

Second Care Provider

The allowance also includes funds for 10 cadet positions in the Aviation Command to be trained and serve as a second care provider on the command's helicopters. Cadets are civilian employees between the ages of 18 – 20 who serve in a civilian uniform capacity until they attain the age of 21, at which time they are eligible to apply to the academy.

Currently, the aircraft crew consists of one commercially rated pilot and one nationally registered paramedic. Private and government air ambulance services in the United States typically utilize two care providers, whereas, Maryland currently only utilizes one. These cadet positions will begin the process of transforming the command into a two care provider program. The cadets would be trained at the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) basic level.

The Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS) provides accreditation standards that are generally accepted as the national standard for aeromedical transport programs. Maryland regulations require that commercial air ambulance services seeking licensure in Maryland must be CAMTS-accredited. However, the State Police Aviation Command itself is not CAMTS accredited because one critical component of accreditation is having two medical care providers on each aircraft.

At present, when patient conditions requires it, EMS ground personnel who responded to the incident are added to the transport. However, though these ground personnel are experienced and are occasionally trained to fly with the command, they are not properly equipped with safety equipment and are not always comfortable operating in the HSA.

The department states that the addition of the cadet positions, and the eventual accreditation of the command by CAMTS, would result in a more effective and efficient level of service. Also, there is currently a critical shortage of paramedics available in the department. As these cadets continue their careers in the department following graduation from the academy, the hope is that they would seek more advanced certification as EMTs, which would expand the number of available paramedics in DSP.

The department should be prepared to discuss what other deficiencies must be addressed in the Aviation Command before applying for CAMTS accreditation.

2. Crime Lab – New Lab Opening and Need for Independent Oversight

New Lab Opening

The new crime lab is scheduled to open in March 2006. The lab is a state-of-the-art facility which will house the latest technology in the forensic sciences fields. The new building cost is \$23.8 million, and the land cost is \$2 million. The facility will include laboratories for ballistics, photography, serology, chemistry, toxicology, trace evidence, documents, latent prints, DNA analysis, and other functions.

Analysis of the FY 2007 Maryland Executive Budget, 2006