



Tulsa Life Flight 45 years of  
Excellence

Saint Francis Trauma Symposium

September 13, 2024

# Objectives

- Our History and pictorial review
- Metrics for Excellence
- Overall, Flight Volume
- Next Steps: Our Future

# ORIGIN: HISTORICAL JOINT RELATIONSHIP



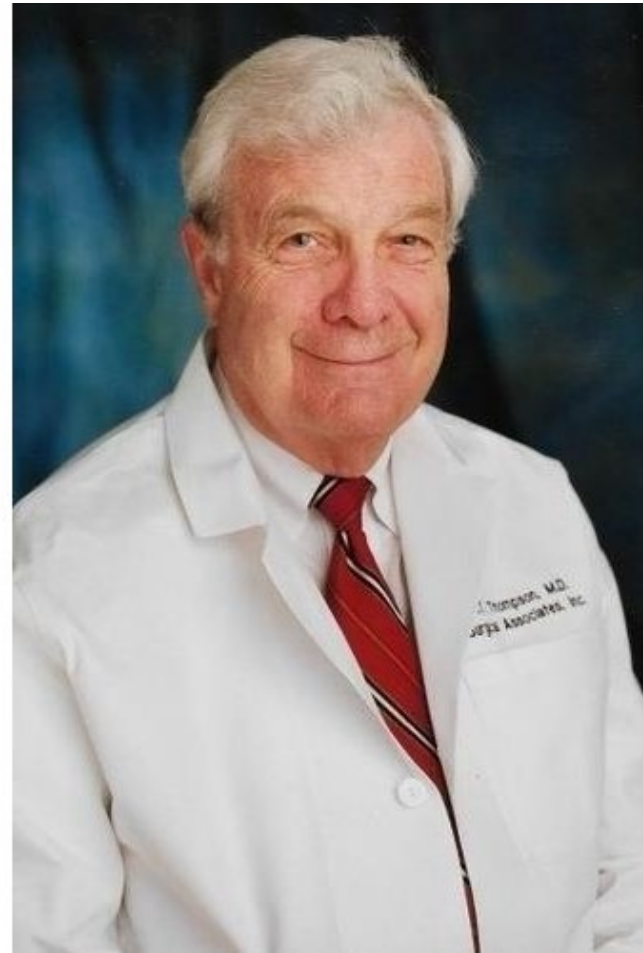


*“Tulsa Life Flight is a legacy Air Ambulance program in the United States that is at the base of our company roots. It’s roots run deep in the community all across Eastern Oklahoma. Tulsa Life Flight enjoys a great reputation of quality patient care unsurpassed by any other Air Provider in the state. Continued success and Safe Returns are our major focus points.*”

Tulsa Life Flight

Started 9/15/1979  
as a joint effort with  
Saint Francis Hospital  
and Hillcrest Medical  
Center

- Idea originated by  
Dr CT Thompson & his  
friend Dr Cleveland that  
started the first Air  
Ambulance in the US.  
Denver Flight for Life.



# ORIGINAL AIRCRAFT



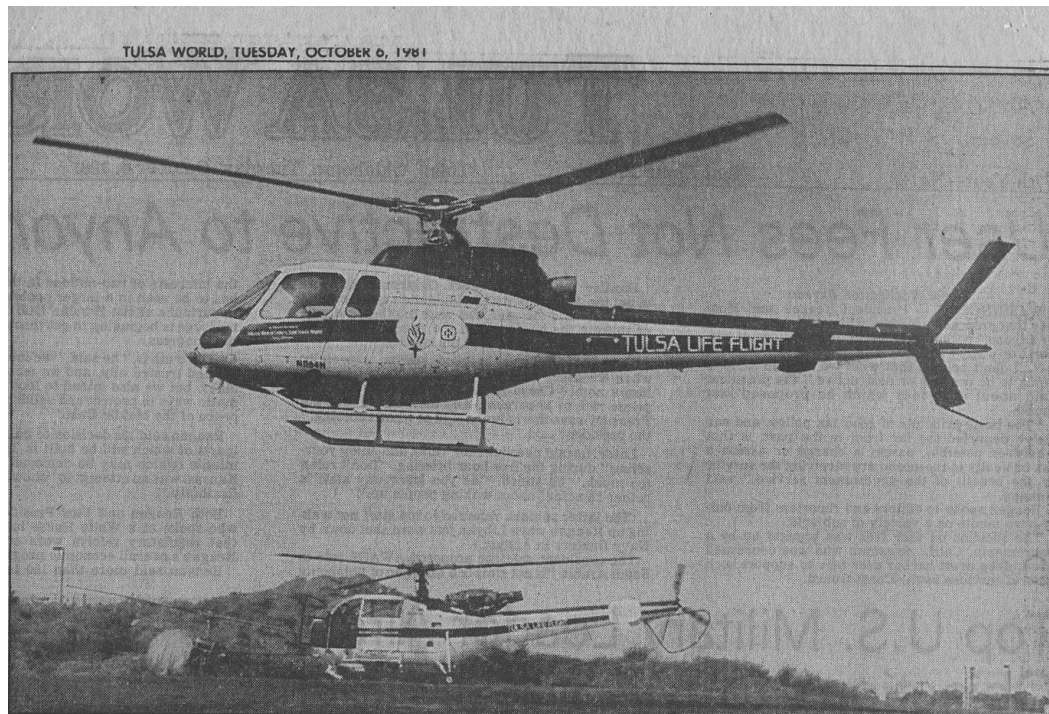


September 1979

Hillcrest Medical Center

FIRST ROOF TOP PAD IN  
TULSA

# 1981 SECOND AIRCRAFT ADDED



## Life Flight Gets Second Helicopter

Tulsa Life Flight crew land the airborne ambulance service's second helicopter, foreground. Since Life Flight's beginning two years ago the service has almost tripled monthly flights. The new helicopter will be stationed at Hillcrest Medical Center while the old 'copter, background, remains at St. Francis Hospital. Life

*World Staff Photo by John Southern*

Flight director Mike Sulzycki said quick response times will make it possible for a patient to be delivered to speciality wards at either hospital even if one 'copter is already picking up a patient for that hospital.







# TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT ADDED



1997



1998



# 2009 TO CURRENT





# 2009

Changed business model From Hospital based model to a community based model.

Base locations in rural areas where patients originate.

Currently have bases in:

Pryor, OK

Okmulgee, OK

and Sister base Stillwater, OK MediFlight of Oklahoma



# **Tulsa Life Flight**

Owned and Operated by:  **Air Methods®**





# DRIVING INNOVATION FROM THE BEGINNING



# EXCELLENCE

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Excellence is Part of our DNA  
because of our origin at Saint  
Francis Health System

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High Quality Standards since  
inception

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13<sup>th</sup> Air Ambulance in the Nation

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One of first Aircraft in the US to  
carry blood outside of a hospital.  
Started 1984.

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Highest safety standards

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As of 8/17/24 54,363 Safe  
Flights.

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Highest Clinical Quality in the  
Industry



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# ***Tulsa Life Flight***

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Owned and Operated by:  ***Air Methods***<sup>®</sup>



**Tulsa Life Flight 2024:  
Preventable Damage  
Rate: 0.00%**

## TULSA LIFE FLIGHT SAFETY

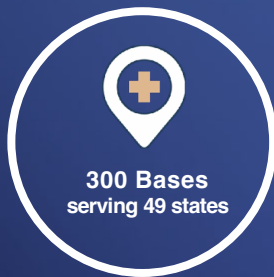
- **54,363** safe patient transports since 1979 as of 8/18/24.

# EMERGENCY AIR MEDICAL TRANSPORT

Part of a National Parent organization Air Methods LLC.

We are ready to respond when a physician or a first responder calls us.

*At-a-glance...*



*In 2021...*



# OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY



**\$120+**  
**MILLION**

Since 2015, we have  
invested over \$120  
Million in safety  
programs and  
technologies



**100K**  
**LIVES**

We saved 100,000+  
lives in 2021



**Top**  
**1%**

Our Safety  
Management System  
is in the top 1% that is  
in full compliance with  
the FAA

## LEADER AND EARLY ADOPTER OF SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS



- **Every aircraft is fully equipped with advanced technology**
- **First-implemented crash-resistant fuel system**
- **Six voluntary safety programs in place**
- **Full-motion flight simulator training center**
- **Enhanced safety through Operational Control Center flight monitoring and advanced avionics**

# ENHANCED SAFETY THROUGH FLIGHT MONITORING

- Our operational control center (OCC) is responsible for monitoring every flight operation – upwards from **120 to 150 active flights** at any given time.
- The OCC is the largest air medical emergency transport service in the country.
- More than 500,000 take-offs and landings are completed each year.
- The OCC is available to pilots **24/7** as an aviation resource, and a direct link to connect pilots with any member of our management team.





# COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TRAINING AND SAFETY

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**INSTITUTED** UNMATCHED  
CLINICAL HIRING  
REQUIREMENTS AND  
EDUCATION DELIVERY.

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**RECRUITED** 70 ACTIVE  
PHYSICIAN MEDICAL  
DIRECTORS FOR OUR BASES.

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**AWARDED** FAA-CERTIFIED  
SAFETY MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM (SMS).

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**ONLY** 1% OF PART 135  
OPERATORS RECEIVE  
THIS DISTINCTION.



# RAISING THE BAR FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE



## THE LEADER IN ADVANCED AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

First attempt tracheal tube placement rate exceeds 92% consistently – nearly 20% better than the average pre-hospital rates.



**2,500** intubations per year



### ADVANCED HUMAN PATIENT SIMULATORS

Initial and ongoing clinical skills training and validation



### BLOOD IN FLIGHT

All of our bases carry blood in flight\* Studies have shown patients who have suffered significant trauma stand a better chance of survival after receiving blood immediately.



Over **475,000** total training hours in 2021.



# CLINICAL QUALITY

Ground Air Medical Quality Transport (GAMUT™) Quality Improvement Collaborative is a data analytics platform for medical transport programs to track, report, and evaluate their performance on transport-specific quality metrics.



# GAMUT

Submit our Monthly Transport Data

GAMUT Analyzes our data and prepares user friendly dashboards and reports

Members enjoy data visualization alongside other GAMUT members for quality improvement

# OKLAHOMA CLINICAL QUALITY

Large Focus on Airway Management

**Overall Airway Success**

**First attempt intubation success**

**Mechanical Ventilation  
management**

Pediatric Shock

Blood Product usage

TBI management

Stroke management

Target	Thresh	TLF
99%	96%	100%
92%	90%	100%
99%	96%	100%
96%	93%	100%
95%	90%	100%
95%	91%	100%
95%	90%	100%



# TEAM / PERSONNEL

We continue to strive to provide the highest level of experienced providers.



# EXPERIENCE MATTERS PILOTS

Warren- 34 yrs. Pilot/ 30yrs. EMS

Richards- 42 yrs. pilot/ 11 yrs. EMS

Brown- 43 yrs. Pilot/ 27 yrs. EMS

Miramontes- 10 yrs Pilot/ 1 yr EMS

Owens- 32 yrs. Pilot/ 14 yrs. EMS

Phelps- 32 yrs. Pilot/ 1 yr EMS

Buzzard- 33yrs Pilot/ 15 yrs. EMS

Friskel- 45 yrs Pilot/ 15 yrs. EMS



# EXPERIENCE MATTERS- RN'S

Richardson- 9 yrs. RN/ 7 yrs. Flying

Shepherd- 9 yrs.RN/13 yrs.PM/4 yrs. Flying

Huffman- 15 yrs. RN/ 2 yr. Flying

Redus- 21 yr. RN/13 medic/12 yrs. Flying

Groom- 28 yr. RN/27 medic/17 yrs. Flying

Zodrow- 20 yrs. RN/ 1 yr. flying

Fleming- 8 yr. RN/ 2 yrs. Flying



# EXPERIENCE MATTERS- MEDICS

Brewer - 37 yrs. Medic/ 34 yrs. Flying

McConville - 28 yrs. Medic/ 11 yrs. Flying

Weems - 25 yrs. Medic/ 3 yrs. Flying

Rainey- 11yrs. Medic/3 yrs Flying

Geiger- 6yrs. Medic/ 1 yr Flying

Russell- 16 yrs. Medic/ 11 yrs. Flying

Sargent- 19 yrs. Medic /13 yrs. Flying

Williams- 27yrs.Medic/ 10 yrs. Flying





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS / UPDATES

## Updates

- Pilots have moved to an all-electronic Flight Bag.
- Clinical Team expected to move to full paperless documentation and consent forms process.
- Upgraded to Hamilton Ventilators added Ramm Cannula for High flow O<sub>2</sub>.
- Add Virtual Reality for education
- Expanding education for Impella cardiac device.



# Accomplishments/Updates

- Maintain an accident-free record within Tulsa Life Flight
- **54,363** safe patient transports since 1979 as of 8/17/24.
- Met requirements for reaccreditation for Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems certification.
- 2023 EMS Program, CT Thompson Trauma Excellence Award
- Survived COVID!
- 2019 Oklahoma EMT Association Advanced EMS Program of the year
- AACN Provider award
- 2023 Best Base of the year for Clinical Quality-Pryor OK
- Award for Clinical Excellence- Jan Russell, Paramedic CBL
- Medical Directors Award- Johnny Dobson, RN, CBL
- Okmulgee, Ok Base, Honorable Mention for Regional Multi-Disciplinary Improvement.
- Customer experience Award, Pryor OK, Johnny Dobson.
- On target to reach 55,000 safe completed transports next year!



## Innovate

Work to partner with

Saint Francis Hospital & OBI, to execute a plan to activate whole blood in the field.

Consider use of SPRIGHT for delivery and retrieval of blood and supplies in rural areas?





## AIR METHODS LAUNCHES SPRIGHT, A NEW DRONE SOLUTION, DEPLOYING FLEETS OF WINGCOPTERS

SHARE ON...

- [\[Link\]](#) by Air Methods

posted August 03, 2021

***Strategic partnership to provide new options for on-demand delivery and access to lifesaving resources***



*Learning for Life*

## **Introducing Air Methods Ascend**

Lifelong learning that saves lives. Get to know our innovative and comprehensive programs. We provide premium access to the highest-quality education experiences for clinicians to refuel their passion, operate at the top of their licensure, and maintain the required CEs for recertification.



FOCUSED ON TODAY, BECAUSE LIVES ARE ON THE LINE. AND WHEN THOSE ARE THE STAKES, WHEN THE BAR IS SET THAT HIGH, YOU DON'T REACH FOR IT ALONE.  
**IT'S HAVING THE RIGHT PEOPLE, IN THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT TIME.**





# FUTURE:

Tulsa Life Flight's goal is to continue to make significant impacts in the survival of trauma outcomes and improve health outcomes of the citizens of Oklahoma by providing the highest quality of care in the safest manner possible utilizing the newest technologies and training available.

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