



# FACT SHEET

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center  
Office of Public Affairs  
2200 Bergquist Dr, Ste 1  
Lackland AFB, Texas 78236-9908

210-292-7688  
FAX: 210-292-7296

### CRITICAL CARE AIR TRANSPORT TEAM

- Background:
  - The concept was developed by Maj. Gen. (Dr.) P. K. Carlton and Col. Chris Farmer at the 59th Medical Wing, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas in response to Joint Vision 2010.
  - Its mission is to operate an intensive care unit in an aircraft cabin during flight – adds critical care capability to the U.S. Air Force/Coalition Forces Aeromedical Evacuation System.
  - CCATT patients have received initial stabilization, but are still critically ill – they require evacuation from a less capable, to a more capable hospital.
- Development:
  - The CCATT pilot program was initiated in May 1994.
  - By June 1996, the CCATT was formally approved and adopted into the USAF Aeromedical Evacuation System.
    - Air Mobility Command, the AES authority, assumes responsibility of teams.
    - 59th Medical Wing (AETC) is the designated Pilot Unit, responsible for concept of operations, allowance standard content, performance improvement, and innovations to equipment and procedures
    - Developed Hurricane Rapid Response Teams to assist with Humanitarian evacuations during Hurricane Season in the United States. First in the Military Medical System.
- Team composition
  - CCATT is a 3 member team consisting of: critical care physician, critical care nurse, and respiratory therapist.
  - A CCATT Extender Team consists of two critical care nurses, allows a CCATT to manage additional patients, or serves as medical attendants for non-critical patients
  - The 59th Medical Wing is tasked to provide 16 CCAT Teams.
  - CCATT augments an AE crew of five personnel (two flight nurses, three flight technicians) when critically ill patient(s) are transported.
  - Each team can care for three critically injured, monitored patients (or six less severely injured); with an extender team this increases to 5 ventilator patients or ten less critical patients.
  - CCATT medical gear is man portable and battery operated, consisting of: two backpacks (47 lbs each), nine equipment and medical supply bags, and one drug case.

- Three full sets each containing: Life support respirator, Cardiac/physiologic monitor, computerized intravenous infusion pump, continuous suction unit and laboratory-testing device.
- Procedure kits and supplies needed to manage patient complications are included.
- TOTAL WEIGHT: Approximately 900 lbs.
- Team Employment:
  - The CCATT is designed to support combat casualties being evacuated from combat.
    - In OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) and OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF), CCATT has participated in operations at major air bases, and deployed far forward with AE teams, frequently operating with Special Forces and Army Forces.
- CCATT operates in other settings:
  - Homeland Defense
    - 59 MDW deployed 4 CCAT Teams to Maguire AFB, New Jersey in support of the Sept 11, 2001 tragedy at the World Trade Center/Pentagon.
  - Humanitarian Assistance
    - Aircraft crash in Ecuador.
    - Pipeline explosion in Ecuador.
    - 747 Airplane crash in Guam.
    - Mission to Antarctica to evacuate a National Science Foundation employee.
    - 2005 hurricanes Katrina and Rita, CCATT evacuation of 150 patients
    - 2008 hurricanes Gustav and Ike, CCATT evacuation of 16 patients.
  - Military operations other than war.
    - Haiti invasion (Operation Uphold Democracy).
    - Bosnia peacekeeping operation (Operation Joint Endeavor).
    - Pullout of U.S. troops from Somalia.
    - Khobar Towers bombing (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia).
    - Non-combatant evacuation from U.S. Embassy in Liberia.
    - Special Operations support.
  - Peacetime movement of critically ill beneficiaries of military health care system.
    - Within the Continental U.S. (CONUS) and Europe from specialized care such as liver transplant and other special procedures.
    - From Europe, Central America and South America to CONUS.
  - Special Missions
    - Support of US President travel to medically remote locations
    - Support for landing of astronauts in Soyuz escape module in Kazakhstan
  - Nation building
    - Assisting the countries of Chile, Georgia, Turkey, Columbia, Bangladesh and Mexico in developing similar programs.

(Current as of January 2012)