



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 12, 2017

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HealthNet Aeromedical Services Opens Northern Panhandle Base

In early spring, WVU Medicine and HealthNet Aeromedical Services announced plans to open a new critical care air transport base. Yesterday, that plan became a reality as HealthNet Aeromedical Services Base 10 began operation at the Marshall County Airport near Moundsville, WV.

The aircraft assigned to HealthNet Aeromedical Services' Base 10 is a twin-engine, Airbus Helicopters EC-135 P2+ model. The aircraft is equipped for single-pilot instrument flight capabilities and features a suite of aviation equipment that exceeds national standards.

Medical flight crews will be afforded complete head-to-toe access to the patient. The team will have blood, plasma and antibiotics available on every flight and will have the latest in critical care transport technology at-the-ready. The base is being led by Cliff Fordyce, who also directs clinical base operations in Morgantown, WV.

The new base is also important for economic development in the region. The operation created twelve new high-paying full-time positions with a quality benefits package and eight additional part-time positions. Additionally, when assessing locations for future business growth, the immediate availability of these services is a contributing factor in location selection.

Clinton Burley, HealthNet Aeromedical Services President and CEO, said the transport program has prepared for months to open this base. "Our operation today is the culmination of months of work by countless individuals. The aircraft is prepared, flight team members have completed academy and all contingencies have been managed. We're proud to be *Mission.Ready*. to serve our neighbors in the Northern Panhandle and beyond." Burley said.

"We're proud to be a partner in the HealthNet Aeromedical Services system bringing this nationally renowned, high level critical care transport program to the Northern Panhandle," Albert Wright, president and CEO of West Virginia University Health System, said. "Our state's wild and wonderful terrain, while beautiful, makes ambulance travel difficult. This new base will be invaluable in getting patients to Morgantown faster, so they can receive the life-saving care they need."

Dr. David Hess, chief executive officer at WVU Medicine Reynolds Memorial Hospital says the addition of the aircraft and flight team in his community is important. "This is a true 'game changer' for our patients and community. The patients we serve are our family, friends and neighbors, so when accidents or severe illnesses happen, WVU Medicine Reynolds Memorial Hospital wants to get them stabilized and transferred to a hospital with world class facilities, like Ruby Memorial. We are humbled by the commitment of HealthNet Aeromedical Services and WVU Medicine to our region."

HealthNet Aeromedical Services, Inc.

HealthNet Aeromedical Services, Inc., headquartered in Charleston, West Virginia, is a not-for-profit critical care transport system operated cooperatively owned and operated by WVU Medicine, Charleston Area Medical Center, and Cabell Huntington Hospital. Formed in 1986, HealthNet Aeromedical Services has safely transported over 75,000 patients.

Reynolds Memorial Hospital

WVU Medicine Reynolds Memorial Hospital is a non-profit, acute care community hospital located in Glen Dale, West Virginia. The organization is governed by a 20-member volunteer board of directors and is licensed for 70 acute beds and a 20-bed skilled nursing unit. RMH is the newest member of WVU Medicine, the state's largest integrated health delivery network.

WVU Medicine

WVU Medicine unites the physicians and scientists of the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center with the hospitals, clinics, and health professionals of the West Virginia University Health System. Together, they are a national leader in patient safety and quality, and are unified and driven by an unbridled passion to provide the most advanced healthcare possible to the people of West Virginia and beyond. WVU Medicine includes the physicians, specialists, and sub-specialists of the West Virginia University School of Medicine; the affiliated schools of the WVU Health Sciences Center; four community hospitals; three critical access hospitals; and a children's hospital, all anchored by a 645-bed academic medical center that offers tertiary and quaternary care.

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