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For Immediate Release

ATLANTIC HEALTH'S AIR AMBULANCE MARKS ONE YEAR IN THE SKY Helicopter Serves Wider Area and Now Has "Night Vision" Capability

MORRISTOWN, NJ FEBRUARY 12, 2007 - Atlantic Air One, the air-ambulance helicopter that services the region, will this week mark its first year in the sky in which it made more than 200 flights to transport patients in need of urgent and specialty care from accident scenes, and other hospitals. In a technology upgrade, the helicopter's nighttime response has been enhanced by night-vision goggles.

Over the course of the 240 flights in its first year, Air One has responded to a variety of medical calls and situations, ranging from a stroke victim who collapsed at her home, to a spate of burn victims this past Fall, to ATV accidents and vehicle rollovers on state highways.

In one instance, Air One responded to a rollover on Route 78, in which several occupants were ejected from cars, and was the first air ambulance to reach Morristown Memorial Hospital, a regional trauma center, with a patient.

The helicopter is based at a hangar in the Netcong area, giving it quick access to patients in Sussex County and western Morris County.

The helicopter has not only served the immediate Morris County area, but has flown patients as far away as Groton, Conn., Binghamton, N.Y., and Baltimore, Md.

Since its debut last year, Air One is adding technology that will allow it to fly better at night. The helicopter crew, including pilots and paramedics, recently became the first air ambulance crew in New Jersey to be trained to use helmet-mounted night-vision goggles.

"Critical care depends on getting to patients quickly and transporting them to specialty care in a safe but expeditious manner. Through Air One, Atlantic Health's ambulance team has been able to respond more quickly to more patients and bring them to the lifesaving care they need," said Richard Donovan, director of Emergency Medical Systems and Transportation for Atlantic Health. "Adding night-vision technology to the helicopter ambulance's capabilities means an even quicker, safer response for our patients."

The goggles will enhance the crew's safety procedures while flying at night, allowing them to more readily detect trees, wires, and other obstacles that they are currently trained to watch out for, and more quickly and easily respond to emergencies.

"It is the single best enhancement for flying at night," said Air One's lead pilot Steve Masi. "It turns night into day."

The helicopter was introduced last year as a way to expand Atlantic Health's ability to reach patients that would normally be outside its service area, while also supplementing air ambulance service in northern New Jersey, which has relied

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THE PASSION TO LEAD

primarily on the state police NorthStar helicopter.

The air ambulance is staffed by a crew that includes five full-time flight paramedics, five full-time flight nurses and several other part-time medical staffers.

The aircraft is owned and operated by PHI Inc., which also provides pilots, mechanics and fuel. Based in Louisiana, the company is the largest private helicopter fleet in the world and boasts the best safety record in the industry – nearly tenfold better than the national average – and flies more hours than any other provider of private helicopters. PHI was selected for its outstanding safety record.

Atlantic Health (atlanticealth.org) is one of the largest non-profit health care systems in New Jersey and includes Morristown Memorial Hospital, Overlook Hospital in Summit, and Mountainside Hospital in Montclair/Glen Ridge. The three hospitals have a combined total of 1,585 licensed beds and 2,600 affiliated physicians providing a wide array of health care services to the five million residents of 11 Northern and Central New Jersey counties. Specialty services include cardiovascular care, neurosciences, pediatrics, cancer care; orthopedics, diabetes care, gastroenterology, trauma and emergency medicine, behavioral health, minimally invasive surgery radiology and advanced diagnostics, women's health and maternal fetal medicine, home and hospice care and rehabilitation services. Atlantic Health maintains a partnership with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Atlantic Health's hospitals are accredited by the Joint Commission.

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