



Submitted Photo

BASE OF THE YEAR — The Mt. Vernon Air Evac LifeTeam base was named Base of the Year during an award ceremony in Missouri. From left, **FRONT ROW:** regional mechanic Donald Thebeau and paramedic supervisor Mike Gretzinger. **BACK ROW:** director of base operations Andy Arthurs, membership coordinator Becky Phillips and area manager Joe Grygiel II.

Air Evac LifeTeam receives Base of the Year honors

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

MT. VERNON — The local Air Evac LifeTeam base has been recognized as Base of the Year at the 2006 Homecoming Celebration held at the company headquarters in West Plains, Mo.

The Mt. Vernon base was honored over 64 bases owned by the company, including five in Illinois. Illinois bases are located in Mt. Vernon, Marion, Effingham, Springfield and Quincy.

The award is given to the base that best exemplifies the Air Evac mission and how it uses community service and education and consistently

maintains confidence and relationships with partnering emergency response agencies, according to information from Air Evac.

"Mt. Vernon was chosen to receive this award for several reasons," Air Evac Vice President of Operations Seth Myers stated. "The Mt. Vernon base has been a picture of consistent flight growth during the past five years. Since opening the base in 2000, the base has consistently averaged 43 flights per month. Earlier this year, the crew celebrated the completion of their 3,000th flight. All of this has been accomplished despite their close

proximity to a major competitor and the placement of two additional Air Evac bases within their service area."

Myers also said leadership at the Mt. Vernon facility was a deciding factor in the award.

"The crew has dedicated supervisors that will do whatever is needed to ensure the base is always staffed, in operation and running as smoothly as possible," Myers stated.

Air Evac LifeTeam is a membership-supported air ambulance company that provides emergency care and rapid medical transport to rural communities throughout the Midwest. 11-16-06