

## 332<sup>nd</sup> EXPEDITIONARY MEDICAL GROUP



### MISSION

332nd Expeditionary Medical Group: The medical group provides a wide range of medical services to Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines throughout the Iraqi theater of operations. The group operates the Air Force Theater Hospital, the equivalent of a Level 1 trauma center, and sees more than 1,200 patients per month of which more than 650 are trauma cases. It also operates the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF), often described as a way station for strategic patient movement, which is responsible for propping patients for aeromedical evacuation out of theater. The medical group also runs the Air Force clinic, which is responsible for handling routine medical appointments for the Airmen assigned to JBB.

The most visible aspect of the medical group is the Air Force Theater Hospital (AFTH), a mission the Air Force assumed from the Army in September 2004. The AFTH is the equivalent of a Level I trauma center and provides medical care to all units on or around Balad Air Base, LSA Anaconda, and throughout the theater. It also serves as the inter- and intratheater aeromedical evacuation support hub. The AFTH provides medical services to US and Coalition military and civilians, contractors, Iraqi Army and police, Iraqi civilians and insurgents. The hospital has 18 intensive care unit (ICU) beds, 40 intermediate care ward beds and 6 operating room tables.

The hospital possesses the following specialties:

Anesthesia Cardio Thoracic Emergency Medicine Ear/Nose/Throat General Surgery

Neurosurgery

Nutritional Medicine Ophthalmology Oral Maxillofacial

Orthopedics Physical Therapy Radiology

Tumor Surgery Trauma/Critical Care Urology

Vascular Foot and Ankle Plastic Surgery

Clinical Psychology

It also provides the following mission support capabilities:

Radiology/CT Pharmacy Nutritional Medicine

Lab/Biological Assessment Medical Logistics Patient Administration

On average, the hospital sees more than 650 ER patients and performs more than 450 surgeries per month. Roughly 2/3 of the patients treated at the hospital are American while 1/3 are Iraqis.

The Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF) is often described as a way-station for strategic patient movement; an air passenger terminal for patients. Its mission is to ensure patients are prepared clinically and administratively for flight, cared for, staged, and expeditiously loaded onto aircraft. There is a full medical staff at the CASF comprised mostly of nurses and medical technicians. There is also a flight doctor on duty 24/7. When a medevac helicopter comes into the hospital, it is met by personnel from the CASF as well as the emergency department staff from the hospital. Patients who are stable are loaded on to a bus and transported to the CASF.

The CASF keeps patients for typically no more than 48 hours as flights are scheduled out of Balad to Ramstein Air Base, Germany. All patients leaving Iraq for more definitive care are routed through the Balad CASF. The CASF can handle multiple patient arrivals/departures, on fixed wing and rotary aircraft, as well as ground transport. The facility has 50 holding beds, expandable to almost 90. They have moved as many as 47 patients in a single mission, and provide care to all patients, from ambulatory to ventilated.

The CASF averages more than 500 patient aeromedical evacuations per month with an average of about 35 critical care patients per month.

The Air Force Clinic supports the deployed population at Balad with standard out-patient care. It averages about 700 visits per month.

Co-located with the clinic is an expeditionary aeromedical evacuation flight that is actually assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron. Regularly scheduled AE flights that arrive from Ramstein already have AE crews on them, but when unscheduled flights are generated for critical-need patients, the AE crews here are called into action. When necessary, these crews include a Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCAT), consisting of a flight doctor, flight nurse and respiratory therapist. These teams are responsible for caring for the most critical patients in flight -- those on ventilators, with chest tubes etc. who require immediate evacuation out of Iraq to a higher level care facility. In essence, aeromedical evacuation aircraft become flying intensive care units. Having the crews based here compliments the CASF mission, allowing the flexibility to be able to generate flights based on patient needs.

The 332nd EMDG is composed of approximately 300 staff members, primarily US Air Force and Army and provides the full spectrum of medical services to coalition forces across the Iraqi theater of operations. The 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group team includes:

42 Providers (37 AF and 5 Army)

307 Support Staff (AF)

24 Army Support Staff  
3 Marines Support Staff  
1 Navy Support Staff  
TOTAL: 377 STAFF

#### **LINEAGE**

332<sup>nd</sup> Expeditionary Medical Group

#### **STATIONS**

Balad, Iraq

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

332<sup>nd</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing

#### **COMMANDERS**

#### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

#### **EMBLEM**

Azure, on a fess nebuly Or, a panther passant Sable, armed and incensed Gules, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "332D EXPEDITIONARY MEDICAL GROUP" in Blue letters.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The panther symbolizes the Squadron's strength, dedication and devotion to duty. The flames emitting from its mouth represent the unit's capability to accomplish the Air Force mission worldwide. The blue and yellow nebule connotes day and night operations.

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.