

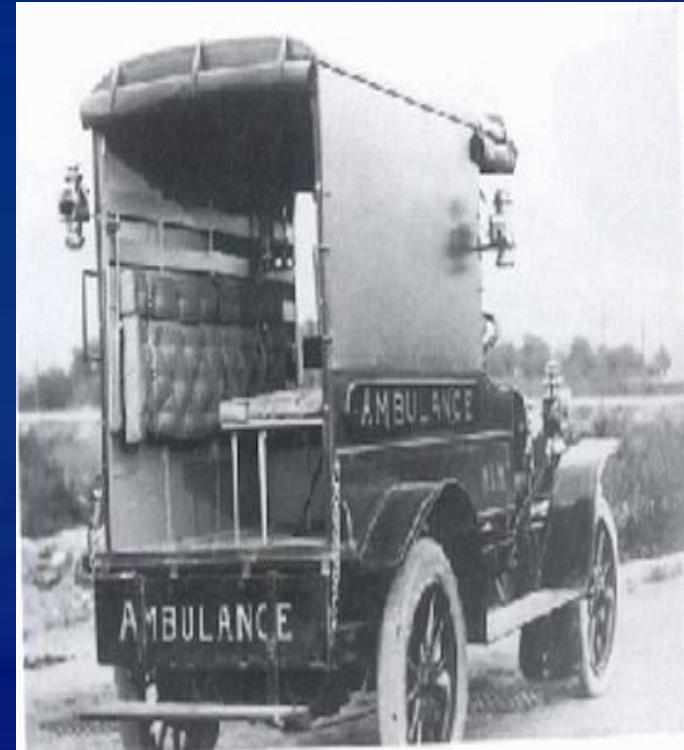
Flight Nursing 101

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



Sharon Purdom, RN, BSN, CEN, CFRN

- 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 system 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 Sirkorsky 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



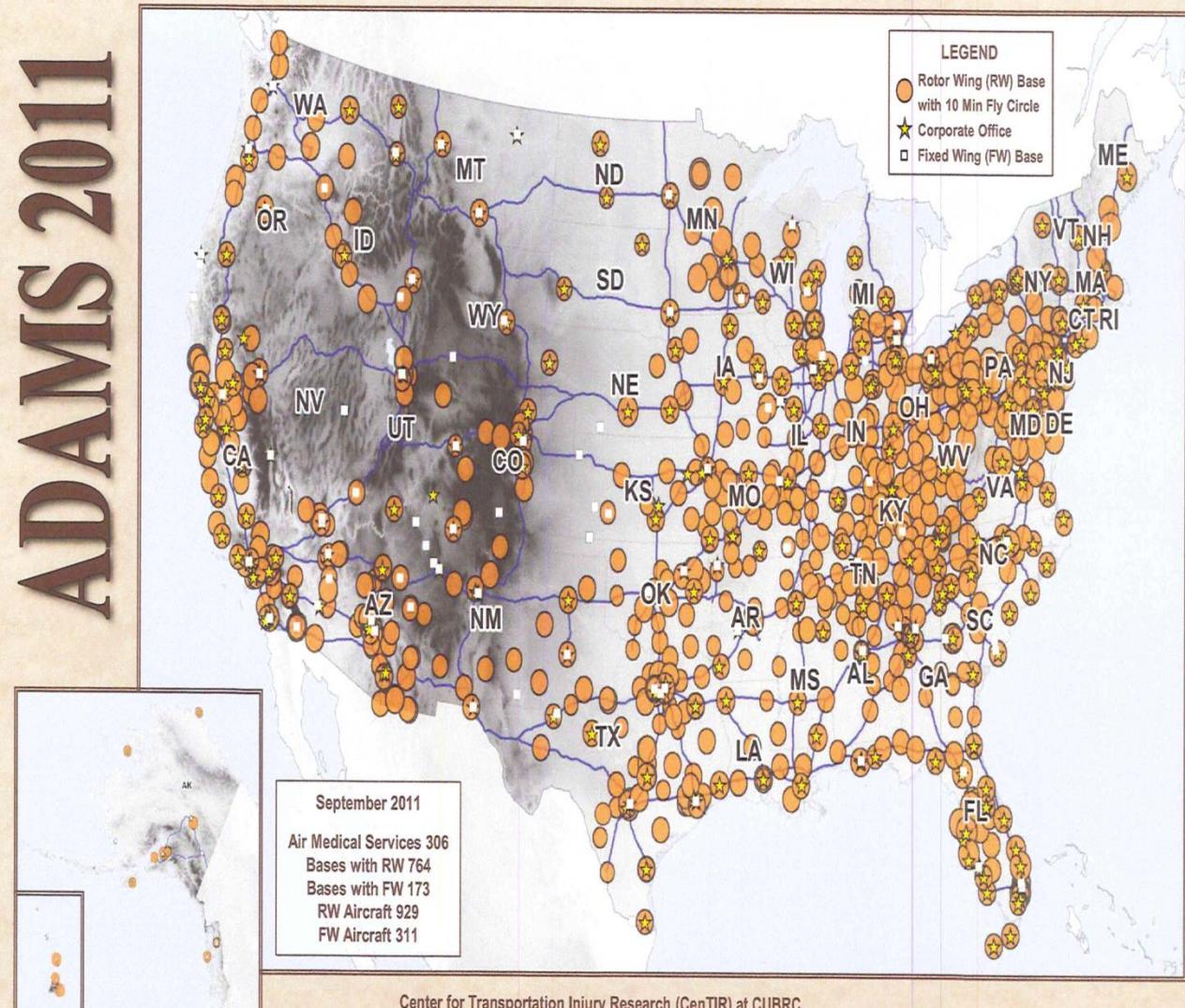
- The first Flight Nurse training program was through the military.
- Six weeks training, and included flight physiology.
- In 1972 St. Anthony's hospital in Denver Colorado and Loma Hospital in California started the first based helicopter program.



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, ABLS, etc.
- Motivated
- Team player



Ongoing Training After Hire

Advanced procedures

Aircraft safety

Radio communications

Night vision goggles

Flight physiology

CAMTS requirements

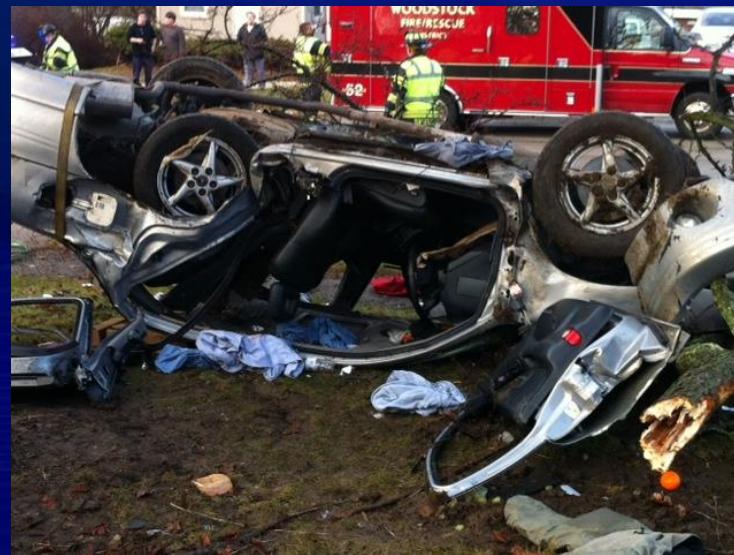


Types of Calls

- Inter-Facility Transports



- Scene Calls



Inter-Facility Transports

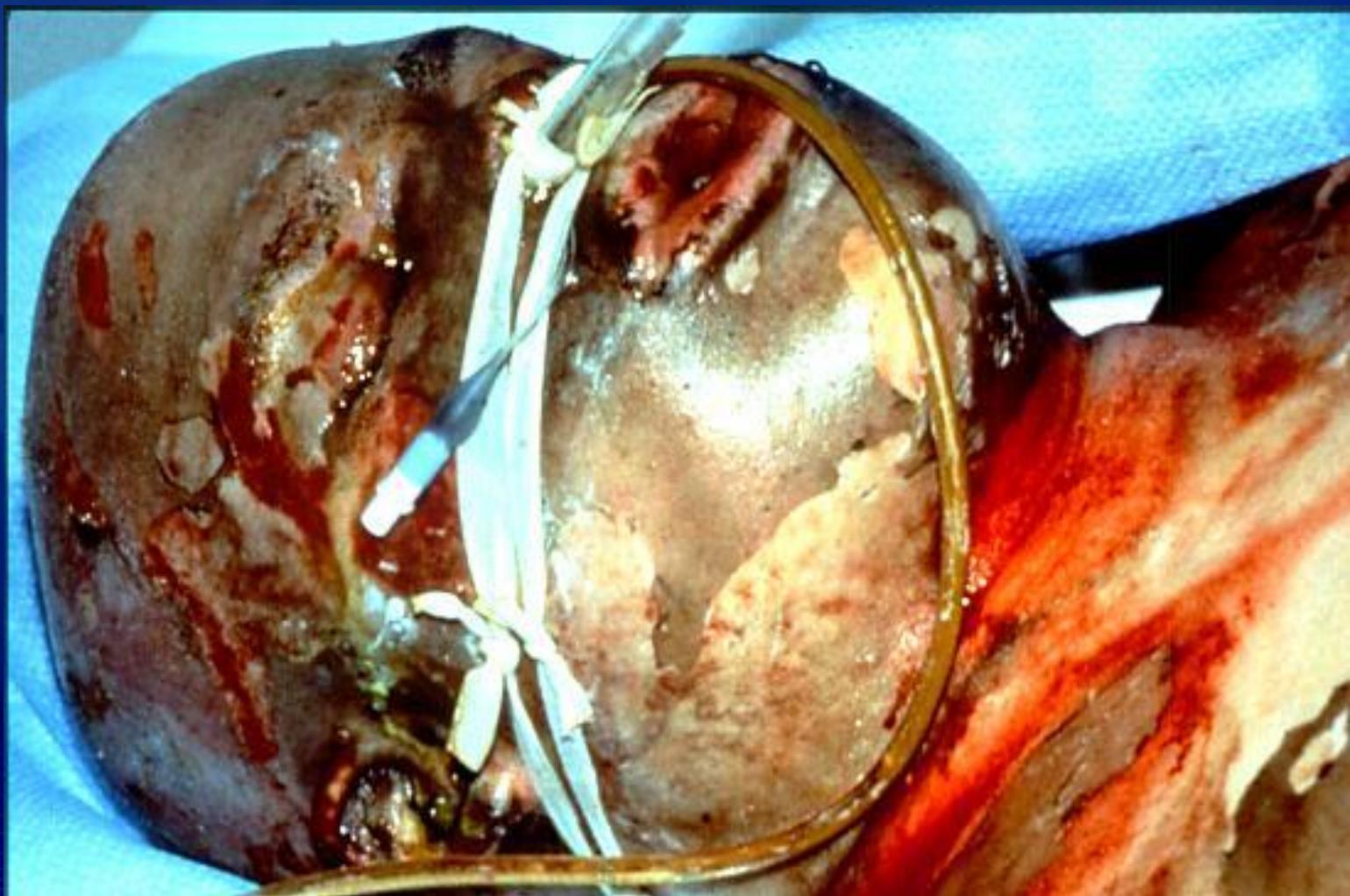
- Cardiac: Surgical / Interventional Therapy
 - » CHF / Pulmonary Edema
 - » IABP & VAD's
- Medical: GI Bleed & Liver Failure
 - » Sepsis
 - » Other
- Pediatric: Cardiac
 - » Pulmonary
 - » Neonatal
 - » Trauma

Inter-Facility Transports

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



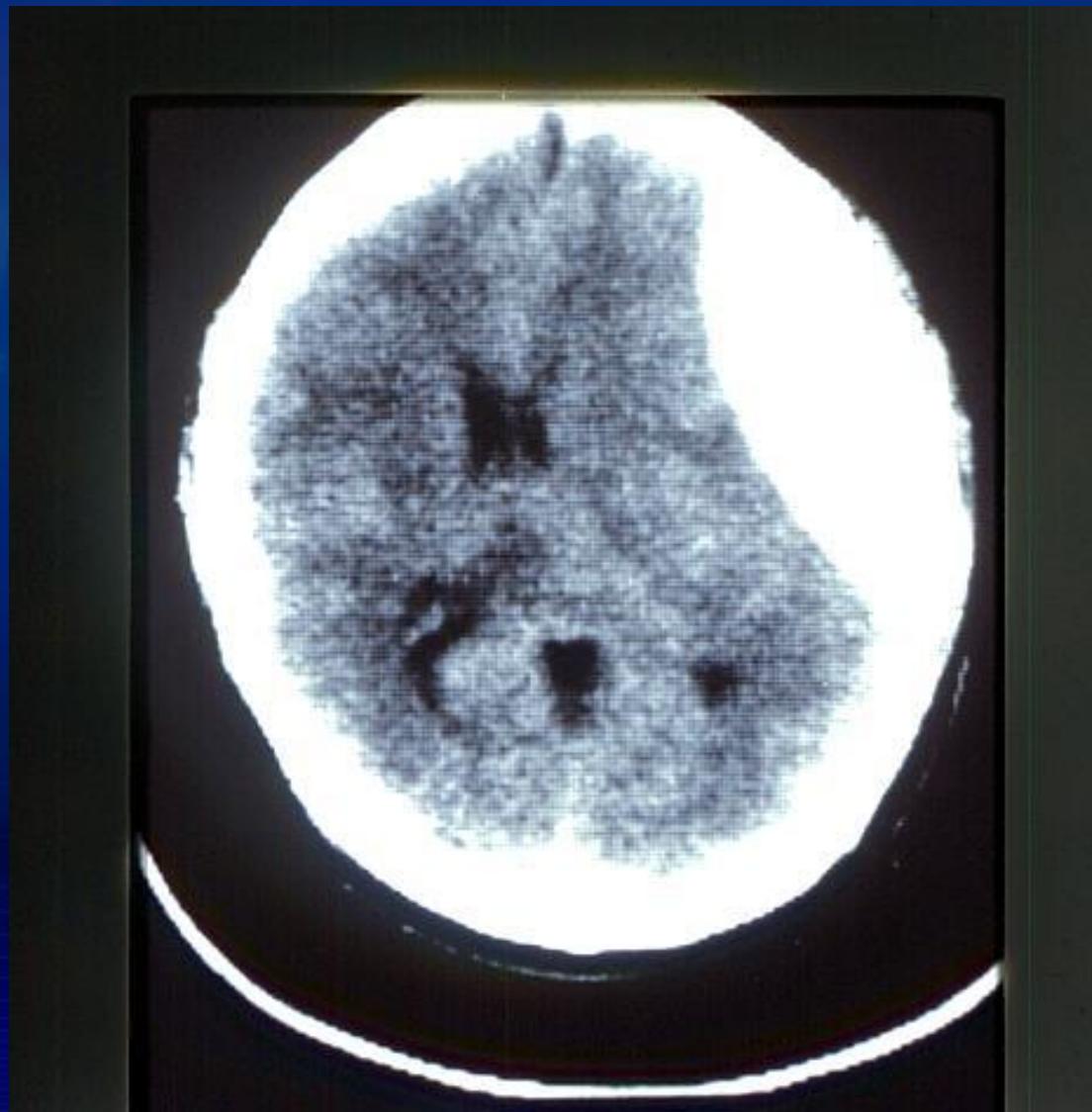
Burns



Head Injuries



Head Injuries



Spinal Cord Injuries



Amputations



PC 8 15

Post Surgery



Penetrating Trauma



Compromised Airway



Motor Vehicle Crashes



Pediatric Trauma



Mass Casualties



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



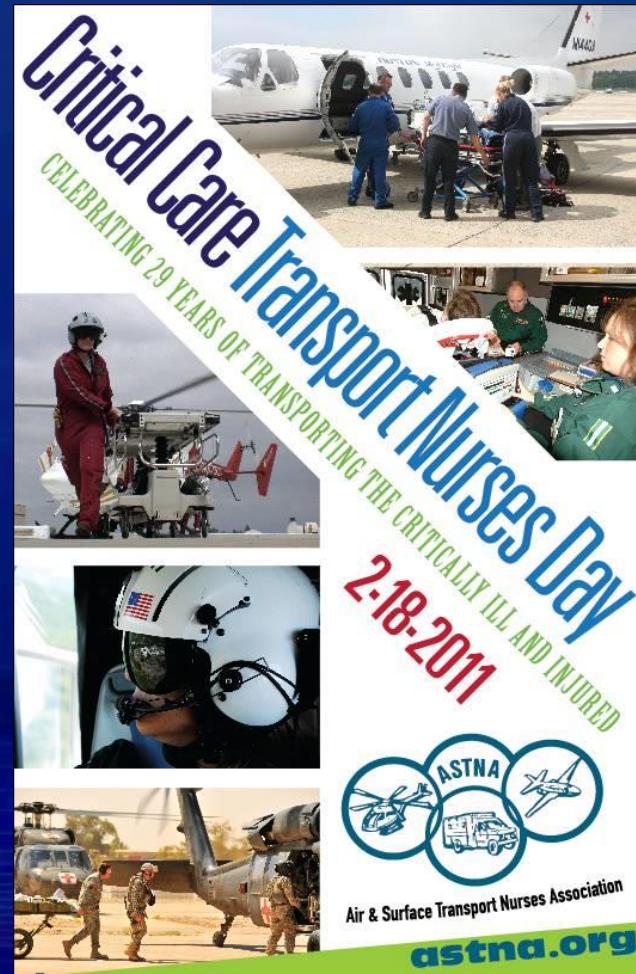
Work Environment



- weather extremes for pts and crew
- Night ops

Flight Nursing – Impact on Your Family

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





For more information contact ASTNA :

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