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CONTACT:

Jessica Wheeler
(602) 546-0824
(602) 202-2229 (pager)
jwheeler1@phoenixchildrens.com

Phoenix Children's Emergency Department Honored for Training US Air Force Elite

PHOENIX, Ariz. (April 6, 2007) – Representatives of the United States Air Force (USAF) and Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell (ENMU-R) landed in the Phoenix Children's Emergency Department Thursday. They weren't looking for treatment – they came to honor the Hospital for providing superior clinical field training to students of the Air Force's elite Pararescue Paramedic Program.

Of the more than 350,000 USAF personnel, only 365 are Pararescuers who lead Air Force search and rescue missions. Phoenix Children's Emergency Department nurses trained 16 of these men in pediatric assessment skills, resuscitation, IV starts, pediatric drug calculation, triage, and laceration repairs.

“Phoenix Children's has long been recognized as a superior training ground in a variety of pediatric specialties,” said Julie Reisetter, RN, MS, Administrative Director of the Hospital's Emergency Department and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. “We were really proud to partner with the United States Air Force Pararescue Paramedic Program and support the medical training of our country's best and bravest.”

As a result of their experience with Phoenix Children's, the USAF developed a contract with the Hospital to continue Pararescue Paramedic training. New students are scheduled to arrive at Phoenix Children's in July.

The USAF Pararescue Paramedic Program is based at Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) in Albuquerque, NM. Medical training is taught by ENMU-R.

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children's hospitals in the nation. The most comprehensive array of pediatric specialists in the State practice at this one organization. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Phoenix Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.