



PRESS RELEASE

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KINGSTON AND SOUTH EAST COAST AMBULANCE SERVICE (SECamb) **TRAINS GIBRALTAR'S AMBULANCE SERVICE**

When the GHA took over the Ambulance service from St John in June last year, it committed itself to identify priorities and to set out a work plan for developing the service over the next 3 years. In December 2007, a course was delivered in Gibraltar by South East Coast Ambulance Service (SECamb) to qualify instructors on Automated External Defibrillation. Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in Europe. Passing a controlled electrical current with a defibrillator is a most effective therapy. If done within 3 to 5 minutes it increases the chances of survival by between 49 to 75%. Four local instructors have qualified in this valuable skill and will now be able to keep our ambulance crews continuously trained and updated in-house. The 4 local trainers are Michael Valarino, Darren Cerisola, John Segui and Paul Watson.

SECamb has returned to Gibraltar this week to carry out a Basic Skills Refresher Course for all our Emergency Ambulance Service Staff. The course is being conducted by Paramedics Malcolm Finn and David Fletcher and will cover Resuscitation, Airway Management, Patient Assessment as well as Trauma Assessment.

The Minister for Health, Yvette Del Agua has said: "the delivery of this course, together with the one held last December, recognises an important milestone, both for the successful participants and for the GHA's commitment to develop and improve the ambulance service and quality of patient care". Mrs Del Agua will be presenting Certificates of Achievement to the participants on Monday 17th March at 4.00 pm at St Bernard's Hospital.