 474
Medical Reasons - 131
Burns - 36
All Other - 195

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services
Helicopter Response Program

01/01/04 through 06/30/04

Total Program Operations
554 Prehospital Missions

MVCs  
69%

Industrial
Burns  2%

Other  27%

Mission Profiles - All Types
Motor Vehicle Collision - 371
Industrial Accidents - 13
Burns - 22
All Other - 148

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services
Helicopter Response Program

01/01/04 through 06/30/04

Total Program Operations
282 Interfacility Transfer Missions

- Burns: 5%
- Trauma: 32%
- Medical: 46%
- Other: 17%

Mission Profiles - All Types
- Trauma Related: 90
- Medical Reasons: 131
  - Burns: 14
  - All Other: 47

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Response Program
Average PreHospital Mission Waiting Times
January 01, 2004 through June 30, 2004

Not Entrapped
NorthSTAR  12 Minutes
SouthSTAR  15 Minutes
Average    14 Minutes

Entrapped
NorthSTAR  20 Minutes
SouthSTAR  23 Minutes
Average    21 Minutes

* Status of patient on arrival

(Averages are rounded to the nearest whole number and divided by number of flights)
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Response Program
Total Direct Patient Billings

January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004

NORTHSTAR

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Charges</th>
<th>Collections</th>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>$143,612</td>
<td>$37,702</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>$117,138</td>
<td>$25,754</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>$101,374</td>
<td>$29,535</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>$136,674</td>
<td>$30,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>$151,481</td>
<td>$32,041</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>$162,491</td>
<td>$37,587</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$812,770</td>
<td>$193,303</td>
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SOUTHSTAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Charges</th>
<th>Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>$83,187</td>
<td>$21,782</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>$78,968</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>$69,481</td>
<td>$58,538</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>$76,278</td>
<td>$31,469</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>$118,652</td>
<td>$39,973</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>$89,579</td>
<td>$41,078</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$516,145</td>
<td>$244,072</td>
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</table>

\[
\text{collections} = \frac{437,315}{\$1,328,915} = 32.9\% \\
\text{Charges} = \frac{437,315}{\$1,328,915} = 32.9\%
\]

- 836 patient transports for 6 month period.
- 1,672 per year

\[
1,600 \times 337 = \$2,139,100 \times .03 = \$705,936 \quad \text{\$851,457}
\]
\[
1,600 \times 3,000 = \$4,800,000 \times .03 = \$1,440,000 \quad \text{\$1,484,012}
\]
\[
1,600 \times 4,000 = \$6,400,000 \times .03 = \$1,920,000 \quad \text{\$1,984,839}
\]
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services
Helicopter Response Program
January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004

Total Program Costs

Aviation
72%

Medical
28%

$4,738,623
Aviation - $3,392,591
Medical - $1,346,032

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services
Helicopter Response Program
01/01/04 through 06/30/04

Total Program Costs
$4,738,623

Salaries
57%

Med. Supplies
2%

Capital
0%

Fuel
10%

Maintenance
26%

Other
5%

Expenses by Category
Salaries - $2,692,920
Capital - $22,207
Maintenance - $1,229,394
Fuel - $465,842
Med. Supplies - $75,915
Other - $252,345

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Response Program

January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004

Total Program Medical Expenses
$3,043,387

Total Medical Expenses by Category
- Salaries - $2,692,920
- Capital - $22,207
- Med. Supplies - $75,915
- Other - $252,345

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Response Program
01/01/04 through 06/30/04

Total NorthSTAR Expenses
$ 812,770

Total NorthSTAR Expenses by Category
Salaries - $ 726,036
Capital - $ 22,207
Med. Supplies - $ 0
Other - $ 64,527

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services
Helicopter Response Program

01/01/04 through 06/30/04

Total SouthSTAR Expenses
$ 533,262

Total NorthSTAR Expenses by Category
Salaries - $449,869
Capital - $0
Med. Supplies - $75,915
Other - $7478

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
Total State Police Air Ambulance Program Expenditures by major account were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Wages (Including Maintenance &amp; Fringe Benefits)</td>
<td>$1,178,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overtime</td>
<td>338,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>1,875,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total State Police Costs</strong></td>
<td>3,392,591</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breakdown of Operating Expenses by Aircraft:

**N1NJ-Dedicated Backup (Sikorsky S-76B)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2200-fuel</td>
<td>236,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3800-training/travel/charts</td>
<td>40,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4200-maintenance of helicopters</td>
<td>482,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>759,401</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**N5NJ-NORTHSTAR (Sikorsky S-76B)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2200-fuel</td>
<td>64,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2420-uniforms (flightsuits)</td>
<td>17,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3800-training/travel/charts</td>
<td>40,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4100-maintenance of equipment</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>4200-maintenance of helicopters</td>
<td>299,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>421,319</td>
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</table>

**N7NJ-Dedicated Back-up (Sikorsky S-76B Purchased 7/30/02 placed into service 12/3/02)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>2200-fuel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3800-training/travel/charts</td>
<td>40,724</td>
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<tr>
<td>4200-maintenance of helicopter</td>
<td>267,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>380,158</td>
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</table>

**N9NJ-SOUTHSTAR (Sikorsky S-76B)**

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<td>2200-fuel</td>
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<tr>
<td>3800-training/travel/charts</td>
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<td>4100-maintenance of equipment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4200-maintenance of helicopter</td>
<td>180,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>314,698</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Jersey State Police
Aviation Unit
Air Ambulance Program
1/1/04 through 6/30/04

Expenditures for N1NJ (Back-Up Sikorsky)

Total Expenditures - $759,401

Fuel - $236,415
Training - $40,724
Equip. Mtce. - $0
Maintenance - $482,262

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey State Police
Aviation Unit
Air Ambulance Program
1/1/04 through 6/30/04

Expenditures for N5NJ (NorthSTAR)

- Uniforms: $17,400 (4%)
- Fuel: $64,072 (15%)
- Training: $40,724 (10%)
- Equip. Mtce.: $44 (0%)
- Maintenance: $299,079 (71%)

Total Expenditures - $421,319

Fuel - $64,072
Uniforms - $17,400
Equip. Mtce. - $44
Training - $40,724
Maintenance - $299,079

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey State Police
Aviation Unit
Air Ambulance Program
1/1/04 through 6/30/04

Expenditures for N9NJ (SouthSTAR)

- Fuel: $93,024 (30%)
- Training: $40,724 (13%)
- Maintenance: $180,950 (57%)

Total Expenditures - $314,698

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey State Police
Aviation Unit
Air Ambulance Program
1/1/04 through 6/30/04

Expenditures for N7NJ (Back-Up Sikorsky Delivered 12/3/02)

- Fuel $72,331 (19%)
- Training $40,724 (10%)
- Maintenance $267,103 (71%)

Total Expenditures - $380,158
Fuel - $72,331
Training - $40,724
Maintenance - $267,103

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey State Police
Aviation Unit
Air Ambulance Program
1/1/04 through 6/30/04

Overall Expenditures by Account

- Fuel $465,842 (25%)
- Training $162,896 (9%)
- Equip. Mtce. $44 (0%)
- Uniforms $17,400 (0%)
- Maintenance $1,229,394 (66%)

Total Expenditures - $1,875,576
UNIFORMS-$17,400
Fuel - $465,842
Training - $162,896
Equip. Mtce - $44
Maintenance - $1,229,394

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey State Police  
Aviation Unit  
Air Ambulance Program  
1/1/04 through 6/30/04

Overall Expenditures by Major Account

- Salaries/Wages: $1,178,494 (35%)
- Operating Expenses: $1,875,576 (55%)
- Overtime: $338,521 (10%)

Total Expenditures - $3,392,591

Salaries Wages - $1,178,494
  Overtime - $338,521
  Operating Expenses - $1,875,576

(All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.)
New Jersey State Police
Aviation Unit
Air Ambulance Program
1/1/04 through 6/30/04

Operating Expenditures by Aircraft

N1NJ
$759,401
41%

N5NJ
$421,319
22%

N9NJ
$314,698
17%

N7NJ
$380,158
20%

Total Expenditures - $1,875,576

N1NJ - $759,401 Back-Up Sikorsky
N5NJ - $421,319 NorthSTAR
N7NJ - $380,158
Back-Up Sikorsky
N9NJ - $314,698 SouthSTAR
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Response Program
Department of the Treasury - Division of Revenue
Revenues Collected from $1 Surcharge on Each Motor Vehicle Registration
January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan-2004</td>
<td>$562,594</td>
<td>subject to audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-2004</td>
<td>$568,275</td>
<td>subject to audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-2004</td>
<td>$720,711</td>
<td>subject to audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-2004</td>
<td>$636,946</td>
<td>subject to audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-2004</td>
<td>$590,342</td>
<td>subject to audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun-2004</td>
<td>$630,490</td>
<td>subject to audit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PERIOD TOTAL $3,709,358
New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Helicopter Response Program
Department of the Treasury - Division of Revenue
Revenues Collected from $1 Surcharge on Each Motor Vehicle Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Calendar Year Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>$5,871,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$5,959,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>$5,922,359</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$6,095,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>$6,156,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$5,948,028</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>$6,519,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$6,593,593</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$6,881,041</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$7,243,879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$10,498,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>$3,709,358 - thru June 30, 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>