

## LEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EARNS TOP COMPETITION HONORS

Ft. Myers, Fla.- Lee County Emergency Medical Services, the sole non-fire department affiliated entry, earned third place in the Annual Advanced Life Support Competition Sept 28 and 29 sponsored by the Temple Terrace Fire Department. A panel of judges scored each team's ability to assess, diagnose and perform the appropriate procedures in a limited time period.

The four person paramedic team consisted of Vince Macias and Adam Thompson of Cape Coral; Rex Friedline of Port Charlotte; and Jason Ausman of Fort Myers. Friedline and Macias are credentialed Field Training Officers with more than a decade of experience. Ausman is a Critical Care paramedic assigned to MEDSTAR.

"We learn more in one competition than in most classes taken simply because we are able to apply what we have learned in the classroom to a very stressful situation, and are still able to critique our own performance without any life threatening outcomes," said Macias. "It thereby makes us the best paramedics we could possibly be."

This is the fifth year Lee County EMS competed. In most previous competitions, Lee County finished in the top 20 percent. Team coach Lt. Tom Pillsy along with the Lee County EMS training department developed scenarios and prepared the team through simulations.

"By continuing to place and win these competitions, it allows agencies and citizens on a national level to see the level of care offered in Lee County," said Pillsy.

The competitions are done on the paramedics' off time and paid for without county funds. Anyone interested in supporting the team with a donation can send money to LCEMS Competition Fund, PO Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398.