AMTC 2018

**Airbus Helicopters Inc. honors leaders in air medical industry at AMTC 2018**

Airbus presented the Jim Charlson Aviation Safety award, Program of the Year award, and its own Vision Zero Safety award

Phoenix, Arizona, October 23, 2018- Airbus Helicopters Inc. recognized leaders of the air medical transport industry Monday for their far-reaching efforts to strengthen safety and service for crews and patients. Jennifer Hardcastle, Air Medical Sales Manager for Airbus Helicopters Inc., presented the awards at the Air Medical Transport Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

“We are proud to honor the committed teams who work every day to improve safety and service across the air medical transport community,” Hardcastle said. “Through their dedication and hard work, these individuals and programs have made our community stronger and safer, and we are all grateful.”

**Vision Zero Aviation Safety Award**

Penn State Health Life Lion is the recipient of the 2018 Vision Zero Aviation Safety Award for its development and deployment of initiatives to mitigate the risk of wildlife and drone strikes.

Created by Airbus Helicopters Inc. in 2007, the Vision Zero Award recognizes a program or company that has demonstrated a commitment to aviation safety, spotlights specific safety initiatives and encourages the sharing of ideas so others in the industry may learn from them. An industry committee judges the competition.

Life Lion leaders studied bird and drone strikes and deployed both educational and technological initiatives within its own organization to avoid such strikes. Leaders created and distributed training materials to increase awareness.

“Safety is central to Life Lion’s mission, and we must be proactive as an organization and industry in addressing safety concerns,” Lynn Kelly, program manager of Life Lion. “Our bird and drone strike avoidance program is one way we are enhancing our culture of safety.”

The air medical service, which was awarded a $10,000 check from Airbus Helicopters Inc., plans to use the money to expand its bird and drone strike technology, purchase new fire retardants vests and jackets and provide crash survival training for ground emergency trainers.

**Jim Charlson Aviation Safety Award**
Stacy Wolf, in her former role as chief flight paramedic and clinical base manager for Haiti Air Ambulance - the country’s first air medical service - received the Jim Charlson Aviation Safety Award, which is presented annually to an individual who has made significant contributions promoting aviation safety within the air medical transport community.

Wolf launched safety training and protocols for crews with no previous air medical transport experience, established safety transport standards in clinics, hospitals and missions throughout the country, and then organized an exchange program between the Haitian crew and a highly regarded U.S. flight program. Her efforts have helped ensure that the company has seen no accidents in its four years of existence.

“Helping to start a successful air medical transport program in a developing country where most people had never seen a helicopter was an incredible challenge,” Wolf said. “I call this my life’s work, and I’m so proud of what we accomplished.”

Wolf worked for Haiti Air Ambulance from 2015 to March 2018 and now works for the Maryland State Police Aviation Command. She is also chairperson of the Association of Air Medical Services Vision Zero initiative, which works to build a community culture of safety.

Program of the Year

Carilion Clinic Life-Guard, of Roanoke, Virginia, was named Program of the Year. The award is given each year to an emergency medical services program that has demonstrated superior levels of safety consciousness, patient care, quality leadership and community and industry service.

Founded in 1981 as the first air medical service in Virginia, Carilion Clinic Life-Guard is highly involved with its community through organizations such as the Special Olympics and Habitat for Humanity, and has even partnered with Haiti Air Ambulance, inviting members of their crew to Virginia to participate in an exchange program, since 2016. They also manage the Rotor Run 5K, with proceeds contributing to a scholarship for nursing and paramedic students.

“At Carilion Clinic Life-Guard, our core values of compassion, courage, curiosity and community are deeply embedded in everything we do,” Director Susan Smith said. “We strive to improve the health of the communities we serve and are committed to providing exceptional quality and service.”
Life-Guard also demonstrates courage through its efforts to safely integrate unmanned aerial vehicles with helicopter EMS programs. To increase awareness, Life-Guard launched the “Land the Drone” campaign and is now working to affect change through legislation and education.

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About Airbus
Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2017 it generated revenues of € 59 billion restated for IFRS 15 and employed a workforce of around 129,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners from 100 to more than 600 seats. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world’s leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

Media contact
Erin Callender +1 972-358-0597 erin.callender@airbus.com