

Paramedic reaches 1,000th flight

Staff Report



Mike Gretzinger, left, flight paramedic for the Air Evac Lifeteam base in Mt. Vernon, recently accomplished his 1,000th flight for the national air ambulance company. He is shown with Program Director George Hess. SUBMITTED PHOTO

MT. VERNON — Mike Gretzinger, flight paramedic for the Mt. Vernon Air Evac Lifeteam base, recently celebrated a major milestone in his career in the air ambulance industry – his 1,000th flight with Air Evac Lifeteam.

Gretzinger, an Air Evac Lifeteam flight paramedic since October 2004, has been awarded his 1,000th mission “wings” in celebration of his achievement.

Gretzinger has been in the emergency medical services field since 1989, when he first became an emergency medical technician. In

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1992, he earned his paramedic license and worked at MedStar Ambulance Inc., until 2001. He then worked at Shrewsbury Fire Department until 2005, and has worked part-time with Mascoutah EMS, Breese EMS, and Monroe County EMS.

He first joined Air Evac Lifeteam as a part-time flight paramedic at the company's base in Marion.

“I think many paramedics have an admiration for the helicopter EMS industry,” said Gretzinger. “I was just lucky enough to get a job with Air Evac Lifeteam and have been loving it ever since.”

Gretzinger said the Mt. Vernon crew is an experienced and exceptional group. “At our base alone we have over 45 years of paramedic experience and over 30 years of nursing experience, with over 75 years of medical experience,” he stated.

Gretzinger has resided in Mascoutah since 1980, and he and his wife Angie enjoy traveling, golf and boating.

For information about Air Evac Lifeteam services, call 1-800-793-0010 or visit www.lifeteam.net.