

PRESS RELEASE

THURLES ORDER OF MALTA LAUNCHES IRELAND'S FIRST MOBILE A&E UNIT

The Thurles Unit of the Order of Malta Ambulance Corps will launch the Corps' first mobile emergency unit at the Red Bull Airshow, to be held in Cashel, Co. Tipperary on Sunday next, 24th July 2005.

The unit, believed to be the first of its kind in Ireland, comprises a two-bedded examination and treatment suite and is equipped with piped oxygen and water, together with a defibrillator for the treatment of cardiac arrests. It also includes a communications centre and is powered by an on-board generator.

“The introduction of this unit allows the Order of Malta to establish a stand-alone triage and treatment centre at all major events where our members operate” said Lieut. Joe O’Halloran, Officer in Charge of Thurles Unit. “This frees up our ambulances for emergency response and allows for the continued cover at the event, should an ambulance be needed to convey seriously injured casualties onward to hospital from the event site”.

The Order of Malta is Ireland’s premier provider of voluntary first-aid, ambulance and community care services. It also provides first-aid training to the public and to industry. The Corps has over four thousand voluntary members and one hundred and thirty vehicles located in eighty communities throughout the thirty-two counties of Ireland. The Order of Malta will hold its national ‘Sticky Plaster Day’ on Friday, 23rd September next, to raise funds for its charitable works throughout Ireland.

ENDS

For further information on the above, please contact Asst. Commander John Medley, Regional Director, Munster Region at: 0504-23119 (Home); 061-488615 (Work); 087-2104551 (Mobile); e-mail: munster@orderofmalta.ie