

349 AEROMEDICAL STAGING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

349 Aeromedical Staging Squadron constituted, 9 Sep 1994
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Travis AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

349 Medical Group, 1 Oct 1994

COMMANDERS

Col Debora Esque
Lt Col Timothy L. Brininger, 1 Dec 2012
Col John W. Batcheller

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[1 Oct] 1994 - 15 Aug 1995

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Aug 2000-31 Jul 2002

16 Aug 2003-17 Aug 2004

18 Aug 2004-17 Aug 2005

18 Aug 2005-17 Aug 2006

18 Aug 2006-17 Aug 2007

18 Aug 2007-17 Aug 2008

18 Aug 2008-17 Aug 2009

30 Sep 2009-30 Sep 2011

1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2013

1 Oct 2013-31 Dec 2014

EMBLEM

A gules cross is centered on an ultramarine azure disc. A sable caduceus is centered vertically on the cross. An air force or lightning bolt encircles the cross from sinister chief to the base of the disc. A vert olive branch with 16 equally spaced leaves surrounds the cross from dexter chief to the base. The disc is bordered with air force or. Vert scrolls are attached above and below the disc. The scrolls are bordered also with air force or. The scroll above is blank. The one below is lettered with or and bears the unit's motto: "worldwide care." **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and air force yellow are used in the design. Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of air force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of air force personnel. The red cross is the international symbol of humanitarian and medical aid. The caduceus refers to the skills required of the medical profession. The lightning bolt symbolizes the swift response capability of the unit. The olive branch alludes to medical care provided during times of peace as well as war. All elements reflect the unit's motto: "worldwide care"



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Members of the 349 Aeromedical Staging Squadron from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., continue to blur the line between Reservists' and active-duty member's contributions to the Air Force mission. During their annual tour in May- June this year, they worked side-by-side with members of the 51st Medical Support Squadron, Osan Air Base, South Korea, to assemble a 50-bed Contingency Air Staging Facility. "This training has been key for us because most of our folks, when they deploy, arrive at an already setup site, unless they're the 'tip of the spear' or first in," said Col. Deborah Aspling, 349 ASTS commander. "This training prepares them to be able go in first and establish those forward locations.

This has given them not only an opportunity to open up those kits and see what's inside of them but understand the inventory, to train on the inventory and setup the CASF facility." Setting up a CASF is definitely no small feat; the whole process needs to be done annually and can take three to four weeks to finish. The active duty staff at the 51st MDSS, where the kits are stored, welcomed the reserve members' hard work and dedication in meeting the requirements for this huge task. "I've been extremely impressed with their motivation, they're very very hard working," said Tech. Sgt. Drew Robinson, 51st MDSS, Medical War Readiness Materials supervisor.

"They took almost three weeks off the time it takes to complete this task, that's tremendous help!" Also helping make sure the "tent raising" ran smoothly were two experts in assembling the Alaska small shelter system: Tech. Sgt. Marc Paradis, Biomedical Equipment Repair, 36th Medical Group, Andersen AFB, Guam, and Staff Sgt. Alexander Putnam, 349 Medical Group bioenvironmental technician, Travis AFB. Their job was to instruct on tent setup, inventorying and properly repackaging the eight kits that make up a 50-bed CASF. They also provided guidance to inventory and repack kits for additional 50-bed CASF.

Once the one 50-bed CASF, Quonsethut shaped tents connected by vestibules, was assembled, the inside was configured to an “open for business” status, including a medical ward, pharmacy, medical logistics and mental health ward. Then almost 200 medical staff from the Osan AB hospital were invited to tour the facility, many of whom had not seen a CASF before. Members of the Travis team put on their instructor hats and were stationed throughout the facility, standing ready to explain what happens when this facility comes alive in locations such as inside combat zones or during humanitarian operations. So what does happens inside the CASF? In the big picture of saving lives, the mission of the ASTS is sort of like running a large waiting room for patients.

They may have arrived after being treated at an Army field hospital but need to be transported to a facility that has a higher level of medical care. While they wait for the next flight out, nurses in the ASTS provide continuous care insuring the patients are stabilized. Staff also prepare patients for the flight, transport them to the aircraft and at the aircraft, they skillfully and quickly deliver their precious cargo safely into the hands of the Aeromedical evacuation team waiting on the aircraft.

To make sure the Travis team got the most from this time, they also completed ancillary training including a self-aid buddy care and chemical warfare field training exercise, getting practice in treating and transporting wounded individuals while in their “chem gear.” The group worked hard but also created a fun environment by encouraging camaraderie, friendly competition and team work during their time at Osan. To help keep everyone’s spirits up they divided the group into four teams: red, blue, yellow and green. And the challenge, full of good humor, between the teams began as team mascots and colors began to appear in the form of a blue flag, red pom poms, and Soju, the dancing stuffed giraffe.

One member of the team was Senior Master Sgt. Jim Majors, 1st Sgt. for the 349 ASTS, who recently moved to Massachusetts, so this was his last assignment with the squadron. Sergeant Majors made sure everyone had water and routinely handed out snacks as the days grew hot and the tasks sometimes stretched out passed normal duty hours. And he was constantly vigilant as the group’s “safety conscience.” “This has been great opportunity to get to know members in our squadron on a higher level than on Unit Training Assemblies,” said Senior Airmen Gwen Bassett, Health Services with the 349 ASTS.

Organizing this trip took many people including Col. Debora Esque, an Individual Mobilization Augmentee Reserve medical liaison officer with the Pacific Air Forces. She worked with several people from the 349 ASTS including Maj. Cheryl Spray, Health Administrator; Capt. Jessica Arcilla, Medical Services Administration and Master Sgt. Christy Hunter, Education and Training Manager. 2008

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