

## **AIR MEDICAL AIRCRAFT DESIGNATION CHANGE**

MEDEVAC followed by the aircraft registration letters/numbers is now the standard term to identify civilian medical helicopter and fixed wing operations involving medical missions of an urgent nature. This includes responding to a scene, carrying patients, organ donors, organs or other urgently needed lifesaving medical material and is utilized only for that portion of the flight requiring expeditious handling by Air Traffic Control facilities. The procedure change replacing the term LIFEGUARD was implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) late in 2012 through a change in the Aeronautical Information Manual. In New York State there have been a variety of identifiers used by different aircraft operators including: LIFEGUARD by the New York State Police with medics supplied by EMS agencies, LifeNet by Air Methods/Guthrie Air, Mercy Flight, Mercy Flight Central and Starflight. During the transition period expect to hear the MEDEVAC identifier used more and more for air traffic communications and flight plans.