

31 SURGICAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The 31 Surgical Operational Squadron optimizes medical readiness for 31 Fighter Wing and units located throughout the Southern European Theater by providing episodic and specialized treatment in the maintenance of the health, fitness and wellness of more than 8,700 beneficiaries. It offers obstetrical/surgical specialty care and inpatient clinical care services to support the primary care mission, and utilizes internal, Department of Defense and Host Nation assets to ensure a worldwide deployable fighting force.

The 31 Surgical Operations Squadron is made up of three flights: Surgical Services, Multi-Service Inpatient Unit, and Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN). The Surgical Services Flight consists of the general surgery, orthopedics, ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialties which operate in a three-room state-of-the-art operating suite comprised of nurse anesthetists, operating room nurses and surgical technicians and a Same Day Surgical Unit. The OB/GYN flight opened a modern Women's Health Clinic in March of 2008 and cares for a wide variety of women's health issues including complete obstetrical care and gynecology care to care of the menopausal woman. The Multi-service Inpatient Flight supports an inpatient census up to 11 patients, offering inpatient treatment of surgical, medical, pediatric, and psychiatric conditions.

LINEAGE

31 Surgical Operations Squadron activated, Jun 2007

STATIONS

Aviano AB, Italy

ASSIGNMENTS

31 Medical Group

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a disc Azure, throughout a globe voided to the field, gridlined Sable, issuant from base flames Gules, crested Or, overall a winged Staff of Aesculapius Argent, the encoiled snake of the fourth, eyed of the third, all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "A CUT ABOVE THE REST" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "31ST SURGICAL OPERATIONS SQ" in Black letters. **SIGIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 globe represents the unit's efforts to keep service members healthy for the fulfillment of the Air Force global mission. The Staff of Aesculapius, consisting of a rod with a snake entwined around it, symbolizes the ancient art of medicine. The wings represent the speed associated with Mercury, the messenger god, and emphasize the unit's membership in the Air Force. The flame embodies the passionate devotion of the unit to the cause of healing Air Force warriors. The motto, "A CUT ABOVE THE REST," denotes the unit's guiding principles.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Over the past two years, the squadron has implemented a \$900,000 surgical package, \$108,000 fetal mentoring upgrade, and \$24,000 food preparation renovation. In 2009, the capability for OB/GYN management will be augmented by the addition of an additional OB/GYN physician and nurse for inpatient care.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.