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AIRPORT TRAUMA CARE AFRICA TO BE IMPROVED

Hoofddorp, the Netherlands, 18 December, 2014 –

In the aftermath of an aircraft accident, many lives may be lost and many injuries aggravated if immediate medical attention is not provided by trained rescue personnel.

AviAssist announced today that it has entered into a five year corporate social responsibility agreement with UMCG Ambulance Services from the Netherlands for the delivery of a new course, the Airport Trauma Care Course (ATCC).

The ATCC will be a three-day course with the aim to teach a simple systematic approach to the management of trauma patients through interactive tutorials, skills teaching and simulated patient management scenarios.

"We are very grateful for the partnership with UMCG Ambulance Services for this course, which ensures that we work with experts that share this operational responsibility on a daily basis with their colleagues in Africa," stated AviAssist Director Tom Kok. "We are open for requests from the East and Southern African region to host our courses in 2015 & 2016."

An Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is the backbone of an orderly and efficient transition from normal to emergency operations. Its production and regular exercise exposes pain points that could aggravate a response in a real emergency.

The ERP is also a crucial part of an airport's Safety Management System, a basis of standards from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). In turn, medical services and the way an airport deals with the injured are a vital component of the ERP

"A critical component in all this is the quality of care received from first responders and medical personnel. However, access to emergency medical training in Africa is a challenge. With this course, the AviAssist Foundation helps to address a shortage of trauma care training opportunities in the region," Foundation Director Kok, explaining the Foundation's choice for embedding this course into the Foundation's program. "The course takes its inspiration from the Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) course".

The ATLS course is a training program for medical providers in the management of acute trauma cases, developed by the American College of Surgeons. Originally designed for emergency situations where only one doctor and one nurse are present, ATLS is now widely accepted as the standard of care for initial assessment and treatment in trauma centres. It teaches a simplified and standardized approach to trauma patients. The premise of the ATLS program is to treat the greatest threat to life first. Survivors should be classified to determine the order of priority for treatment and transportation.

A short video clip of the course can be found on the Foundation's Youtube channel www.youtube.com/aviassistfoundation

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The AviAssist Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that inspires and promotes professionalism in African aviation safety. It does so in close coordination with ICAO, stakeholders and safety support providers as part of the Flight Safety Foundation family. More at www.aviassist.org