



Contact: Jessica Greene, Public Information Officer, Marion County Fire Rescue
Office: 352-291-8094 ▪ Cell: 352-572-5191 ▪ Pager: 352-898-3570
Email: jessica.greene@marioncountyfl.org

AIR MEDICAL TRANSPORT TO BE BASED IN MARION COUNTY Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Feb. 8, 2012) – In continuing with the Marion County Board of Commissioners’ effort to provide citizens with outstanding health services, Marion County Fire Rescue, Shands at the University of Florida (a premier Level 1 Trauma Center headed by Frederick Moore, M.D., one of the most recognized national figures in trauma and surgical care) and Med-Trans Corp. have created an air medical partnership at minimal cost to taxpayers.

Over the past several years MCFR has seen a drastic increase in the number of trauma patients flown out of the county. After several studies it was determined that an air medical program would greatly benefit Marion County citizens.

Shands at the University of Florida’s flight program, ShandsCair, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Per the new partnership, ShandsCair will staff a flight nurse/paramedic and a paramedic around the clock at MCFR Spruce Creek Station 30. Air medical transport provider Med-Trans is providing a second helicopter, an EC-135. The program will launch on Feb. 15 with a temporary helicopter while the permanent aircraft is being completed. The permanent aircraft, ShandsCair 2, will fly with an orange and blue exterior that will also feature the MCFR logo and the ShandsCair “Chopper-Doc” graphic. ShandsCair 2 will be operational 24/7 with pilots staffed by Med-Trans at MCFR’s Spruce Creek Station 30. A public open house showcasing the program and the permanent helicopter will be held in April.

Under the terms of lease and collaboration agreements, ShandsCair will utilize space at MCFR Spruce Creek Station 30 and is constructing a helipad at their expense. The only cost to local taxpayers will be a slight incremental utility cost since the crew will share space at Station 30 with the existing fire rescue crews. The station is designed to accommodate at least 10 crewmembers per shift and currently houses six dual-certified MCFR firefighters per 24-hour shift.

MCFR and ShandsCair agree that the addition of a helicopter permanently based in southern Marion County will significantly improve air medical transport coverage throughout Central Florida, as well as provide MCFR with the ability to deliver trauma patients to the appropriate facility with greater expediency.

This partnership was solidified on Jan. 10 when the Marion County Board of Commissioners granted ShandsCair/Med-Trans a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity allowing it to operate from a Marion County base.

(More)

About Shands

Located in Gainesville, Shands at UF is one of the Southeast's premier teaching hospitals and the state's leading medical referral center. Nearly 900 expert UF College of Medicine and community physicians along with 7,297 skilled Shands nursing and support staff provide comprehensive high-quality patient care, from primary care and family medicine to subspecialty, tertiary and quaternary services for patients with highly complex medical conditions.

Patients come to Shands at UF from all 67 Florida counties and from throughout the region, nation and a dozen countries each year. The medical center has earned its stellar reputation because of the dedication to patient care, education and research provided by UF and Shands interdisciplinary clinical and support teams.

Shands at UF includes Shands Hospital for Children, the Shands Pediatric Emergency Room, Shands Cancer Hospital and Shands Critical Care Center. Shands at UF also operates the health system's two specialty hospitals, Shands Rehab Hospital and Shands Vista behavioral health, both located in Gainesville. Shands is also affiliated with UF Physicians, which offers more than 40 outpatient primary care and specialty care physician practices throughout the surrounding area.

About Med-Trans

Med-Trans Corporation, headquartered in Dallas, Texas, is a leading provider of air ambulance programs throughout the United States. A proven solution to our partners, Med-Trans offers an array of customized air medical program designs including hybrid models, community-based models or traditional hospital-based models. The company's extensive fleet rapidly delivers teams of highly trained professionals to patients, striving to provide the patient with the best possible outcome. For more information, please visit: www.med-trans.net.

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