

LEE COUNTY MEDSTAR PARAMEDIC COMPLETES CRITICAL CARE TRAINING

Ft. Myers, Fla.- Lee County MEDSTAR Paramedic Jason Ausman of Fort Myers, recently attained his critical care paramedic certification at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, a program sponsored by the University of Maryland's Critical Care Emergency Medical Transport Program. The Critical Care Emergency Medical Transport Program is designed to prepare paramedics to be members of a critical care transport team with a curriculum that covers the most common to the most serious conditions.

During 2008, MEDSTAR completed 1,117 missions and transported by air 868 patients requiring specialty care. With the course completion, each MEDSTAR paramedic holds a critical care certification. MEDSTAR paramedics receive daily continuing education and routinely attend rounds in the specialty care areas of the hospitals in Lee Memorial Health Systems to maintain their proficiency. Ausman's initial training program included six weeks in Lee County and three weeks in Augusta.

Lee County's MEDSTAR operates under the county's Division of Public Safety/Emergency Medical Services and augments EMS by providing air and ground critical care transport for the most critically ill and injured. Patients are typically transported by air when time is of the essence. Critical care patients can require transport between facilities with medications or control measures in place that are not within the current emergency protocols for traditional ground transport.

Lee County established its air transport service in 1978 and was the first county-based rotor-wing operation in the United States. Lee County MEDSTAR employs 13 critical care paramedics. Lee County MEDSTAR is based out of Page Field.