

97 AEROMEDICAL-DENTAL SQUADRON



MISSION

The 97 Aeromedical-Dental Squadron consists of 16 officers and 39 enlisted and civilian support personnel. It is made up of six flights whose mission supports the 97 Air Mobility Wing and the Altus Air Force Base community with comprehensive, top-quality, cost-effective, prevention-oriented health services. Coordinating all medical care for permanent party and TDY flyers, the squadron provides optometry, wellness, and dental services to all eligible beneficiaries. It promotes public health and environmental safety for Altus AFB and the community, ensuring occupational health and maximum operational readiness of 97 AMW personnel.

The dental flight provides timely, quality dental care to active duty members, ensuring the maximum number are world-wide qualified and mission ready at all times. Various dental services are provided ranging from preventive dentistry to comprehensive care including endodontics, prosthodontics, operative dentistry, and oral surgery. The dental clinic is located in Building 47, which was built in 1973 and underwent a major renovation in 1995, including an addition covering 1,800 square feet.

The flight medicine flight consists of three elements: flight medicine clinic, physical exams, and optometry. Flight medicine clinic has four flight surgeons and three technicians who are responsible for maintaining the health of aircrew members. The physical exams element processes annual physicals for each flyer. The optometry clinic ensures that every flyer who needs visual correction is properly examined and fitted with approved glasses.

Health promotion flight is located at the base fitness center and consists of a health promotion officer and three medical technicians. Health promotion provides base-wide awareness of habits and ideas which all members can use to improve and maintain their health. This includes classes on diet, exercise, smoking cessation, and general health questions.

The public health flight inspects for, tracks, and employs public health strategies to keep the base free of communicable diseases. This means inspecting all food that is sold and all facilities that provide food on base along with interviewing patients with communicable diseases to locate a source. For deployments, public health provides briefings to help airmen avoid the dangers to health that may be lurking in a new environment.

Bioenvironmental engineering flight surveys for environmental hazards such as drinking water pollutants, radiation emissions, fume and solvent contamination.

The readiness flight supports the mission by preparing hospital personnel for contingency support. The mobility and immunizations sections ensure all members are ready with all supplies and immunizations.

LINEAGE

97 Aeromedical-Dental Squadron, 19 Aug 1997

STATIONS

Altus AFB, OK

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Jeff R. Macpherson, 8 Jul 1999-1 Jul 2001

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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