



Things to Consider

The local LifeMed team can sometimes go on a military flight. This decision is up to the local team and their administration and depends on many factors.

If the transport team is all military:

- Will military transport inappropriately lower the level of care the patient is receiving?
- What are the capabilities of the military team? Are they pararescue jumpers (PJs), paramedics, EMTs, etc.?
- What kind of equipment will the military team have?
- Does the military team have pediatric experience and equipment, if applicable?

If you are sending a team from YK:

- Will sending a team of YK employees impact the normal operations of the hospital? (You should avoid sending anyone scheduled to work the current or next shift.)
- An ideal YK team includes an ER RN and/or paramedic. Transport/EMS experience is a must.
- **A YK team must be entirely voluntary.**
- Ensure the team will have all appropriate drugs, weight-based equipment, monitors, pumps, stretchers/backboards, etc.
- Make a plan to keep the patient warm – the military will usually not supply blankets, Doctor Downs, etc.
- **If military transport is used, no YK trainees (residents, students, visitors, etc.) or other “ride-alongs” are allowed to go.** Ride-alongs may only go on LifeMed transports with the local team on their fixed wing aircraft.

Things to Know

- The RCC coordinates military missions. They will connect you with the appropriate people from the branch responding, which may be the National Guard, the Coast Guard, or the Air Force.
- You may have to retell the story to several people, including people with minimal medical knowledge. It helps to involve another provider to help coordinate the many phone calls without negatively impacting patient care.
- The process often takes 6-8 hours or more. If the Blackhawk and a full crew are not physically in Bethel, the military may have to send aircrafts from elsewhere in Alaska, which can lengthen the process to 10-12 hours.

Definitions

LLE: life, limb, or eyesight in danger
 CD: clinical director
 RCC: Rescue Coordination Center
 PJ: pararescue jumpers. These are military medics with ACLS and ATLS training who are not trained to provide further critical care. (For example, ventilator management and infusion of medications are not typically part of their scope of practice.)