

NEWSFLASH CHALLENGER SPECIAL 2010

Successful launching of the CL604 Operations

Within a year after FAI rent-a-jet AG (also known as Flight Ambulance International) had introduced the use of a Challenger 604 aircraft for a combination of Executive and Air Ambulance services, a second Challenger 604 aircraft was put in service in April 2010, this time for dedicated air ambulance use. Several flights in the following weeks highlighted the very varied nature of the missions that can be undertaken using the Challenger, as will be illustrated by the examples hereunder.

1. Multiple transport Thailand - England

At the beginning of May, a British assistance company was faced with an unusual situation where it had to repatriate a total of six patients with a variety of illnesses and injuries within three days from Bangkok to London. One patient was foreseen to require assisted ventilation, another needed intensive medical therapy, two further patients had to be transported lying down, either on a stretcher or on a Business class seat in the flat bed configuration, while the last two patients could fly back sitting down on a commercial flight. After a short discussion with the client, FAI offered to transport the first four patients on a Challenger 604. In addition to the two critical care units that are installed in the front part of the cabin, the four seat lounge seating area in the back was reconfigured into a double flat-bed version.

2. Nonstop Nigeria – England

A private client concerned by the extremely critical condition of a family member in Lagos sought to have the patient transferred as soon as possible to the United Kingdom without having to stop for refueling the aircraft. FAI was able, given the non-stop flight range of the Challenger 604, which is over 6300 kilometers or 3400 nautical miles, to offer an immediate repatriation flight, with a flight duration of about 6:30 hours.



Despite the very serious underlying medical condition and the related complications, the patient safely reached London in a stable state. She still finds herself there presently in a greatly improved condition, in a rehabilitation facility. Just one day after its arrival in London, the Challenger was again on its way to a similar mission, this time to fly a patient non-stop from Yemen to Germany.

3. Double critical care transport Eq.Guinea - Morocco

After a review of the clinical information regarding two severely injured polytrauma cases in Malabo and a thorough discussion between the FAI medical department and that of the assistance company, it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to use a smaller aircraft of the Learjet category. After a short delay required for preparation of the aircraft, the Challenger was staffed by two critical care medical teams, who after an initial stabilization flew the patients to a centre in Casablanca for further treatment. Again the next day two critical care patients presenting with similar clinical situations were flown from Egypt to Austria. This demonstrates the advantage of the roomier cabin when it comes to the simultaneous transport of two intensive care patients or for special intensive care transports involving additional staff or equipment like an Intra-aortic Balloon Pump (IABP) or an ECMO machine.



The flight was staffed with two physicians and one intensive care paramedic and proceeded without any incident for the duration of the flight, which was approximately 14 hours. In comparison with the separate transport of individual patients, this type of solution can be seen as very efficient for the client both from the financial and the logistical points of view.

Fast – Safe - Reliable