

## **Air Ambulance Saves Three In Three Months**

Pacific News Center Staff Reporter

**12:10 p.m.** Tiyan, Guam - Three residents from Guam and Micronesia have special reason to celebrate this Christmas. In its first three months of operation since launching last October, CareJet air ambulance transported the patients, each critically ill, to medical centers overseas for urgent hospitalization.

"Each one of them was fighting against time," said Terry Habeck, president of Aviation Concepts, Inc., which operates CareJet. "When time was of the essence, our new base in Guam made it possible to save their lives."

CareJet is Guam's first and only air ambulance service. Before its arrival, patients from Guam or Micronesia who needed chartered air transport had to wait for planes to be brought in from Singapore or the states. The company's Guam base now enables medical transport that is dramatically cheaper and faster. Chartered air transport from Singapore or the states typically costs \$70,000 to \$100,000. CareJet has reduced that cost by 60 to 70 per cent, according to Habeck.

All of CareJet's first three patients needed immediate air transport and could not wait to meet the standard commercial air transport requirement which states that only patients who have been stable for ten (10) days are allowed to fly.

The CareJet medical team safely transported one patient fighting a serious infection that was not responding to antibiotics. Doctors said the patient stood a slim chance of surviving another 48 hours. In less than 4 hours after boarding CareJet in Guam, the patient was admitted to St. Luke's Medical Center in Manila. Within one week, the patient was walking again.

Another patient who suffered a serious boating accident on an outer island in

Pohnpei was transported to Manila for successful treatment at St. Luke's. From its Tiyan-based hangar, the jet flew to Pohnpei and arrived in Manila just hours later.

A third patient who suffered myocardial infarction (heart attack) and whose heart function was diminishing rapidly, stood no chance of stabilizing to meet commercial transport requirements. CareJet transported the patient from Guam to Honolulu where angioplasty was performed just in time.

"Without proper, immediate medical treatment that could only be found off-island, these patients had little chance of stabilizing. CareJet was able to minimize delay and thereby minimize the risk of patient decline and debilitation," Habeck explained. "We couldn't be happier about the lives we've saved in only three short months of operation."

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