



Vanderbilt Lifeflight medic awarded Star of Life

HONOURS US

Keith Evans, an acute care nurse practitioner for Vanderbilt Lifeflight in Nashville, Tennessee, US, has been given the Star of Life Award for his part in a cave rescue that took place in September last year. Evans is also a major in the National Guard's 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron based in Nashville. The rescue began when an experienced spelunker suffered a massive stroke over the course of five hours, rescue personnel from the Maury County Fire Department, Regional Emergency Management Services and the Vanderbilt Lifeflight team worked together to rescue the man.

Evans said of his work: "The type of circumstances such as the cave rescue do not arise that often, and I feel strongly that my prior experiences as an Army medic and Air Force flight nurse during combat rotations greatly prepared me for this situation. No two flights are alike, and the training and experiences from the military

have taught me to think outside of the box and be prepared."

When Evans arrived at the scene, Maury County rescuers were already there and were loading the patient into a specially designed basket when Evans and the other members of the flight crew entered the cave. He said: "We assisted in extricating the patient from the cave and up a hill, all the while providing medical care. We loaded him into an ambulance for the ride to the aircraft and flew him to Vanderbilt Hospital. During the flight, we managed his blood pressure and airway to provide as much stabilisation as possible. On arrival at the hospital he was in a dire condition, unable to speak and move his right side."

Over the following weeks, the patient made a rapid recovery from his stroke. Major Evans, along with the many Maury County emergency personnel and Vanderbilt Lifeflight team involved in the rescue efforts, were presented with the Star of Life Award by the Tennessee Emergency



Evans pictured while on deployment in Iraq

DVIDS / Courtesy photo

Medical Services for Children organ... The award recognises particularly outstanding lifesaving efforts of the emergency services community for their professionalism and life preserving s...

GNAAS invests in portable defibrillator

EQUIPMENT UK

Air ambulance medics in northern England will be travelling a little bit lighter after a donation allowed them to buy a

portable version of a life-saving piece of kit. The Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) has equipped one of its helicopters with a Schiller Fred Easyport portable defibrillator, which administers electric shocks to a cardiac patient's heart. The charity bought the £2,000 machine after the Boundary Motorcycle Group donated £600 towards its cost. The group of motorcycle enthusiasts holds regular events and ride-outs to raise money for local causes, and have

donated £450,000 to the air ambulance service since 2006. All GNAAS aircraft already carry advanced-care defibrillators, but the equipment is large and relatively heavy to carry. Mike Bateman, crew paramedic with GNAAS, said that when the ambulance cannot land close to the patient and have to travel on foot to reach the scene, an incident, it will be useful to have a lightweight defibrillator on the aircraft. He added: "The portable version does not have the same amount of features, but it is still able to perform a life-saving function and I'm sure this equipment will make a difference for someone at some point. I would like to thank all at the Boundary Motorcycle Group once more for their work for the charity." Bateman said the charity is now looking to raise another £2,000 for a second portable defibrillator.

