



1000 Blythe Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28203  
**MEDCENTER AIR**

## Upcoming Events

Winter 2010

### March

**The EC135 begins service at all bases**

*March 1*

**9 - 12 MedCenter Air inspections by Commission on Accreditation of Air Medical Transport Service**

*March 8*

**Spring Air Medical Conference in Washington, DC**

*March 17 - 19*

**Drag Strip (NHRA)**

*March 25 - 28*



*Taking delivery of the EC135*

For a complete list of events and further details, please visit [www.medcenterair.org](http://www.medcenterair.org) or call 704-355-3996.



*Uncompromising Excellence. Commitment to Care. | Winter 2010*

## New Helicopters Arrive at MedCenter Air

MedCenter Air proudly unveiled three new American Eurocopter 135 aircraft which arrived in February and will be transitioned into operations within the next few months.

The decision to move from the current fleet into new aircraft was thoroughly reviewed and specific safety, aviation and medical improvements have been made. Jason Schwebach, assistant vice president of MedCenter Air, describes the decision: "We selected the EC135 after an extensive review and evaluation process. The EC135 meets our scope of service and mission profile from both an aviation and healthcare perspective, allowing us to

better serve our community and state. These new aircraft have the latest in medical and aviation technology including ground and traffic collision avoidance, night vision goggles, satellite tracking, environmental control and all current and proposed State and Federal safety recommendations."

The EC135 aircraft is quickly becoming the most popular aircraft used in helicopter emergency medical services. Each aircraft features two Pratt and Whitney engines. This enables crews to be airborne faster than prior models, improving response time. With a cruising

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*The Carolinas Medical Center administrative team and flight crews pose by the new aircraft.*

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*ABOVE: The EC135 features an enclosed Fenestron tail rotor allowing for safer operations.*

*RIGHT TOP: The liquid oxygen storage system is located on the external portion of the EC135 just behind the skids.*

*RIGHT SECOND: The EC135 features the latest technology in communication equipment including VHF, UHF and 800mbz radios.*

*RIGHT THIRD: The EC135 features the latest in medical technology including the new Lifepack 15, LTV ventilators and mini-med infusion pumps.*

*RIGHT BOTTOM: The EC135 loads from the rear clamshell type doors.*



*Continued from front*

speed of 137 knots (120 mph ground speed), the aircraft is comparable to the current fleet. The aircraft are also instrument flight rule (IFR) capable and have single autopilot capabilities. In addition, the EC135 is significantly quieter than many aircraft and is rated 50 percent quieter than the current fleet.

The EC135 weighs just over 6,000 pounds fully loaded and is significantly lighter than MedCenter Air's current fleet. A shorter airframe of 39.7 feet in length makes site landings easier and safer. The most distinctive part of the aircraft is the Fenestron tail rotor system, which encloses blades into the airframe, providing additional safety during landings.

According to American Eurocopter, "The EC135's simple design allows fast and easy maintenance, ensuring optimal dispatch reliability and lowering operating cost. Safety is enhanced by dual-system architecture and a comprehensive suite of single pilot Instrument Flight Rules avionics which provide all weather reliability."

The EC135 is configured with an EMS stretcher system eliminating the need for hospitals to have additional equipment for crews. The stretcher also reduces the number of people required to load the aircraft, making helipad operations safer. These new aircrafts will continue to enable the crew to complete two patient loads in addition to neonatal flights. ■

*BELOW: The EC135 making its initial flight into Carolinas Medical Center.*



## MedCenter Air contracts Omniflight for Helicopter Operations

MedCenter has a new contract starting in March with Omniflight for all helicopter operations and maintenance. Omniflight is based in Addison, Texas and is a leading provider of air medical services in the United States.

Charlotte Thomas, MedCenter Air outreach coordinator, says, "Omniflight has a proven customer service reputation and the ability to support our expanding program. Both Omniflight and MedCenter Air value safety, quality patient care and comprehensive customer service. For years, our companies have led the way in safety throughout North and South Carolina with initiatives such as NVG implementation, TWALS and IFR. We believe that with this new partnership, we can continue to set the standards. We are truly excited about this new adventure with Omniflight and its team."

The director of marketing and strategic growth at Omniflight, Steve Johnson, says "Omniflight is privileged and honored to be associated with a program as innovative and refined as MedCenter Air. MedCenter is one of the premier providers in the nation for air medical transport. We are very excited to provide our services in partnership with them."

MedCenter Air is equally impressed with the priority Omniflight has placed on the business of healthcare and patients. The alignment of MedCenter Air with Omniflight will ensure continued industry success. ■



*ABOVE: The EC135 features a stretcher to make loading easier and require less assistance from EMS and hospital staff.*