

Flight Nursing 101

What you need to know if you want to be a Flight Nurse



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- The history of patient transport can be traced back to before the invention of the wheel when patients were carried or dragged to care.
- Ambulance systems were first established in the 1400's using horse pulled stretchers and wagons specifically designed for patient transport.
- During WW1 the U.S. used air ambulance using a JN-4 aircraft then Igor Sikorsky produced several helicopters for military use.



- The first patient helicopter rescue April 1944 in the military.
- 20,000 transported in Korean War.
- 200,000 transported Vietnam war
- Decrease in morbidity and mortality



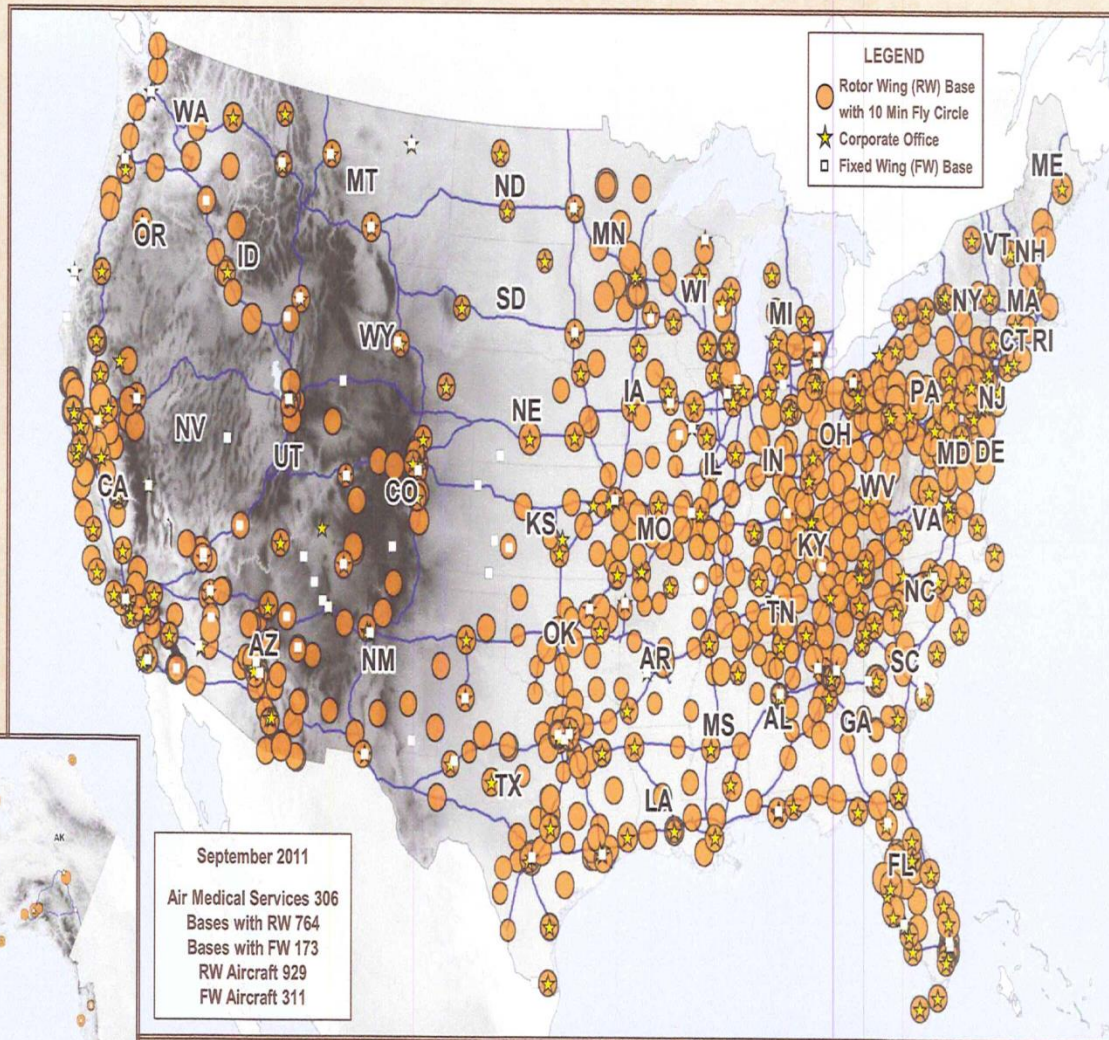
- The first Flight Nurse training program was through the military.
- Six weeks training, and included flight physiology.
- In 1972 St. Anthony's hospital in Denver Colorado and Loma Hospital in California started the first based helicopter program.



Atlas & Database of Air Medical Services

9th Edition National Air Medical Services GIS Database

ADAMS 2011



Flight Crew personalities

- Highly dedicated/dynamic
- Task orientated
- Decision makers
- Flexible but firm
- Confident
- Ambitious
- A little bit of a MacGyver
- Adrenaline junkies
- Motivated
- Very high tolerance for stress



Medical Crew Configuration

- 80% Programs Nurse – Paramedic
- Nurse – Respiratory Therapy
- Nurse – Physician
- Nurse - Nurse



Crew configuration and training

- Pilots
 - Minimum of 2000+ hours rotor wing flying
 - Most have >3500 hours
 - Commercial and instrument certification



Requirements for Hire

– Nurses

- Minimum of 5 years experience in ED and/or ICU
- PALS, ACLS, PHTLS(or BTLS), NRP, TNATC, ABLIS, etc.
- Motivated
- Team player



Ongoing Training After Hire

Advanced procedures

Aircraft safety

Radio communications

Night vision goggles

Flight physiology

CAMTS requirements



Types of Calls

- Inter-Facility Transports



- Scene Calls



Inter-Facility Transports

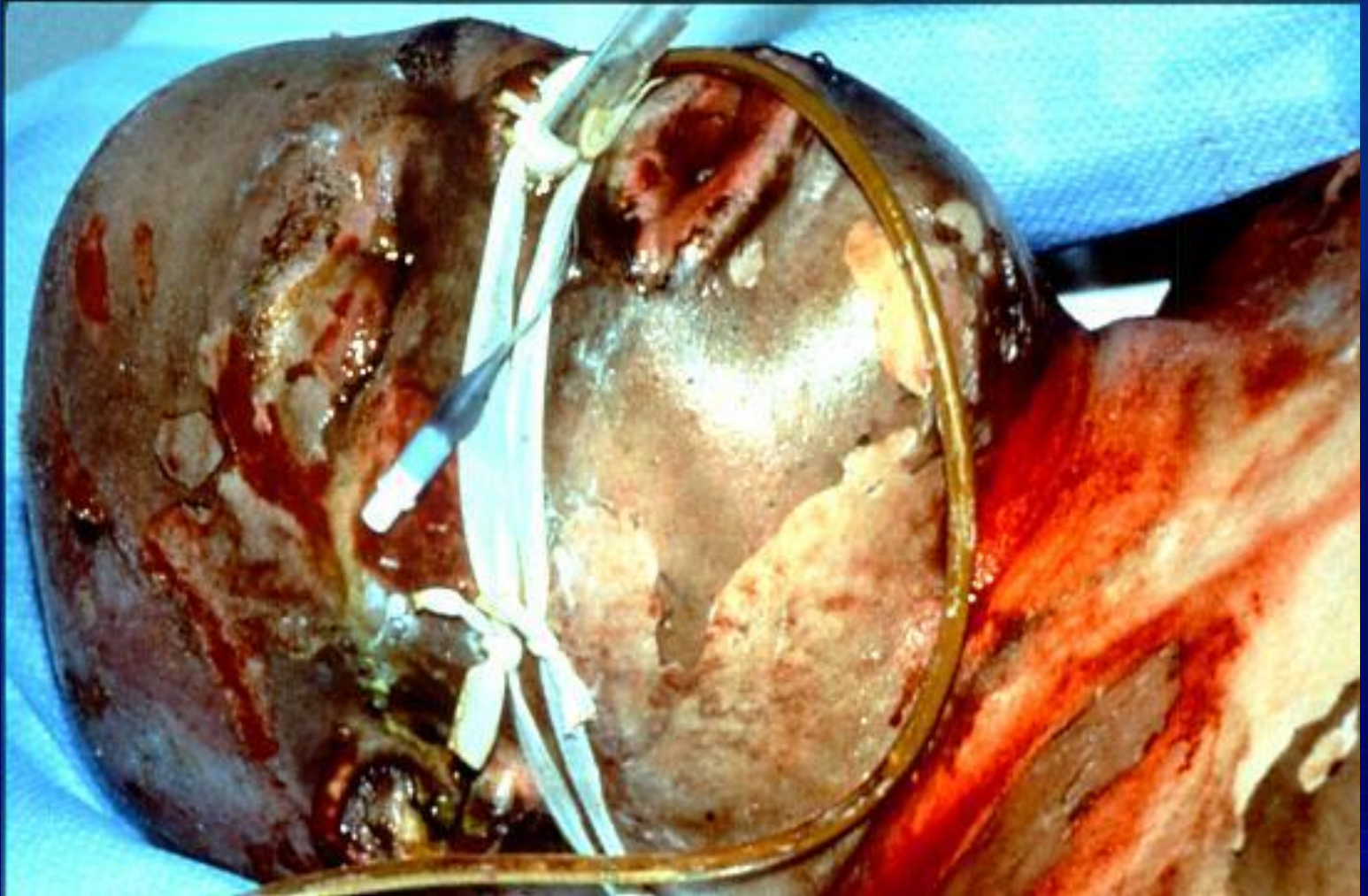
- Cardiac: Surgical / Interventional Therapy
 - » CHF / Pulmonary Edema
 - » IABP & VAD's
- Medical: GI Bleed & Liver Failure
 - » Sepsis
 - » Other
- Pediatric: Cardiac
 - » Pulmonary
 - » Neonatal
 - » Trauma

Inter-Facility Transports

- Intracranial hemorrhage
- Aortic dissection
- OB
- Non-trauma Surgical
- Pediatrics
- Organ Transplant



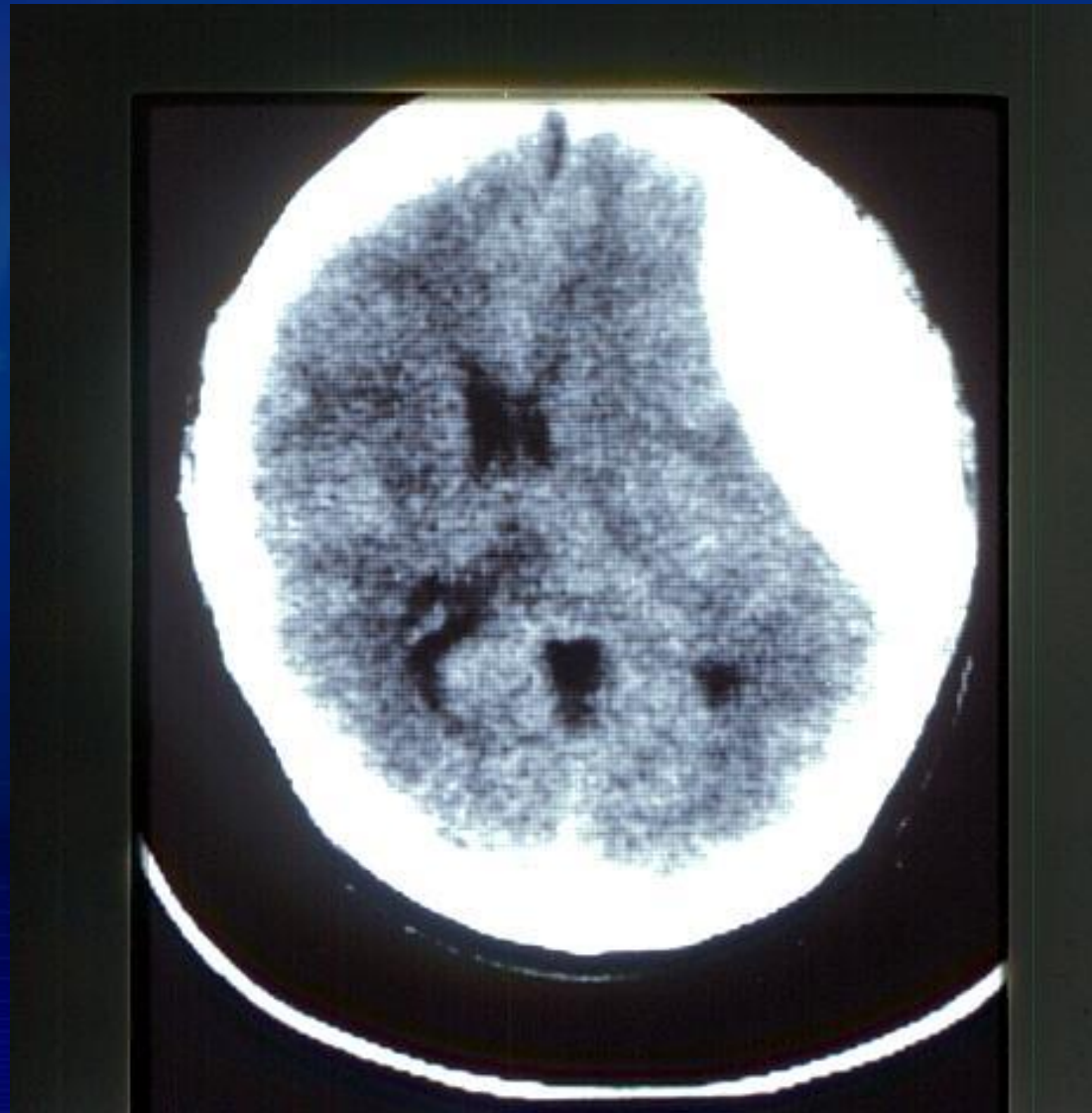
Burns



Head Injuries



Head Injuries



Spinal Cord Injuries



Amputations



Post Surgery



Penetrating Trauma



Compromised Airway



Motor Vehicle Crashes



Pediatric Trauma



Mass Causalities



Motorcycle Trauma



FLIGHT NURSING



Flight Nurse Responsibilities

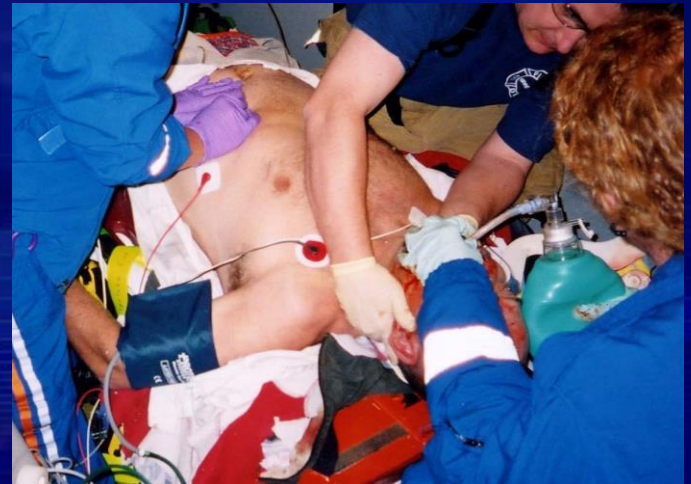
- Safety: Personal
Crew
Patient

***Safety is the First
Priority in All
Transports!***



Flight Nurse Responsibilities

- Patient Care:
 - Primary & secondary assessment
 - » Advanced airway skills
 - » Advanced procedure skills
 - » Protocols



Flight Nursing

- Interpersonal Skills
 - Dealing with patients and families at times of great stress
 - Other agencies
 - Healthcare providers/referring hospitals
 - PR/Marketing



Flight Nursing Skills

- Technical skills
 - Math for Drug Calculations
- Computer skills



Flight Nursing Skills

Teaching Skills



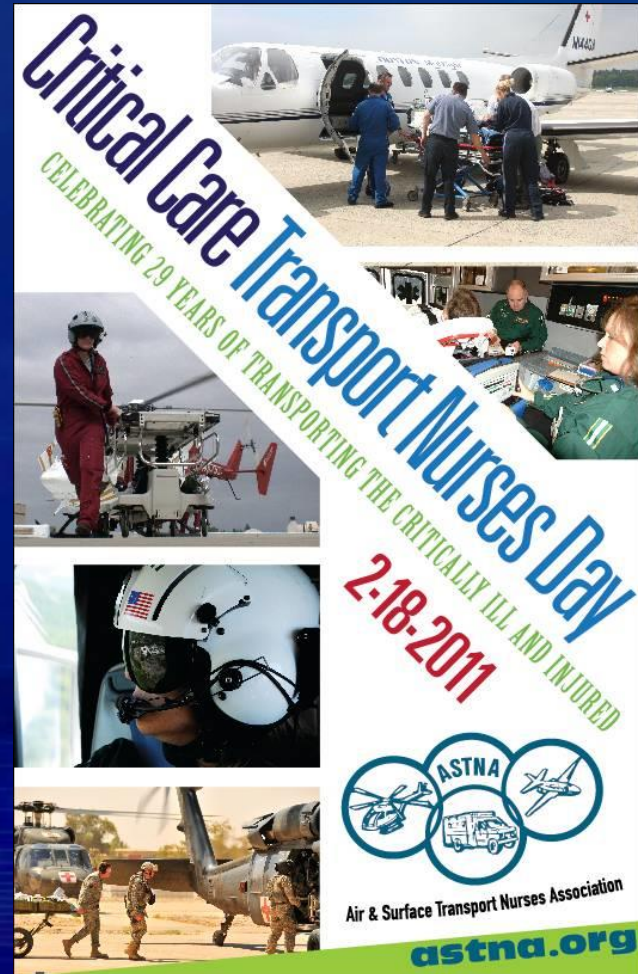
Work Environment



- weather extremes for pts and crew
- Night ops

Flight Nursing – Impact on Your Family

- All Shifts
- Late Flights
- Stressful
- FUN
- Very Rewarding





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