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Acadian celebrates 25 years of helicopter ambulance service to Louisiana

Acadian Ambulance Air Med Services has embraced change, adapted technology, and remained true to its mission as it now celebrates 25 years in the air ambulance industry.

Special guests and former Air Med paramedics gathered at the Lafayette Air Med Station at the Lafayette Regional Airport for an anniversary celebration.

Since its inception of service, Air Med has logged 5,500,000 miles and responded to over 50,000 calls.

"Our helicopters fly more first response missions than any other air medical program in the nation," said Air Service Vice President Erroll Babineaux. "The basing of strategically placed Air Med helicopters in our service area greatly enhances the level of emergency care. Quick response by an aircraft with advanced medical personnel and equipment can save lives," said Babineaux."

Gregg Gothreaux, president of the Lafayette Economic Development Authority, in addressing the gathered guests called Acadian one of the four to five "vanguard companies" in Acadiana. "These are the companies who lead the way not only in Acadiana, but in the nation. I have so much pride as I go around the country and talk about this company. You lead the way in innovative ways to serve your customers and I am looking forward to the next 25 years," Gothreaux said.

Air Med Services was launched with the first helicopter ambulance stationed in Lafayette in 1981, a move that had special benefits to people in remote rural areas and those working on offshore installations. The program was soon enhanced with an arrangement under which resident physicians from the LSU School of Medicine fly with the Air Med team. Air Med now boasts seven helicopters strategically stationed in Lafayette, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Alexandria, Slidell and Houma.

Air Med helicopters, Babineaux said, carry the same advanced medical equipment and technology as the AASI ground ambulances.

Air Med helicopter ambulances are flown and maintained by Metro Aviation of Shreveport, a company devoted exclusively to air medical operations.

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outline:

Greg Gothreaux, LEDA president, Erroll Babineaux, VP of Air Services, and Dee Stanley, Lafayette City-Parish CAO applaud as Acadian CEO Richard Zuschlag unveils the 25th anniversary Air Med poster in the company's anniversary celebration