

74 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

74 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight

Constituted, activated, and allotted to the Air Force Reserve

Activated, 1 Jan 1967

Redesignated 74 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

STATIONS

Westover Air Force Base, 1 Jan 1967

ASSIGNMENTS

905 Military Airlift Group

COMMANDERS

Maj Kenneth J. Woitkowski

Major Luis Torres

Lt Col Joseph Curley, 1987

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



The emblem is symbolic of the flight unit, represented by a pair of stylized white wings, on an ultramarine blue background (the sky), dominating the central portion of the disc. Above the wings is an armored hand facing dexter, shaded tints of blue, and holding a red cross, trimmed white, standing for the humanitarian support rendered by the unit and the saving of life. The white symbolizes the means and the Air Force. Below the wings is shown water of deep (Prussian) blue with seven waved peaks, representing the seven day week mission of the unit. Around the disc is a white border, standing for purity, cleanliness, etc. There are two white scrolls trimmed red, the one below the disc for the unit designation, the one above contains the unit motto in blue letters; The Helping Hand.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The proposed downgrading of the 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron to a flight could force as many as 93 reservists in critical fields out of the Reserve, according to two officers in the unit. A critical shortage of nurses is sweeping the nation, and the military is not immune. According to the Department of Defense, the biggest shortfall is in the Reserves. Not surprising, because 93 percent of the air evacuation crews are in the air reserve forces. If the downgrading of the 74th is approved, reducing the squadron to a flight will be accomplished through attrition, said Maj. Tom Morrill, ART nurse for the 74th AES. "Over a period of years, many of (those who will lose their slots) will look for positions with other Reserve units," such as Maguire AFB or Hanscom AFB, he said. But most of those who will be looking for new slots with other units are senior NCOs and field grade officers, said Capt. David Zamorski, ART operations officer for the 74th. New units may not be willing to absorb them, and have them compete for promotions with those already in the unit, he said. "We suspect most of those

affected by the downgrading will get out of the Reserve system," Captain Zamorski said. The loss of these skilled nurses and medical technicians will add to an already severe problem. In a recent report to Congress by William Mayer, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, he said the Department of Defense does not have enough trained medical professionals. Despite recent recruiting and retention efforts, the Reserves alone have a shortage of about 31,000 nurses. "What we're looking at is losing a lot of valuable, key people from the Reserve," Captain Zamorski said. If the downgrading goes through as proposed, the squadron would lose 26 of its 50 nurses, and 67 of its 107 air evacuation medical technicians, he said. The reason for the proposed downgrading is the conversion from C-130s to C-5s. The 74th AES is required to perform training flights aboard a C-130. With the conversion, the unit "will no longer have the necessary equipment to support the training exercises," Major Morrill said. The possibility exists for the 74th to obtain C-130s for training from other units, such as Pittsburgh or Niagara, but "it would be very difficult," Major Morrill said. "We would have to go through the AFRES allocation board and compete for flying time with every other air evacuation unit in the country," he said. There are seven other air evac units on the East Coast alone, he said. 1987

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.