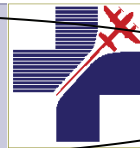




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MMA Insider



Quarterly
newsletter of
Mercy
Medical
Airlift

November/December 2006

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Program To Help Wounded Veterans

A new program launched by Mercy Medical Airlift on Nov. 20 will help veterans who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The **Iraq Afghanistan Deployment Impact Fund (IADIF)** provides free air transportation to troops, veterans and their families affected by military deployment in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Eligible patients requiring stretchers and medical assistance during flight as well as those who are ambulatory can receive the service.

The program complements and works cooperatively with the **Heroes Miles Program** of the Fisher House Foundation and utilizes the services of **Angel Flight America, Air Compassion America and Mercy Medical Airlift** so as to cast a wide net of care for military families.

Jim Smith, MMA Vice President of Operations and a retired Navy Command Master Chief, feels the service is a way to give back to those who have

given so much. "Any time we can serve those who serve us, we're doing a good thing," he said.

Operating in full cooperation with related programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, the charitable program is funded by a grant from the California Community Foundation.

Individuals seeking general information can call **Air Compassion for Veterans at 888-662-6794** or visit

www.aircompassionforveterans.org.

Non-ambulatory troops, veterans and families needing air transport with medical assistance should contact **Air Compassion America: 866-270-9198** or www.aircompassionamerica.org.

Ambulatory military personnel and family members can call Mercy Medical Airlift at **888-675-1405**. The Web address is www.mercymedical.org.

"Any time we can serve those who serve us, we're doing a good thing."



Looking at Alex's angelic face as he takes the maiden flight of the new charitable program...

(Read about this special child on page 2)

Mercy Flight Brings Healing To Family Torn by Abuse

Looking at Alex's angelic face as he takes the maiden flight of the new charitable program for veterans (Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom), it is hard to imagine that two weeks before the Nov. 20 trip, the 2 ½-year-old was hooked up to life support in a Texas hospital, with doctors offering no hope for recovery from his vegetative state.

Alex, whose father Jason is a sergeant in the U.S. Marines recently home from Iraq, had been hospitalized in Lubbock for severe injuries police said were due to abuse. The child's mother and a man she met through the Internet were arrested and charged with injury to a child. They are being held in a Lemasa, Texas, jail.

Alex's paternal grandparents traveled to Texas from their home in Melbourne, Florida. "We went to the hospital in Lubbock and said a prayer over him," said Bill, the boy's grandfather, whose wife Sherry was there too. "His body began to tremble. Ever since that time, he's been getting better."

Bill said the doctors "broke out crying" when they saw the little boy's increased brain activity on the monitor. "They call it a miracle."

The couple worked through legal channels to win their son's custody of Alex even as they tried to find a way to transport the boy to Florida.

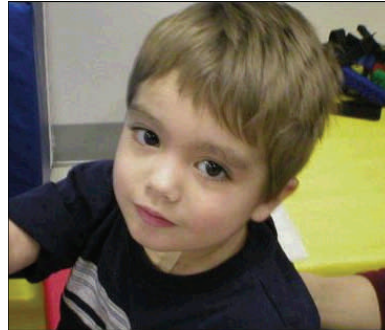
"We heard about Mercy Medical Airlift through my mom's church," Bill said.

His sister contacted Jim Smith, vice president of operations for Mercy Medical Airlift, which oversees

the new air transport service for troops, veterans, and their families affected by military deployment in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Bill, Sherry, and Alex flew "high and fast" in a Learjet to Orlando with the trip taking only 2 ½ hours.

"It was a very good flight," said Bill, who used to fly on Air Force planes as part of an air crew.



'Ever since that time he's been getting better.'

Jason was granted a temporary 90-day assignment in Florida to be with his son, whose remarkable improvement continued daily at the Arnold Palmer Hospital.

On Nov. 30, the boy was discharged and admitted into a rehabilitation program at the University of Florida Brooks Center. His grandmother is staying with him for the two weeks of rehab.

"He's doing very well," Bill noted. "He smiles and continues to make progress toward standing and walking. He can count to ten and pull himself up into a sitting position."

Though Jason has to return to California to handle more legal issues, the family hopes to be together at home for "a big Christmas. Ashleigh, Alex's sister, is doing very well also and is now a normal 10-month-old baby girl."

The first flight of the new air transport program for veterans will be remembered for a long time by his family and all those touched by the miracle of Alex.

Mission Report

Fiscal Year To Date

(July 2006--October 2006)

- Missions Coordinated..... 3,158
- Missions Completed..... 3,050
- Child Missions..... 871

Fly the Desk: A Word From Our President—



Ed Boyer is CEO, President, and a founder of Mercy Medical Airlift

We're Blessed To Tell Patients 'Yes'

Many patient families tell our mission coordinators we "are angels." They describe our "yes we can help" message as unusual in their efforts to find assistance. On the other hand, we are so blessed to be able to help. MMA staff

and volunteers are but the means of delivering loving help—and we are only able to do this and leverage the impact of the gifts provided by you, our donors. Thank you from a whole chorus of grateful people who see you as angels!

Editor's Note: Recognition of Ed's contributions to charitable medical air transportation continues to gain national recognition each year. Most recently he was presented the prestigious Elder Statesman in Aviation award by the National Aeronautics Association at the "Imprints in Aviation" banquet on Nov. 6 in Arlington, Virginia.

For information on making a donation or to learn more about MMA, please visit our website: www.mercymedical.org. Phone: (757) 318-9174 Fax: (757) 271-

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