

Update – University Air Care is again NVG Flyable

Both aircraft as of November 14, 2011

Air Care is again able to land at accident scenes under NVGs.

University Air Care & Mobile Care now has both helicopters (owned and operated by Air Methods) that are once again Night Vision Goggle (NVG) capable. Air Care is again responding to night scene requests under NVGs and landing at accident scenes at night.

Looking Back

- Air Care has been safely flying NVG night operations since Fall of 2009, utilizing helicopters owned and operated by Omniflight Inc., using industry leading safety procedures and with full regulatory approval.
- Several months ago the FAA identified 64 +/- EMS helicopters across the country that fell outside previous specifications and required the aircraft to be re-modified for NVG use. The FAA would not permit these helicopters to fly under current NVG specifications.
- Until University Air Care was again able to fly using NVGs, the program made the decision to uphold the highest level of safety that the community expects from Air Care and the level of safety that our patients, EMS partners, and our crews deserve.
- In July of 2011, University Air Care temporarily suspended landings at night accident scenes, in favor of safer landings at inspected pre-designated landing zones, hospital helipads, and airports. Once NVG compliant aircraft were obtained or re-modified, Air Care would restart full NVG ops and all night scene landings.
- The support for this safety initiative from our EMS partners has been very positive. Everyone from Air Care is appreciative of your ongoing support for extending our 27 years of accident free flying.

Moving Forward

- University Air Care remains dedicated to safety and clinical excellence and will never lower these values.
- Air Care is now supported by a different aviation vendor, Air Methods (www.AirMethods.com). Air Methods is working with us to maintain NVG capable aircraft. In fact, one of our primary aircraft was the first BK 117 in the country to be re-modified for NVGs. The process took longer than expected with the FAA and Ahler's to complete this modification. Air Methods is providing one alternate NVG capable BK 117 aircraft, that was not affected by the earlier FAA mandate, to support Air Care and the Greater Cincinnati Region. We currently are flying 2 NVG capable aircraft.
- Air Care will make every effort to respond to scenes with an NVG capable aircraft.
- We are now, again, able to land at the accident scene, at night, with NVG aircraft.
- We will continue to utilize the inspected pre-designated landing zones when a higher level of safety is required or mission efficiency will be improved.
- University Air Care is currently in negotiations to purchase new EC-145 aircraft. We expect these new aircraft to be phased in beginning spring of 2012. These aircraft provide safety and performance above any air medical helicopter in the tri-state region.
- Watch our FaceBook page www.facebook.com/aircareandmobilecare for updates.