



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **U.S. Air Ambulance Expands Emergency Evacuation Service**

**SARASOTA, FL** – More than 500 hospitals and extended care facilities across the United States have turned to U.S. Air Ambulance of Sarasota for assistance in emergency evacuation preparedness and execution.

The company has developed an intricately-detailed plan of action that includes multiple preparation steps and phases as well as the all of the logistics for the event itself. These include mock drills; on-site triage; communications between transport assets, sending and receiving hospital personnel, patient advocates and families and media; financial management and much more. Minute details such as the distance between gasoline stations on the evacuation routes for each affected hospital have been plotted, and contracts for service with more than 600 ground and air transport providers have been finalized.

The plan is based on U.S. Air Ambulance's extensive hands-on mass evacuation experience: relocating nearly 1,000 hospital and nursing home patients following Hurricanes Katrina, Gustav and Ike, transporting 1,500 prisoners prior to Hurricane Wilma for the U.S. Marshals Service, working with the U.S. Coast Guard to develop protocols for evacuation of ships at sea. Additionally, U.S. Air Ambulance assisted with evacuations following the train bombings in Spain and the tsunami in Southeast Asia.

Besides hurricane-vulnerable areas of the Gulf Basin and the Eastern Seaboard, the evacuation program has also generated strong interest from hospitals located along earthquake fault lines, in wild-fire areas, and near chemical plants and other hazardous operations. The recent Midwestern flooding has exposed vulnerabilities in the nation's infrastructure that warrant additional emergency preparedness for hospitals and nursing homes.

“As part of our rescue team in 2005, I personally experienced the aftermath of Katrina,” stated Clif Carothers, President of U.S. Air Ambulance. “I knew there had to be an evacuation alternative to government assistance, and I built our program specifically for medical facilities. Ours is the only alternative to FEMA in the country, and a promise to those who participate that we will be there for them and will do everything humanly possible to assure safe, effective and efficient evacuation.”

For more information about U.S. Air Ambulance's Medical Emergency Evacuation Program, please contact 800/633-5384 or [info@hospitalevac.org](mailto:info@hospitalevac.org).

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