

37 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION GROUP



MISSION

The wartime mission of this unit is to administer and operate an integrated aeromedical evacuation from an airhead or an airborne objective area where airborne operations include air-landed logistical support by the Air Force. The 37th AEG can set up a complete tactical aeromedical evacuation system. The unit is authorized 230 doctors, nurses, medical technicians and communications specialists.

LINEAGE

37 Aeromedical Evacuation Group
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

MacDill AFB, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

94 Airlift Wing

COMMANDERS

Col James T. Pate, 21 Sep 1992
Col Richard H. Burwell
Col James R. Fishcelli, 26 Jan 1982

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



37 Aeromedical Evacuation Group emblem: Azure, a stylized winged staff entwined by two serpents gules, overall a unicorn's head couped proper; all within a diminished border or. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of personnel in their assigned tasks. The unicorn, whose horn was regarded as a cure for many diseases and an antidote against poisons, also signifies speed, and represents the way the group carries out its mission to establish an aeromedical evacuation system wherever a requirement exists. The caduceus, a symbol for medicine, further indicates the Group's basic mission of medical aid. (Approved, 12 Dec 1984)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

October 25—November 19: In Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, flight nurses and aerovac technicians from the 1st AES, Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina, along with reserve flight nurses from the 37th Aeromedical Evacuation Group, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and the 31st AES, Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, evacuated 159 injured soldiers to Puerto Rico and the United States in twenty-three missions. 1983

Recent major exercises have shown the unit's high state of readiness. One, a joint Reserve/National Guard exercise, was entirely planned and carried out by the 37th AEG. Called REX AMETHYST '80, it brought together, at MacDill AFB, Fla., 300 people from Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps units in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Pennsylvania. The day-long event was the first of its kind in Reserve and Guard history.

Another significant exercise was the Air Force Reserve-wide PAID REDOUBT '80 at Volk Field, Wis.

in June 1980. The 37th set up a complete TAES and evacuated 125 simulated patients. They also played a major role in the 1981 PAID REDOUBT exercise at Westover AFB, Mass.

1982/1983 The 37th Aeromedical Evacuation Group, MacDill AFB, Fla set up and evaluated a wartime readiness test of nearly 500 medics in units of the 94th Tactical Airlift Wing. The weekend exercise entitled. Condor Samaritan, involved units in four states. Eight different aeromedical evacuation and tactical hospital units at Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Wright-Patterson and Rickenbacker AFBs, Ohio; MacDill, and here, treated and airlifted 60 patients under simulated battlefield conditions. More than 250 people participated in the exercise from active Air Force units, the Army National Guard, the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve. Aircraft used included C-7s, C-130s and one C-141. The Army Reserve also provided two UH-1 helicopters to move 20 patients on short flights within the base here. The 20 volunteer patients from the 80th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron were moulaged to simulate the results of a mortar attack. Medical personnel from the 94th Tactical Hospital here treated the worst wounds on the spot and then moved everyone by helicopter to a temporary combat support hospital. From this set-up tent, surgery and stabilization were simulated. Then, patients were loaded aboard copters for a short flight to the Mobile Aerial Staging Facility. The 64th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight attended the victims and prepared them for flights to larger hospitals. At MacDill, the exercise required a response to a chemical warfare attack, while at Rickenbacker some patients were taken to Wright-Patterson and airlifted out on a C-141.

During 1983, the 37th Aeromedical Evacuation Group continued to occupy and utilize Building 717, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, for offices and classrooms as well as storage space for radio and aerospace ground equipment. Nearby Building 721, a 40' X 100' warehouse facility, accommodated the unit's palletized mobility equipment. A 68-car parking lot and fenced military vehicle compound were also utilized during the period. Replacement purchases of office desks and chairs as well as student desks enhanced the appearance of the facility's interior. Plans for major renovation/expansion of Building 717, an additional 40' X 100' warehouse facility, and modification of POV and military parking were finalized with the MCP project to begin in March or April 1984.

Crested Eagle 84: This Command Post Exercise (CPX) was designed to test the combat capability of the Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation System (TAES) to respond to the user service's requirement to evacuate large numbers of patients from within a combat zone. Crested Eagle 84 was conducted in Germany at classified designated sites between 7 March 1984 and 15 March 1984. Three Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Teams (AELTs) and one Aeromedical Evacuation Control Center (AECC) were deployed. Three medical service corps officers and five radio operators from the unit participated. Crested Eagle 84 was considered a success whereby all training objectives/goals were achieved.

Blue Flag 84-3: This Command Post Exercise (CPX) was designed to train assigned personnel in command, control, and communications procedures in support of contingency combat operations. Aeromedical Evacuation operations were a small part of this joint forces exercise. Blue Flag 84-3 was held 12 - 20 June 1984 at Hurlburt Field, Florida. The exercise involved active

duty, reserve and guard personnel in a simulation play of a real-world contingency. One medical service corps officer from the unit participated. Blue Flag 84-3 was considered an excellent training opportunity for the aeromedical participants. Lt Col Clement H. White received special recognition for his involvement.

LOGEX 84: This was a Department of the Army sponsored, JCS coordinated exercise for U.S. Army Forces with participation by Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and NATO/ALLIED personnel. This Command Post Exercise (CPX) held at Fort Pickett, Virginia, from 8-20 July 1984 was carried out to train assigned personnel in command, control, and communications procedures for Army Corps level combat service support operations in a European combat and communications zone scenario. Aeromedical evacuation operations were part of the MAC airlift play and involved active duty, reserve, and guard personnel in the simulation of a real-world contingency. LOGEX 84 was another very valuable training opportunity. Lt Col Clement H. White, MSgt Llewellyn J. Cook and TSgt Lawrence A. Vaden received special letters of appreciation for their roles in making the exercise a success.

Wounded Eagle III: The exercise took place 4-22 September 1984. The mission of the 37th Aeromedical Evacuation Group in participating in exercise Wounded Eagle III was to demonstrate its combat readiness. Exercise Wounded Eagle was to be an expanded version of Wounded Eagle II, held in the same area (Fort A.P. Hill, VA) as in 1983. Though Strategic Aeromedical Evacuation (AE) interface was not included this year, there was to be considerable expansion in the number of operational days and a tripling of projected patient movement. Obtainment of mission objectives was to be accomplished by Integrating all elements of the Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation System (TAES) into a combat medical scenario. Sixty-nine-unit medical personnel augmented by an inflight medical team from each of the following participating Aeromedical Evacuation Flights: 35 AEF (Maxwell AFB, AL), 60 AEF (Andrews AFB MD), 64 AEF (Dobbins AFB, GA) and the 67 AEF (Rickenbacker ANGB, OH), were to combine resources with other Air Force, Army, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve supporting forces during the 11-day employment phase of the exercise. Wounded Eagle III was considered a quasi-success in that all training objectives/goals were achieved except for the completion of air-ground operations and the testing of the system under surge conditions.

REFORGER 84: This exercise was conducted during the period 27 September 1984 to 7 October 1984 in Germany. One medical service corps officer, one medical materiel supervisor, one radio operator, two flight nurses and 12 medical technicians from the unit participated. This operation was designed to exercise the capability of the 1st Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron (AES), Pope AFB, NC and attached AFRES and ANG units in deploying and operating a Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation System Two (TAES-2) during a contingency situation. Unit reservists were tasked to augment the 1st Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron during Phase II of the operation. REFORGER 84 achieved all the training goals and objectives established for members who participated. It was an invaluable experience for everyone involved and served to improve the mobility capability of this unit. The training and support provided to the members of this unit by the 1st AES was outstanding and appreciated.

The 37th Aeromedical Evacuation Group staged a Tactical Aeromedical Training Center (TATC) at Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina during the period 20 - 22 March 1984. A total of 43 students from one active-duty unit, two Air National Guard units and ten reserve units participated in the TATC. The 37 AEG provided 26 instructor/support staff personnel for this session.

1984 Management of the 37th Aeromedical Evacuation Group showed significant improvement during the year. Officers and NCOs were assigned duties and responsibilities commensurate with their levels of training and experience in an effort to maximize management potential. Considerable command emphasis was placed on the importance of group regulations, operating instructions and job descriptions. During the year, the unit received its authorized word processor and AFORMS computer which have greatly assisted in the efficiency and production rates of administrative functions. Utilization of this specialized equipment has also greatly reduced costs.

Selected unit reservists received special recognition in the October 1984 Gulf Coast Edition of the Florida Nursing News. The article depicted challenges faced by Air Force Reserve flight nurses of today.

In September 1984, the unit participated in an aeromedical evacuation training mission to Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland in support of the Florida Guard Reserve Employer Support Program whereby 40 civic leaders and employers of reservists throughout the State of Florida were flown to and from Washington, D.C., on the AE training mission to attend briefings at the Pentagon.

1984 The unit continued its on-going support of Boy Scout Troop 26, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, which it has been a chartered sponsor of the past three years. The unit continued its on-going community service project of supporting the Faith Children's Home (orphanage) with donations of needed food, clothing, linen, toilet articles and toys.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.