



Medic Air European
Private Paramedic Ambulance Service

NEWSLETTER

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The Sky's the limit for Plymouth 's Jo-Anna

She may be just 19 years old but Plymouth girl Jo-Anna Kittle is flying high after commencing her medical training and taking off to the clouds.

For Jo-Anna, her months of medical training have paid off for the job of her dreams. Now employed by Medic Air European, this week she achieved the first stage towards gaining her coveted 'wings' when she undertook her first air ambulance flight with a patient flying from Scotland to Plymouth Airport.

Jo-Anna admits that for her first flight she was a little nervous. "I hardly slept a wink the night before" she said "but I was accompanied by a senior experienced paramedic on the flight so I suppose I was more excited than nervous really."

Before joining Medic Air European last year, Jo-Anna had worked at a specialist unit at Mount Gould Hospital and then at the Spinal Rehabilitation Unit at Derriford Hospital - but ambulance work has always been her goal.

On completion of her training and following extensive examinations, Jo-Anna will be able to wear the coveted gold wings on her uniform - envied by many other paramedics.



Plymouth Jumbulance to become Mobile Operating Theatre in Colombia

Medic Air European has donated a huge ambulance (Jumbulance) to the rescue organisation RAPID UK, to be used as a mobile operating theatre and Doctor's Surgery in the earthquake zones of Colombia.

The Jumbulance has been used in Plymouth for transporting patients to Intensive Care Units and has now been replaced by a more modern vehicle.

Graham Payne, Director of RAPID UK, commented: "This unusually large ambulance will be of significant use to a country in major need of improving its own emergency ambulance and medical response service. Unlike the other ambulances that Medic Air European previously donated to us, and because of the size of this ambulance, it has been earmarked to be used as a mobile operating theatre. This means that it will travel to isolated communities and villages, which would previously have had no access to this type of medical care.

The ambulance was fully serviced by D.B.Autos of Saltash, free of charge, in preparation for its journey to Colombia and was shipped out from the Port of Felixstowe on January the 25th by container ship.



Staff Receive Promotion

Jane Read and Roger Ward have recently been promoted as Team Leaders. Jane, a qualified Technician, recently joined us from Lifestar ambulance service in St Austell and is now involved in our expansion and development within Cornwall. Before joining the private sector, Jane was employed by the Two Shires Ambulance Service NHS Trust in Buckinghamshire.

Roger has headed up our Plymouth operational team, particularly in arrangements for the Orthopaedic Netcare contract for Plymouth Hospital's NHS Trust. Roger joined Medic Air European early last year following his move to the Southwest. He transferred to us from a private ambulance service in the Southeast and had previously been employed with the Royal Berkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust

A word from our Friends in the USA

David Feeney an EMT with the Plymouth Voluntary Ambulance Corps in Connecticut, writes: "Plymouth here is what you would call a village, about 10,000 people, located in central Connecticut. Although Connecticut is one of the original colonies, Plymouth didn't incorporate as a town until 1795, when a group from Plymouth, MA (the famous group from your neck of the woods) travelled south. Two famous clockmakers, Eli Terry and Seth Thomas, settled in the area and began making clocks. As Eli Terry's business flourished, Seth Thomas moved to what was Plymouth Hollow, now renamed Thomaston in his honour".

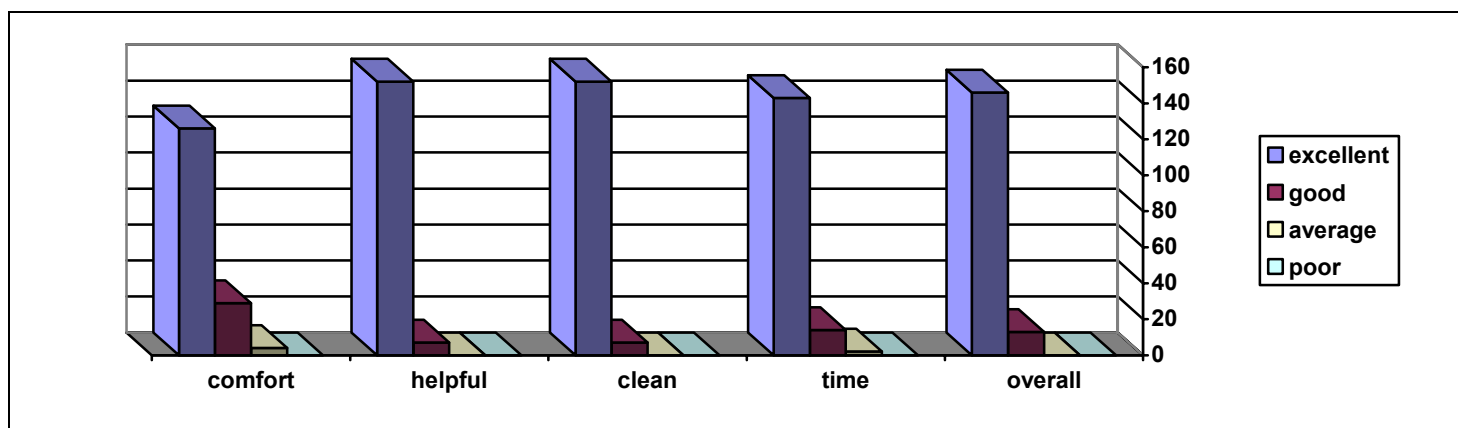
"In 1968, a group of men recognised the need for an emergency service. Back then, whenever someone fell ill or was injured, a policeman would toss the individual in the back of his patrol car and drive him to the hospital. As there were only 2 officers in the town, and they were not trained to handle medical emergencies, this proved unsatisfactory. So the local Lions Club purchased an ambulance and agreed to staff it on a volunteer basis. They had little more training than the officers, but eventually were all Red Cross First Aid certified and did very well for themselves".

"Today, of course, our modern ambulances and facilities are much different than those of 1968. However, one thing remains the same: All 37 of us volunteer our time in 12-hour shifts, with no compensation, to help our fellow citizens. Our two ambulances are what is known in the states as a Basic Life Support service. We can perform basic life saving measures only; no IVs, no drug administration, no intubation or defibrillation. Much as your paramedics have motorcycles in the UK to respond to emergencies, followed closely by the ambulance, our paramedics from the surrounding towns have special cars with all their equipment. These 'fly cars' as we call them respond in conjunction with our ambulance for certain categories of emergency".



Netcare

The second phase of the Netcare project is now complete and we are now in the planning stage of phase 3. In November last year we were successful in gaining Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust's Netcare contract to supply ambulance transport for patients travelling to Hampshire. Three ambulances undertake the journey on a daily basis with patients attending Haslar Hospital in Gosport for orthopaedic operations. As part of our continual improvement programme, each patient conveyed is asked to complete a satisfaction survey form, aimed at rating: Comfort of journey, Helpfulness of ambulance staff, Cleanliness of ambulance, Timekeeping and Overall service of Medic Air European. The results from phase 2, of which 159 patients responded, are shown below.



New Sprinter Ambulance

The newest acquisition to our fleet has now arrived and has been put into service as unit 1. It replaces an older Ford Transit ambulance that was sent to Colombia last Summer as the first of many ambulances donated to RAPID UK. This new Mercedes has been specifically designed to meet our needs and is, yet another, major investment to our current expansion programme.

Staff Training Programme

Eight new members of staff have successfully completed their Basic Life Support and Handling & Lifting certificates. They will now undertake additional training before qualifying and sitting their ambulance care assistant examinations. Congratulations to all.

*** Although we are a recognised, Health and Safety Executive approved Training Organisation, for ethical reasons Medic Air European uses an outside, accredited training organisation to set rigid standards, train and qualify its personnel.



*Email your inclusions for the
next newsletter to:*

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And don't forget to visit us at:

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The bottom section of the advertisement features three small images. From left to right: a white ambulance van with red and blue markings and 'AMBULANCE' written on the side; a red helicopter in flight against a blue sky; and another white ambulance van with red and blue markings and 'AMBULANCE' written on the side.