

109th AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



LINEAGE

109th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight received federal recognition, 1 Jun 1961

STATIONS

St. Paul, MN

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Henry T. Capiz, #1971

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The mission of the 109th AEF was to provide transportation and care for sick and wounded in the safest manner and in the shortest possible time. The 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron provides quality patient care and timely movement of casualties during wartime and peacetime operations. Using military and civilian aircraft the 109th, made up of more than 110 airmen, transport patients to airfields near designated health care facilities.

The Berlin crisis brought the unit to active federal service on 1 Oct 1961. Training and recruiting of airmen and nurses became the paramount concern. However, a shortage of Air Force school spaces forced a majority of in-flight medical training and OJT to be done by the organization itself. In 1962, the first actual aeromedical evacuation missions were flown. Every member of the unit rotated on flights with the 11th AMES at Scott AFB. Concurrently, actual missions were flown overseas with the 1457th AMTS at Rhein Main AB, Germany. Training had progressed to the point that by June everyone was confident that the unit, if called upon could perform its mission adequately. On 1 Sep 1962, the unit returned to state control after 11 months of federal service.

During Feb 1964, the 109th AEF, participated in a five day training period at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. During the spring, the entire flight received inflight evacuation training in the C-118.

The next two years saw the AEF housed in the same building as the Squadron headquarters. The manning level was down and the activities of the flight and Squadron headquarters were collective "aeromed" efforts.

With the deactivation of the 133d Squadron Headquarters the 109th AMEF received additional personnel to fill vacancies. Capt. Henry T. Capiz former squadron commander, became the flight commander.

In September 1967, the Hospital Inservice Education Program was initiated at Ramsey County Hospital, St. Paul. The program provided airmen the opportunity to work in surgery, medical service, the psychiatric section, and emergency rooms, and supplemented this work with classroom seminars.

In 1968, the mission of the flight attained global stature with the first of many subsequent aeromedical evacuation flights in support of the Vietnam effort.

Since September 11, 2001, the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has flown in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Jumpstart in locations such as Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Arizona, Germany, Iraq, Kuwait, Djibhuti, Oman, Qatar, and Afghanistan to just name a few. The 109th assisted with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort by flying aeromedical missions to and from New Orleans in September, 2005. Missions have ranged from the retrieval of the remains to comprehensive inter-theater patient movement, in-flight patient care and aeromedical communications systems management.

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources