



Critical Care in the Air since 1982

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Airlift Northwest to Open Olympia Base

SEATTLE, January 04, 2007 – On February 1, 2007, Airlift Northwest will open a Southwest Washington rotary wing base in Olympia, Washington. The new base will be located at Olympia Regional Airport.

“The Olympia location will enhance our service to the Olympic Peninsula as well as Southwest Washington communities,” said Stephen J. Lewis, Airlift Northwest Chief Executive Officer.

Lewis said pilots with aviation vendor CJ Systems Aviation work in consultation with aviation and weather experts on the ground to make the decision on whether conditions are safe to fly. The enhanced aviation capabilities at the Olympia Regional Airport help in that assessment, especially with the challenging terrain of Washington State

Airlift Northwest provides air medical service from one of seven bases located strategically throughout the Pacific Northwest. Helicopters are based in Bellingham, Arlington, Seattle and now Olympia. Airplanes based in Juneau, Ketchikan, Wenatchee and Seattle allow Airlift Northwest to provide timely air ambulance services throughout a much broader region, including any location in the continental United States or Canada.

Both rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft are configured to provide specialty medical care. This includes medications and equipment that meet the advanced cardiac life support standards of care for acute coronary patients or other injuries or illnesses. All aircraft are staffed with highly skilled nurses with advanced training in the care of pediatric and adult patients. This level of expertise is unique in the air medical industry and comparable to a hospital intensive care unit.

Airlift Northwest began when a tragic house fire in Sitka, Alaska, claimed the lives of five children before they could be safely transported for care. Dr. Michael Copass, Airlift Northwest President and Medical Director, was teaching in Sitka at the time and was called into the local emergency room to help care for the children. He returned to Seattle, determined to find a way to provide air medical transport to areas around Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. Airlift Northwest was the result of this effort and celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

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Airlift Northwest is a nonprofit service founded in 1982 to provide air medical services for critically ill and injured infants, children and adults. Airlift Northwest has bases in Washington and Alaska to serve the Pacific Northwest. More information is available at www.airliftnw.org.