

349th AIR EVACUATION GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

349th Air Evacuation Group activated, 6 Oct 1942
Disbanded, 25 Jun 1943

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Charging the 349th Air Evacuation Group with the mission of training personnel for air evacuation operations indicated recognition by the Air Surgeon of the need for specialized training for such work. Despite the fact that it was not to be used in the theaters of operations as originally anticipated, the 349th continued in existence as a training school until June 1943. At that time the Air Forces established a School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field, Kentucky.

The 349th Air Evacuation Group at first consisted of a headquarters squadron and one heavy squadron. In November, when a light squadron and two additional heavy squadrons were activated and assigned to it, the 349th Air Evacuation Group was given the mission of training personnel for air evacuation operations. Meanwhile, the Air Staff had decided that transport planes would not be earmarked for evacuation only and that small ambulance airplanes would not be provided for use in forward areas. This decision cut short the life of the squadrons just activated because it destroyed the basic concept underlying their formation.

With the decision to consider air evacuation as a secondary mission of planes engaged in general transport service, a different kind of organization was needed. The Air Surgeon therefore developed a smaller unit, the Medical Air Evacuation Transport Squadron (MAETS). In December 1942 members of the three heavy air evacuation squadrons already activated were used to form six medical air evacuation transport squadrons. The next month the light air evacuation squadron was disbanded and its personnel were absorbed by the 349th Air Evacuation Group.

February 18 1943: The first class of flight nurses graduated from the 349th Air Evacuation Group at Bowman Field, Kentucky. The first flight nurse ever awarded flight nurse wings was Lt. Geraldine Dishroon-Brier.

On June 25, 1943, the 349th was disbanded and replaced by the Army Air Forces School of Air Evacuation under the administration of the 1st Troop Carrier Command, Indianapolis.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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