



Africa – Malaria MEDEVAC

In May 2016, Erickson's Main Operating Base in Africa was notified that two U.S. citizens were suffering acute symptoms of malaria and required MEDEVAC to an improved medical facility. One of the patients was in critical condition with spinal malaria. The couple was travelling in Southwest Uganda, a remote and rural area known for ecotourism and safaris.

An Erickson crew immediately put rotors in motion and prepared a Bell 214ST medium-lift helicopter to transport the patients with U.S. Army medical personnel. While en route, the crew of two pilots and one mechanic received new coordinates via satellite communications and rerouted to a new location 270 nautical miles west of their original course. Growing thunderstorms and poor visibility grounded the aircraft overnight in central Uganda.

The aircraft departed in the early morning of the following day and arrived at the intended location, only to find their landing zone covered in a thick layer of fog. Unable to descend and pressed with a mission-critical decision, the pilots landed the helicopter on a nearby mountaintop and waited for weather to clear. At first sight of a safe gap in the cloud cover, the crew descended to a field and loaded the patients. From there, the B214ST darted to the city of Entebbe and an advanced medical treatment facility.

According to the military flight surgeon, the quick response and capabilities of the Erickson crew, gave the two patients a rare chance for survival. Erickson staff continually adapt to dynamic conditions with a “can do” spirit — while operating in remote and austere locations throughout the globe.

Erickson provides commercial aviation support throughout the Africa to various customers, and for various needs. With an industry-leading Operational Readiness Rate, Erickson crews can be dispatched at a moment's notice to save lives.



CONTACT

Trey Williams

govt@ericksoninc.com
971.221.0670

5550 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, OR 97239 USA

ERICKSONINC.COM