

21st MEDICAL SERVICE SQUADRON



MISSION

21st Medical Service Squadron was an 85-person organization is made up of doctors and nurses who train at the Patrick hospital. This increased medical capability provides the Air Force Reserve with wartime surge capability and additional service to patients during peacetime training.

Wartime mission was to provide manpower augmentation to perform medical treatment in emergency medical facilities as a result of wartime activities or civilian contingencies. By providing manpower to augment the surgical and medical treatment capability of an established medical unit. Peacetime mission was Provides training of manpower and complete medical readiness program.

LINEAGE¹

21st Medical Service Squadron (Wartime Personnel Hospital) constituted and activated, 4 Mar 1964

Organized in the Reserve, 8 Mar 1964

Inactivated, 31 Jan 1973

Redesignated 21st Medical Service Squadron, 22 Feb 1982

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Mar 1982

STATIONS

Westover Air Force Base, 8 Mar 1964-31 Jan 1973

Patrick AFB, FL, 1 Mar 1982

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

ASSIGNMENTS

Continental Air Command 4 Mar 1964
2491st Air Force Reserve Sector, 8 Mar 1964
First Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Jul 1965
Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969-31 Jan 1973
94th Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Mar 1982

COMMANDERS

Maj (Dr.) Fabio Cabrera-Mendez
Maj Gerard A. O'Connor
Lt Col Theodore E. Lefton, 16 Jul 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a blue disc, in dexter chief a staff of Aesculapius silver gray, serpent scarlet detailed black; in sinister chief four scarlet flight symbols bend sinisterwise each issuing a silver gray contrail arcing and conjoining in base, surmounting a green demiglobe grid lined silver-gray issuing from base; all within a narrow scarlet inner border and a narrow black border. Attached below the disc a yellow scroll edged with a narrow black border. **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 staff of Aesculapius, mythological god of medicine, symbolizes the medical mission. The aircraft reflect the transport of medical services to the four points of the compass (worldwide). The red circle and aircraft represent the blood of life. Green symbolizes adaptability, hope, and life, essential elements of the Squadron and its work. (Approved, 15 Apr 1988)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

In March 1984, they moved the squadron from a trailer parked behind the base hospital into the hospital facility itself, providing increased space and the opportunity for a closer working relationship with the full-time hospital people.

1984 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: The following activities were performed with support of the active duty mission:

Immunizations: 1294

Physical Exams: 372

Lab procedures: 208

Eye Exams 372

Medical Support of Space Shuttle Launch 2

Annual training was held in two increments at Keesler AFB, MS: 11-25 Feb 84 and 23 June - 7 July 1984.

Conducted school physicals, examination clinics, for active duty dependent children in August and September. Held annual influenza immunization clinic for retired personnel, 1984

Ten members of the 21st Medical Service Squadron, Patrick AFB, Fla., participated in a United States Central Command sponsored exercise called Gallant Eagle 88, held at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms, Calif. The objective of Gallant Eagle 88 was the movement of forces using the joint deployment system, followed by a rapid set-up for combat operations. The 21st MSES Reserve member's role was to exercise their wartime medical skills in a simulated-wartime desert environment. More than 28,000 military personnel participated in the exercise

1989 Total Force took on a special meaning during March for the members of the 21st Medical Service Squadron, Patrick AFB, Fla., who took part in the largest military exercise in the free world - Team Spirit 89. Arriving at Kimhae Air Base, Republic of Korea, the Reserve medics had the challenging mission of setting up and placing in operation the 250-bed 68th Contingency Hospital. "This hospital is the first of its kind anywhere in the world," said an Air Force exercise evaluator. He explained that the hospital is designed to provide more in depth treatment than is possible in the Army's mobile surgical hospitals. He added that the contingency hospital was built specifically for use in combat zones. The day after the 21st MSES arrived in Korea they teamed up with personnel from Luke AFB, Ariz., and Offutt AFB, Neb. Together they set up the beds, gathered supplies and prepared the necessary paperwork to receive casualties. Litter teams were set up to move the 20-to 40-patients who arrived daily at the airfield. In add realism, the medics were informed that 20 patients were enroute from Taegu. The litter teams boarded a pair of ambuses - specially modified buses designed to carry litter patients and beaded to the airfield. Moments after the plane landed, the ambuses moved in close and the medics helped the simulated injured on board. As the patients were transported to the ambus and then to the aeromedical staging facility, Reserve medical personnel closely watched the victims, making sure that they survived the final leg of their trip. Once they arrived at the ASF the patients were categorized according to the seriousness of their injuries. Those who needed immediate treatment were quickly moved to the emergency room while the less badly injured were moved to special wards. In the end all of the patients were released from the ASF and shuttled back to the airfield for the trip home. Keeping themselves alive as well as their patients was also stressed for the reservists. The medics took training to survive enemy chemical attacks and had training on the Geneva Convention. Turn about is fair play so part way through the training the medics boarded a plane for Yokota AB, Japan as patients. On arrival the medics were "healed" and returned to their role providing emergency care. Four days latter the Marines "landed," arriving with 75 patients in need of treatment. The "mass casualty" exercise required each man to be processed through the ASF and

given proper treatment After a night's rest, they were all classified as "Return to Duty status and returned to their unit. Having successfully handled the mass casualty exercise, the members of the 21st MSES ended their participation in Team Spirit '89 and returned to Patrick AFB.