



Nevada Army National Guard



Palm™ handhelds let Air Ambulance unit communicate 60-percent faster with hospital staff

"The Palm handheld solution saves us precious minutes during patient transport, and provides us with a 60-percent faster method of communicating with doctors and nurses at hospitals. Having instant access to the reference materials enables us to verify medical information, helping us to ensure that the patients receive the most complete care possible."

Sgt. Mark Stevens, Nevada Army National Guard Air Ambulance Medic

Solution results

- ▶ Provides a 60 percent faster method of communicating with doctors and nurses at hospitals
- ▶ Consolidates volumes of reference materials into one easy-to-use, portable solution
- ▶ Eliminates error-prone paper forms and data entry

Technical highlights

- ▶ Palm™ III and Palm™ m515 handhelds
- ▶ Med-Media Software for patient data collection
- ▶ Medical reference applications such as ACLS Algorithms, Patient Care Reports, Pediatric Drug Applications and Medical Protocols

Contact information

- ▶ Palm Solutions Group
www.palm.com/enterprise
- ▶ Nevada Army National Guard
www.nv.ngb.army.mil/nvarng
- ▶ Med-Media
www.med-media.com

The Challenge

In recent months, the Nevada Army National Guard's Air Ambulance unit has participated in a mission in Kosovo to support stabilization operations, and the unit is always on call for possible deployment to the Middle East and other locations to fight in the war on terrorism.

The mission of medics aboard the unit's UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters is to provide the best medical care possible for the injured soldiers and civilians they transport to hospitals. This care includes recording patient information so that hospital personnel have as much information as possible to treat an incoming patient.

Previously, medics relied on paper forms to record vital patient information during air transport and used reference books to look up information about things like medication interactions. Once they arrived at a hospital, the medics handed the paper form to a member of the hospital staff receiving the patient. This paper-based method of gathering and sharing information had several fundamental problems, including illegible handwriting or liquid spills on forms, as well as the time delay it took for hospital staff to enter patient information into their information systems so that all relevant medical personnel could access the information.

The Palm™ Handheld Solution

Today, Palm handhelds running Med-Media software from Med-Media, Inc. allow Nevada Army National Guard Air Ambulance medics onboard the helicopter to list vital signs, treatment and medication received while on board the helicopter, and initial diagnoses.

The Palm handhelds also provide quick access to a wealth of reference materials for the medics. They can quickly check formulas or types of injections while tending to a patient. Once patients are moved to civilian or military hospitals, the information on the Palm handheld can be synchronized with the hospital databases, giving doctors and nurses the most up-to-date information on each patient.

By eliminating the use of error-prone paper forms during patient care, data collection and inspections, Palm handhelds help medics save time and lives.