

A Lifesaving Event at DCMA Sikorsky

by Mr. Walt Zaborowski, Contract Administrator, DCMA Sikorsky



Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Sikorsky Program Integrator Mr. Willoughby Lloyd, cup of tea in hand, waited in the cafeteria line with 10-15 other people at approximately 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 31, 2006. Suddenly, the sound of chairs and a table clattering drew Mr. Lloyd's attention, and he saw a man lying on the floor.

He left his place in line and got closer to the unmoving man, whose face had an ominous blue tone. As one person yelled, "Call 911!" Mr. Lloyd heard another shout, "Does anyone know

CPR?" No one reacted directly to the stricken man, until Mr. Lloyd began clearing a space around him to take the man's pulse. Unable to feel a pulse, Mr. Lloyd moved the man's head back to clear his airway. He considered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation but opted against it because he saw blood and instead proceeded to do a

chest compression on the man. Mr. Lloyd heard the man gasp for air, but it appeared he still had a blockage in his airway. Mr. Lloyd then lifted the man's chin to clear the airway and did two subsequent chest compressions; however, the man still appeared unresponsive. Mr. Lloyd did another chest compression, and this time the man opened his eyes and began breathing laboriously. At that moment an emergency medical crew from Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Conn., arrived at the scene and took over. They treated and stabilized the man before transporting him to the hospital.

Mr. Lloyd later learned that the man he assisted is Mr. Harold Hale, 59, a third-shift Sikorsky assembler from Ansonia, Conn., who was stricken with a massive heart attack. Mr. Hale had to undergo surgery for the installation of a defibrillator/pacemaker and, as of Feb. 16, was recovering at home. In a telephone interview, Mr. Hale said that he owed his life to Mr. Lloyd and to the people from the Sikorsky Fire Department and Bridgeport Hospital.

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(Above) Mr. Willoughby Lloyd (back row, second from left), DCMA Sikorsky program integrator, with members of the Sikorsky Aircraft Fire Department (DCMA staff photo)

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Lt. Russell Tortora of the Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation (SAC) Fire Department said, “Willoughby’s intervention was an integral part of this guy surviving. No doubt about it.” Lt. Tortora estimated that it took three to five minutes for the fire department to respond, and this lapse in time could have led to serious injury or even death. Lt. Tortora said that when the SAC Fire Department arrived on the scene, Mr. Lloyd was already administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation to Mr. Hale. SAC personnel then successfully used an automated external defibrillator to restart the man’s heart, and he was transported to the hospital. Lt. Tortora has worked at Sikorsky for 24 years and could not recall a successful CPR incident during this time. Mr. Lloyd said he was trained in CPR 15 years ago and had recently completed a two-week refresher course at Fort McCoy, Wisc., where he was preparing for a Contingency Contract Administration Services assignment. The training “helped me to react,” Mr. Lloyd said. “You cannot think,” you just have to act, he added. “If you don’t do it, somebody dies or is incapacitated for the rest of their life.” In addition to his training, Mr. Lloyd was a fire department volunteer in his native Colombia.

(Top) Mr. Willoughby Lloyd (2nd from right), DCMA Sikorsky program integrator, looks over the Sikorsky Rescue Award that he received on March 1 for performing lifesaving CPR. With him, from left: Mr. Joseph Perkins, Sikorsky Aircraft security director; Mr. John Wakefield, Sikorsky chief of health and safety; and Mr. Anthony Dynderski, Sikorsky Fire Department chief. Igor Sikorsky established the award in the 1950s, and approximately 31,000 rescuers have been honored since 1965. (Photo by Mr. Steven Kaufman, DCMA Sikorsky)

(Above) Mr. Willoughby Lloyd (left), DCMA Sikorsky program integrator, speaks with a cashier in the cafeteria at Sikorsky Aircraft, where he saved Mr. Hale’s life. (DCMA staff photo)

Mr. Lloyd has been a program integrator for the Navy’s MH-60R (Romeo) helicopter program since December 2004. Prior to this assignment, he spent two years as a quality assurance specialist in Israel. Mr. Lloyd joined the government in the early 1980s as a quality assurance representative for Defense Contract Administration Services. He joined DCMA Sikorsky in 1986, when the Agency was known as the Naval Plant Representative Office.

On Feb. 6, the SAC Fire Department honored Mr. Lloyd for his lifesaving effort, recognizing him in a ceremony and with a commemorative pin. Navy Capt. Dorothy J. Freer, DCMA Sikorsky commander, applauded her employee’s quick reaction: “Willoughby took the training he received and ran with it. He stepped up when he needed to, and, thanks to him, Mr. Hale is around today.”

“Life is a great adventure, and it is really a gift,” Mr. Lloyd said in an interview after his lifesaving event. Describing himself as having a “tremendous” interest in religions of the world, Mr. Lloyd expressed his desire to “do the best I can do in my time here.” Mr. Hale, his wife and son certainly received a precious gift from Mr. Lloyd.

