



Emergency Life Flight helicopters, like the ones here stationed at Houston's Hermann Hospital, have been serving a 130-mile radius of Houston, including several trips to the Bryan-College Station area. The service

offers the critically ill or injured quick access to Houston hospitals. Each helicopter is an airborne emergency room with a physician and a nurse.

Photo courtesy of Hermann Hospital

Emergency access

Life Flight spans area

By LOUIE ARTHUR
Battalion Reporter

Emergency care in the Bryan-College Station area is not limited to the two local hospitals. In addition to an independent Joseph Hospital and Bryan Hospital, the injured or critically ill have quick access to Houston hospitals through Life Flight, Hermann Hospital's patient air transport program. Life Flight has been serving a 130-mile radius, including Bryan and College Station, since the program was started in August of 1976. It consists of three helicopters, each with an airborne emergency room which carries a physician and a registered nurse. Life Flight is the largest of eight similar programs in the United States. It is funded by Hermann Hospital and private donations.

Bailey said he remembers three instances when Bryan Hospital used Life Flight. Two of these cases involved transporting children to Texas Children's Hospital. The other patient was an adult with a cardiac emergency. Sonja Shepard, director of nursing service at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan, said that they have used Life Flight only a few times. St. Joseph uses an Army emergency helicopter service out of Fort Hood in Killeen for most of their patient transport because it is free. This service, the Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic program, is funded by the federal government and charges no fee for patient transport. Life Flight has a lift-off charge of \$70 and also charges \$2 per mile round trip.

In the future, Life Flight will have an in-service session at St. Joseph. This will be open to the public, with slide shows and a Life Flight helicopter on display.

The Life Flight helicopters are French-made aircraft called Alouettes and are leased by the hospital from Aviation Medical Services, a subsidiary of Western Helicopters. Only a law enforcement agency, the fire department, the emergency ambulance services, a hospital, a physician or an industrial safety representative may request Life Flight. An individual cannot call and ask for this service. Shepard said sometime in the near

Geoscience posts filled on Tuesday

The Texas A&M University System Regents approved three major appointments made Tuesday by Dean Earl Cook in the College of Geosciences.

The board named Dr. John W. Handin as director of the new Earth Resources Institute. It will monitor and assist research programs in the College of Geosciences and coordinate research efforts in five special areas.

These will include the Center for Sedimentology, the Center for Tectonophysics, the Geodynamics Research Program, the Engineering Geosciences Research Program and the Mineral Resources Research Program.

Regents also approved the appointment of Dr. Robert R. Berg as director of the Center for Sedimentology and Dr. Mel Friedman as director of the Center for Tectonophysics, succeeding Handin.

Handin is distinguished professor of geology and geophysics and associate dean of the college of Geosciences. Berg is professor of geology and director of the Office of University Research. Friedman, professor of geology, also coordinates the University Undergraduate Fellows phase of the Honors Program.

The Center for Tectonophysics at Texas A&M carries out fundamental studies of the mechanical properties of rocks, especially under great pressure and temperatures, and applies results to the study of such problems as earthquakes and mountain range

formations. The Center for Sedimentology conducts research into physical properties of soil and sediment, including the potential for uranium recovery from lignite, and secondary petroleum recovery from sandstone.

Senator loses his 'uniform'

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, known in the Senate for his fashionable and dapper dress, experienced a change of image Tuesday as a result of the Dallas Cowboys' Super Bowl loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Tower made a wager on the game with Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and lost. As a result, he was forced to wear a Pittsburgh Steelers football jersey throughout an afternoon strategy meeting of all Republican senators.

The jersey he donned was that of Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw. It was a little large — hitting the 5-foot-5-inch Tower at the knees.

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