



AIR MAIL

AMKY Earns Continuation of Full CAMTS Accreditation

*By Bryant Shumate
Area Operations Manager*

Air Methods Kentucky received a continuation of its full Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) accreditation following the July CAMTS Board meeting. This continues the accreditation for the program and subsequently holding the accreditation longer than any other program in Kentucky.

Air Methods Kentucky was the first program in the state to receive CAMTS accreditation in 1995 and has maintained it since. This accreditation will continue for renewal in 2012. Another large achievement is the fact that Air Methods Kentucky is the first Air Methods program to receive its accreditation with the new streamlined organizational structure. The AMKY staff is to be commended for its hard work put into the accreditation preparation and presentation.

The CAMTS accreditation is a process that is geared to evaluate medical transport systems in a complete fashion. This includes administrative process, medical process, aviation process, maintenance process, human resources, safety, and quality assurance. The CAMTS process is used to gauge the preparation that a medical transport program maintains for its operation. The program as a whole shares a part in our success with this endeavor, whether it is from the input of information into the TAMMA system or excellent safe operations on a daily basis.

Several people excelled with site survey preparation in collecting and reviewing training records, including Paul Skaggs (Medical Education Coordinator/Flight Paramedic), Donnya Shryock (Medical Base Supervisor, Frankfort), Karen Moulton (Area Medical Manager), and Jennifer Blackburn (Flight Nurse, Frankfort). TAMMA, our web-based data system, shined yet again. Network Administrator Mike Onkst's creation has evolved beyond its original purpose of an all-inclusive data collection system to a tool that allows us to trend and track medical quality management, post flight debriefing, utilization review, multi-disciplinary issues, and certification tracking for our employees.

The site surveyors went to four separate locations to review our operation. They visited the rotor and fixed wing base in Louisville, rotor wing base in Glasgow, maintenance shop in Somerset, and rotor wing base in Grayson. This was a whirlwind tour that covered one and half days, during which the crews on duty were interviewed and bases inspected. All of the folks involved performed wonderfully, and the bases were found in tip-top shape. Subsequent interviews by the CAMTS surveyors with Shawn Bailey (Program Maintenance Manager), Robert Summerlot (Mechanic, Louisville), and Brad Johnson (Mechanic, Somerset) were very successful with our maintenance

program.

The success AMKY has experienced in light of changes to our program, organizational structure, airframe, and industry is a testament to the professionals that work here.

Although a few have been named here specifically, all staff members share some degree of responsibility. Without each and every person doing his or her part, we would not succeed in our endeavors. Throughout this process, a great deal of time is taken away from home, family, and other interests in order to get the vast amount of information together through long calls and meetings. Area Medical Managers Joe Hill and Karen Moulton as well as Program Aviation Manager Glynn Tucker and Program Maintenance Manager Shawn Bailey certainly sacrificed for all of this to be accomplished. Another active part of our preparation can be attributed to assistance from Regional Medical Service Director Tina Giangrasso and Regional Medical Education Coordinator Ron Castillo.

There was also a large amount of time taken away from all of the Medical Base Supervisors and Lead Pilots to get all of the bases ready. Once again, though, without the crews doing their jobs in a safe and excellent manner, none of this would be possible. A special thanks is in order for all of the crew members and maintenance professionals.

For more information about Air Methods Kentucky, call (859) 288-5262 or visit www.AirMethodsKY.com. For emergency transport, call 1-800-678-9811.



Prestonsburg Base Transitions to Partnership with HealthNet Aeromedical Services

The official changeover of the Prestonsburg (KY-9) base to a new hybrid model took place on April 13, 2009, when the medical staff transitioned from Air Methods Kentucky into a partnership HealthNet Aeromedical Services. A public unveiling and open house took place a few weeks later on May 4.

Under the agreement between Air Methods and HealthNet, we will share the operations of this base. AMKY holds the EMS License and provides the pilots, mechanics, and aircraft. HealthNet provides the medical staff and medical oversight of the base. Together we share the costs of the operations, and the management of the base is overseen by the establishment of a (MOC) Management Oversight Committee.

This partnership largely came about through an effort to raise the region's standard of patient care, basing operations on the foundations of safety, quality,

integrity, and experience. The collective resources of the two entities will greatly benefit area customers, who will have access to 15 rotor-wing aircraft, one fixed-wing aircraft, and four advanced communication centers.


Both programs are committed to providing high-quality service and care, with strong ties to a number of leading healthcare institutions dedicated to the advancement of patient care. They also bring decades of experience to the partnership as two of the region's oldest air medical operations.

From a customer perspective, no perceived change in services or operations should be seen. Both dispatch centers, LifeCom and MedCom, will be receiving flight requests from the customer.



Photo by John Hultgren

Kentucky customers should continue to call the LifeCom number (1-800-678-9811), while customers in West Virginia should continue to call MedCom for flight requests (1-800-747-2244).

This hybrid model brings a number of expanded capabilities to the region and the ability to improve the availability of our services. The qualities that have served our customers well in the past will blend together to only further improve upon these experiences. 

Official Opening of Glasgow's New Facility Celebrated

A series of events on May 23 celebrated the official opening of the newly-constructed building which will house the Air Methods Kentucky Glasgow base and Barren-Metcalf EMS (BCEMS).

An EMS breakfast sponsored by TJ Samson Hospital kicked off the day, followed by a Rotary lunch, where AMKY area business manager Ron Walter gave a brief presentation. A Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house with over 100 people in attendance took place in the evening.

Speeches were given by

the City of Glasgow's Mayor, the County Judge, Chamber of Commerce President, BCEMS Director Mike Swift, and AMKY Area Business Director Ron Walter.

Mindful of the fact that the event culminated National EMS Week, in his speech Ron Walter recognized those who dedicate their lives to serving others and remembered those who lost their lives in the line of duty. He also thanked Mike Swift for his dedication to seeing through to completion the six-year project, a multi-agency cooperation between the city/county government, ambulance board, and airport board.

The placement of an ambulance at the Glasgow Airport will reduce the Barren-Metcalf Ambulance Service's response time to emergencies along Interstate 65 by 10 minutes.

The new facility was constructed by Poynter Construction of Glasgow for just under \$1 million, and was funded by two \$500,000 grants, one from the state and the other from the Kentucky Association of Counties.

Information courtesy of Glasgow Flight Paramedic Kim McCarty and Glasgow Daily Times.

Working to Prevent Tragedy, One School at a Time

By John Hultgren
District Business Manager

Senseless tragedy, unfortunately, is no stranger to emergency medical services, and it takes a serious psychological toll on all medical providers. Dealing with the tragedy we face can be very difficult, and is not part of a first-responder curriculum. But one productive way to work through senseless tragedy is to work to prevent it, and that's exactly what Air Methods Kentucky has been committed to doing for many years through many different community outreach programs.

For all of the nation's students, the arrival of warm weather brings joyous thoughts of graduation, prom, and the freedoms that come with growing up. And all across Kentucky and Indiana, Air Methods Kentucky is participating in community programs designed to drive home the point that along with fun comes responsibility.

This is not an easy task to accomplish. Different communities have different programs with generally the same themes, and through the efforts of local school systems and participating emergency responders, all have been successful.

One particularly successful program, presented since 2001, is called STAND: Supporting Teens Acting on Noble Decisions. The program is coordinated by the Louisville Metro Police Department and the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, in a partnership with Louisville Metro Emergency Medical Services, Air Methods Kentucky, a local fire department and a local school (varying by program location) the Jefferson County Coroner's Office, University of Louisville Hospital, Jewish Hospital Frazier Rehab Center, and local funeral homes. This "in your face" brush with reality is designed to give students the opportunity to face the varied consequences of negative choices.

Day 1 begins with students led without prior notice to a simulated

crash scene on school grounds. Victims can be seen within and around the tangled steel. The PA system relays a 9-1-1 call and soon the scene is packed with police and emergency responders. There are no theatrics; the scene is eerily real. A helicopter arrives, and patients are quickly transported. After the coroner arrives for those left, the scene is cleared and with the exception of a few, all the students return to class.

Without warning, more students are removed once back in class. These individuals have been pre-selected and identified as influential students by a committee. These particular students and their families have already been trained in healthy decision-making skills with positive alternatives to popular but illegal activities. They will become "spokespersons" for STAND in a school-wide assembly at the program's conclusion. But until then, they will be removed by a Coroner. A "time of death," is pronounced, an obituary is read, and there is the suddenness of a real tragedy.

Student participants are now taken on a "DUI Impact Session" overnight retreat where they will tour and gain information about rehabilitation treatment, a trauma center, the morgue, jail, and how families are going about planning the funeral and burial for their loved ones. After learning about the consequences of destructive choices from actual prosecutors, victims, and offenders, the students each write a "farewell" letter to their families and friends. Only after the coordinators are certain the students have fully processed the day and can rest comfortably does Day One conclude.

Parents are also writing letters to their dead children. During the day, these parents received a simulated death notification from a police chaplain. Parental involvement is intense and is designed to emphasize how much these students are a loved part of a family.



Photo by John Hultgren

Day 2 begins with a student body assembly showing a video from the crash scene. The DUI driver is arraigned in simulated court, and guest speakers share their experiences. Student participants read their letters, and parents and guardians are invited to do the same. A moment of silence in honor and in memory of those injured and killed because of their own, or someone else's, illegal or destructive decision concludes the assembly. As they return to class, students receive pledge cards acknowledging the dangers of chemical use, with a promise to not engage in such behavior.

"This program couldn't be effectively given by us" said Bryant Shumate, Air Methods Area 5 Services Manager. "We're just an unknown authority figure to these students; they can't really identify with us. But coming from popular and respected student leaders, I think it really has credibility. Air Methods Kentucky is so proud to participate in such a successful program for our youth."

AMKY Flies 4 out of 5 Firefighters Transported from One Scene

By John Hultgren
District Business Manager

In what may have been the largest simultaneous air medical scene evacuation in Kentucky history, five Kentucky licensed air ambulances converged on a rural scene in Meade County on the evening of June 8 and, one by one, departed the staging area with five injured firefighters for the University of Louisville Hospital Level 1 Trauma Center.

Air Methods Kentucky provided three of those helicopters, from Elizabethtown, Frankfort, and Glasgow. Air Evac Lifeteam provided the other two, from Campbellsville and Bowling Green.

It was almost the end of a typical day. Members of the Meade County Fire Protection District were responding to a report of a motor vehicle crash with entrapment, dispatched at 6:09 p.m., near Highway 1638. One of the fire vehicles responding was Engine 42. At approximately 6:20 p.m. other volunteers responding to the scene came up upon an overturned truck in a ditch along Highway 448, at first not even realizing the overturned truck was actually Engine 42. Five firefighters were trapped inside the vehicle, and

they were unable to radio for help.

Other fire rescue units were able to make it to the original crash site and rescue that patient. Units from Payneville, Ekron, Flaherty and Muldraugh helped rescue the five injured firefighters.

Meade County Fire Chief Larry Naser thanked and complimented



Photo by Laura Saylor
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Air Methods Kentucky on their response and participation. "You guys were great," Naser said.

Volunteer firefighters standing in the bay echoed the chief's response just before a large media press conference, where Naser said there was a lot to be thankful for. "When I go to my board meeting, I'm going to tell them we're very lucky. We could have had some firefighters killed."

Most public safety agencies routinely practice mass casualty responses, occasionally involving their own department. Meade County has been particularly active in education, hosting a long-running regional fire school with a heavy focus on EMS topics and involving Air Methods Kentucky education staff. But still, successfully pulling off the real thing is a major accomplishment.

"Air Methods Kentucky is very thankful that all of the injured firefighters are expected to recover," said Bryant Shumate, Area Services Manager. "Kentucky is fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers. And we are also very proud of the way our public safety partners responded and managed this very challenging scene, and of the manner in which five medical helicopters safely and efficiently responded and evacuated the injured."

"I extend my sincere thanks to the crews involved for their professionalism and compassion," said Tina Giangrasso, Air Methods Regional Medical Services Director.

The Highview Fire Department in Jefferson County has donated a fire truck to Meade County to use until they replace the one lost in the wreck.

This and That

AMKY on Facebook!

Air Methods Kentucky now has its own page on Facebook, the popular online social network. Become a fan (simply search for Air Methods Kentucky) and keep up with our latest news, photos and video. If you're new to Facebook, register for a free account at facebook.com and simply do a search for Air Methods Kentucky.



Calendar Photo Contest

Air Methods Kentucky is on the lookout for photos for its 2010 customer calendar. Send in your best fire and/or EMS photos and you might see yours featured! Photos and questions should be sent to Sarah Hastings, shastings@airmethods.com or 859-229-4656. The deadline for photo submissions is October 1, 2009.

