



Air Evac Life team was founded in 1985 in West Plains, Missouri by a group of private citizens who wanted to give the people in their community better access to emergency medical care. West Plains had a population of less than 9000, and the closest major hospital was more than 100 miles away by ground transport. The road system in this hilly, remote region of the Ozarks often made it difficult to reach people in a timely manner.

At that time, air ambulances typically were based in metropolitan areas. The company founders believed that the people who need air ambulance transport the most are the ones who live far away from a hospital. They thought that having a helicopter based in West Plains could be of great benefit to patients requiring transport during critical situations. Their goal was to provide a quality service that was affordable to the public.

They knew that for the service to survive in this rural area, they would need other sources of funding, besides traditional fee-for-service billing. They discovered the REGA Foundation in Switzerland, which supported a nationwide air ambulance system by a membership program, similar to the ground ambulance and rural fire department programs here in the United States. After meeting with the head of REGA, Air Evac Life team adopted this idea, and became the first air ambulance service in the United States to offer a membership program.

Air Evac EMS, Inc. was incorporated in June of 1985, and placed its first helicopter into service at Ozarks Medical Center in August of that year. During the following year, more than 5,000 area residents became members, and Air Evac Life team flew hundreds of patients during their times of critical need.

Company founders knew that other rural areas would benefit from air ambulance care, and began expanding the concept. Air Evac Life team's network of bases now extends throughout the central United States. Air Evac is licensed as an air ambulance provider in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Illinois, Kentucky, Iowa, Alabama, Indiana and Texas.

In addition, Air Evac Life team operates Regional Offices, with maintenance and fueling centers in Oklahoma City, Nashville, St. Louis and West Plains, Missouri.

<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Stationed At</u>	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Stationed At</u>
AIR EVAC 1	West Plains, MO	AIR EVAC 26	Paul's Valley, OK
AIR EVAC 2	Jonesboro, AR	AIR EVAC 27	Springfield, IL
AIR EVAC 3	Cape Girardeau, MO	AIR EVAC 28	Effingham, IL
AIR EVAC 4	Springdale, AR	AIR EVAC 29	Claremore, OK
AIR EVAC 5	Quincy, IL	AIR EVAC 30	Vilonia, AR
AIR EVAC 6	McAlester, OK	AIR EVAC 31	Martin, TN
AIR EVAC 7	Jackson, TN	AIR EVAC 32	Scottsboro, AL
AIR EVAC 8	Farmington, MO	AIR EVAC 33	Middlesboro, KY
AIR EVAC 9	Lewisburg, TN	AIR EVAC 34	Wichita Falls, TX
AIR EVAC 10	Hopkinsville, KY	AIR EVAC 35	Marion, IL
AIR EVAC 11	Mt. Vernon, IL	AIR EVAC 36	Cushing, OK
AIR EVAC 12	Yellville, AR	AIR EVAC 37	Waverly, TN
AIR EVAC 13	St. Clair, MO		
AIR EVAC 14	Albany, KY		Kirksville, MO
AIR EVAC 15	Cullman, AL		
AIR EVAC 16	The Shoals, AL		
AIR EVAC 17	Washington, IN		
AIR EVAC 18	Salem, MO		
AIR EVAC 19	Nashville, TN		
AIR EVAC 20*	Wichita, KS		
AIR EVAC 21*	Liberal, KS		
AIR EVAC 22	Paris, AR		
AIR EVAC 23	Troy, MO		
AIR EVAC 24	Poplar Bluff, MO		
AIR EVAC 25	Lawton, OK		

\* -- Midwest Life team Bases

## Radio Communication

Helicopters are usually dispatched by their dispatcher in West Plains via telephone. Once in the air, the helicopters communicate with their dispatch in West Plains one of the dispatch frequencies. There are four repeaters are located around the West Plains. Beyond South Central Missouri, the helicopters will use the remote dispatch frequency closest to their location. These remote towers are linked back to West Plains dispatch, as to extend the range of communication.

	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Operation</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Callsign</u>
Dispatch Channels	154.385 / 155.400	Repeater (PL 103.5)	Willow Springs, MO	WQR263
	154.385 / 155.400	Repeater (PL 123.0)	Peck Ranch, MO	WQR263
	154.385 / 155.400	Repeater (PL 100.0)	Thayer, MO	WQR263
	154.385 / 155.400	Repeater (PL 179.9)	Gainesville, MO	WQR263
	152.9975	Remote Tower (DPL 032)	Cuba, MO	WPRL740
	152.9225	Remote Tower (DPL 032)	Luxora, AR	WPSF384
	159.5025	Remote Tower (DPL 032)	Western Grove, AR	WPSF384
	152.9525	Remote Tower (DPL 032)	Albany, KY	
	152.9075	Remote Tower (DPL 032)	McAlester, OK	
	159.6975 159.7125 160.0575	Remote Tower (DPL 032)	Waveland, AR	WPWS479
	159.6975 159.7275 160.0575	Remote Tower (DPL 032)	Mount Sterling, IL	WPWS479
	155.340	Illinois Hospitals		
	155.340	Missouri Hospital Net		WQR263

