

EHRLING BERGQUIST USAF REGIONAL HOSPITAL



Changes were not limited to construction exclusively; organizational changes also occurred during the decade. One significant change early in the decade occurred in 1966, when the 865th Medical Group at Offutt was redesignated as the Ehrling Bergquist USAF Regional Hospital and formal ceremonies were held on 28 July. Colonel Ehrling Bergquist was a former Command Surgeon of SAC who lost his life in an airplane crash near Offutt in 1949. With the end of the draft in 1973, there was a shortage of physicians at Offutt AFB and, to satisfy the need for competent medical care to military members and their dependents, the base hospital adopted the use of physician assistants and dental assistants. The specially trained enlisted assistants, along with more highly trained nurses and clinicians performed many of the routine medical tasks previously accomplished only by one of the professionals. And even more progressive in the eyes of some, the commander of the E B USAF Regional Hospital recommended to HQ SAC that the Air Force contract with civilian physicians to fill the positions in the emergency and acute illness sections, thereby alleviating the already heavy workload of the military doctors so they could work more in their areas of specialization. This plan would allow the patients to benefit from the specialized knowledge of the physicians and would hopefully result in a higher level of morale for the overworked doctors. But, even with the new "physician extenders" and the plan for future care, medical treatment for many retired members in the nearby communities had to be curtailed because of the doctor shortage.

The 865th Medical Group was redesignated as the Ehrling Bergquist USAF Regional Hospital.
15 JUL 1966

LINEAGE

Ehrling Bergquist USAF Hospital
Ehrling Bergquist Strategic Hospital
Ehrling Bergquist USAF Regional Hospital

STATIONS

Offutt AFB, NE

ASSIGNMENTS**COMMANDERS****HONORS**

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM**EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE****MOTTO****NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources