

# 920 AEROMEDICAL STAGING SQUADRON



## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

920 Aeromedical Staging Squadron constituted, 1 Apr 1997  
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Apr 1997

## **STATIONS**

Patrick AFB, FL, 15 Apr 1997

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

920 Rescue Group, 15 Apr 1997

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Lewis D. Neace  
Col Corey L. Anderson

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Sep 1997-31 Aug 1999

## **EMBLEM**



Azure, the head of a bald eagle with sinister wing displayed in chief Proper above a pair of hands affronte in fess Buff detailed Blue overall and above the hands an escutcheon blazoned: Argent (Silver Gray ) the Staff of Aesculapius, staff Sable, snake of the field; all within a diminished bordure of the first. Attached below the disc a Silver Gray scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed " 920th AEROMEDICAL STAGING SQ " in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The eagle is a national symbol and reflects the unit's total commitment to preserve the peace. The escutcheon denotes the medical profession and the Squadron's specialized medical support. The hands are symbolic of the caring and nurturing abilities of unit personnel. (Approved, 8 May 1998)

The ultramarine blue field represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. The Gray represents the humility of mankind, to which the 920 ASTS provides life-saving medical treatment to US Forces and all those in need. The Rod of Asclepius (Black, Brown, and AF Yellow), represents the life-saving power of the 920 ASTS and the USAF Medical Service as a whole. The brown represents the earth, to which the 920 ASTS can respond anywhere at any time across the globe. The AF Yellow represents the lightning-speed to which the 920 ASTS and USAF can rapidly respond to in any mission. The White/Angel wings represents the purity of freedom, and the charity of life from the care provided by the 920 ASTS when personnel are "Under Our Wing."

#### **MOTTO**

CORNU NOSTRUM--Under Our Wing

#### **OPERATIONS**

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFNS) -- More than 250 military medics from 12 units across the country converged at the 920th Rescue Wing for a joint medical exercise February 27 through March 5 to hone their capabilities for real-world wartime emergencies. The 920th Aeromedical Staging Squadron hosted the fifth annual MEDBEACH, a joint service exercise, to prepare military medical personnel for deployments by offering realistic hands-on scenarios

one could encounter during combat. The exercise also provided 920th RQW reservists an opportunity to work hand-in-hand with their active duty Air Force, Air and Army National Guard and civilian counterparts.

“This exercise reinforces the total-force concept between services and within our own unit,” said Maj. Stephen Grant, the 920th RQW ASTS training coordinator and a Jacksonville, Florida, native. “We try to mimic the most realistic situations possible during the exercise so our troops can walk into a deployment confident in their own skills, and the skills of those deployed with them.”

MEDBEACH 2017 is designed not only to provide realistic training, but to do it on a budget that saves taxpayers up to \$2 million by having military train military. Cost-saving comes naturally to this exercise because one weekend of intense training fulfills several annual training requirements which normally require Airmen to travel to different locations at different times throughout the year. This year’s participants will receive up to 60 hours of combat readiness medical evacuation credit and full-scale exercise credit.

Medics from the 45th Space Wing also participated in the simulated wartime training. “We don’t have medical deployments here; we run a clinic,” said Col. Julie Stola, the 45th Medical Group commander. “From the active duty perspective, the reservists do their jobs all the time. This is why we rely on the total-force adage.” Grant echoed the importance of the total-force concept of the different components working together. “The working relationship among the 45th SW and 920th RQW is imperative, so it’s a no-brainer that we should also train together,” Grant said.

The work-together, train-together sentiment was the thread that wound its way through the entire exercise. An C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and an Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter transported battlefield-injured service members. Utilized in this year’s exercise, was a state-of-the-art machine called the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation machine, more commonly referred to as ECMO, and with it came a specialized team from the San Antonio Military Medical Center in Texas.

“This machine is amazing,” Grant said. “It takes a patient that would otherwise die from significant trauma to the lungs due to a blast, infections, etc., and allows the lungs to rest by circulating blood through an artificial lung and back into the bloodstream.” It’s a cradle-to-grave technology because the machine can save a life at any age, Grant said. The MEDBEACH coordinator noted that the exercise’s hands-on nature is what makes it so valuable.

“These exercises require out-of-box thinking and the ability to work under pressure,” Grant said, “just as they would face downrange.” The steps taken during wartime injuries are clear, but not always concise. From the time of injury, it’s a rush to get that patient off the battlefield and to the care they desperately need. The minute a service member is injured, first aid is administered on site, while a call for help is dispatched to the nearest rescue facility. Then, a recovery unit is sent to pick up the patient – usually a rescue helicopter – and take them to the closest combat hospital where they are handed to medics to determine their needs. Depending on that outcome, they are treated and either sent back to the United States for continuing care, or back to duty.

Combat survival rate is more than 90 percent due to an efficient patient-movement

system, Grant said. But due to fiscal constraints and limited manpower, it can be a challenge to keep medical Airmen trained on the latest and greatest. “We have a lot of corporate knowledge here, and a lot of Airmen who have never deployed,” said Lt. Col. Corey Anderson, the 920th ASTS commander. “These are the most realistic scenarios most of them will see before an actual deployment. I’m impressed at how well we make realistic training for our members here. It’s exciting to be able to provide these realistic training opportunities to our Airmen.”

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources

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