



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Camille Crim
Office: 972-339-4200
Fax: 972-988-3144
ccrim@careflite.org

**CAREFLITE TO IMPLEMENT NEW AIRCRAFT TECHNOLOGY FOR ALL WEATHER
FLYING CAPABILITY**

September 30, 2004 – Grand Prairie, Texas ---- Inclement weather and low visibility will no longer be deterrents for CareFlite helicopters that respond to emergency medical situations. CareFlite is now one in a handful of air medical programs that utilize single-pilot IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) aircraft that contain state-of-the-art computer equipment allowing the helicopter to take-off and land in less than ideal weather conditions.

Hickok & Associates, Inc of Orange Beach, Alabama has been contracted for the development of a network of instrument approach procedures to support CareFlite's IFR program. Hickok & Associates, Inc president, Stephen M. Hickok has a long history in developing all weather capabilities for the helicopter industry. Hickok managed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight testing that became the criteria used for helicopter Global Positioning System (GPS) procedures, implemented the first helicopter GPS instrument approach procedures ever commissioned by FAA, and today has established over 95% of the helicopter GPS instrument procedures being flown throughout the United States.

"This new technology gives us an enhanced margin of safety when flying, even in poor weather conditions," said Ed Majors, president of CareFlite. "It gives us the capability to fly in weather that has been impossible in the past. CareFlite is the only air medical transportation provider in Texas utilizing the full potential of aircraft with single-pilot IFR capabilities." The technology is a point-space Global Positioning System (GPS) allowing it to safely operate in conditions in which Visual Flight Rules (VFR) aircraft are not allowed to fly.

"The development of the GPS system with approaches to requesting hospital helipads means that the CareFlite helicopter will be able to leave and arrive safely when the weather is less than optimal." Majors said.

CareFlite operates six helicopters, five of which are manufactured by Agusta, scheduled to begin SPIFR operations in mid-November.

Serving the community since 1979, CareFlite, the only nonprofit, full service medical transportation provider in North Central Texas, is celebrating its 25th year of providing emergency air medical transportation to more than 100 counties and communities within a 150-mile radius of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Other CareFlite services include ground ambulance service, critical care ground transport, state-of-the-art communications center, fixed wing service, 911 services, continuing education program, and a community service bicycle team.

For more information, please call Public Relations at 972-339-4217, or visit www.careflite.org.

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