

## 35 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



### MISSION

The mission of the 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight (AEF) is to provide 12 tactical aeromedical evacuation crews to support combat ground forces from forward assault air- fields during contingent operations or various conditions of heightened tensions up to and including full mobilization.

The 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight is assigned to the 908th TAG at Maxwell AFB, Ala. It provides 12 tactical aeromedical evacuation crews to support combat ground forces from forward assault airfield during contingency operations or various conditions of heightened tension up to and including full mobilization.

### LINEAGE

35 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron activated, Apr 1961  
Redesignated 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, 1 Nov 1971  
Redesignated 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 16 Jul 1990  
Inactivated, 1993

### STATIONS

401 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Birmingham Alabama  
Birmingham Municipal Airport, AL, 1966  
Maxwell AFB, AL, 2 Oct 1972

### ASSIGNMENTS

7 Aeromedical Evacuation Group

Third Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Oct 1965  
918 Military Airlift Group, 1 Jan 1967  
918 Military Airlift Group, 2 Jun 1969  
908 Tactical Airlift Group, 1972  
908 Airlift Wing

### **COMMANDERS**

Capt Richard A. Gill  
Capt Bruce E. Carlile  
Lt Col Richard E. Burwell  
Capt Tommy R. Piper  
Maj Shirley Woodard

Capt David C. Harper, 31 Jul 1978  
Lt Col James B. Lisle  
Lt Col Mary M. Martin, 2 Jan 1992  
Lt Col Susan E. McMillan, 1 Mar 1992

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

On a blue disc edged with a narrow yellow border a red cross overall surmounted by a pair of yellow wings conjoined detailed red and a white lamp in base with a yellow and red flame, in pale yellow rod entwined by a yellow serpent both detailed red. Attached below the disc blank blue scroll edged yellow. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The Red cross depicts emergency medical care. The serpent and the staff represent medical personnel and lamp recognizes nurses of the 35 AEF. The wings represent the fact that the 35 AEF is a flying medical units. Patch designed SMSgt John E. Bonta, Capt Susan Ruskin and TSgt Jack Posey. (Approved, 1980)

### **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

35th AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION FLIGHT nurses and medical technicians provide medical care for sick and injured personnel during evacuations flights from forward operating locations and while transporting patients between medical facilities. The flight nurses and medical technicians train aboard the C-7 as well as augmenting medical teams from USAF Regional

Hospital at Maxwell in loading and unloading patients from scheduled C-9 "Nightingale" medical flights.

The 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was activated in April 1961 at 401 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Birmingham Alabama. It was assigned to the 7th Aeromedical Evacuation Group. It received C-119 airlift support from the 908th Troop Carrier Group, Bates Field Alabama.

During the 1960s and 1970s, members of the 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Unit were deployed in support of active forces during Vietnam and many other contingencies.

Personnel of the unit supported "Operation Patch-Up" a call for aeromedical volunteers to serve with the Military Airlift Command and to help with the movement and care of drug abuse patients returning from Southeast Asia. Forty percent of the unit's personnel volunteered for the program. The flight nurses and medical technicians assisted in patient care at either Travis AFB, CA, Hickam AFB, HI, or Yokota AB, Japan, 1971

On 11 Dec 74, the 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight performed its first live patient mission aboard the C-7. Two flight nurses and two medical technicians escorted a 66-year-old female dependent during a live mission from Maxwell AFB to Ft. Benning, Ga.

The 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight performed its annual encampment 7-21 July 1973. The flight was flown to Ellington AFB, Texas at the beginning of the encampment for a four-day stay. During that time the flight participated in a field training exercise on tactical air evacuation aboard C-130 aircraft. The flight returned to Maxwell for the remainder of the camp. In 1990, the Flight was redesignated a Squadron, manning was increased to 21 medical crews, (42 flight nurses and 63 medical technicians).

Two "live" aeromedical evacuation flights were conducted during this quarter. On 15 May the USAF Hospital at Maxwell AFB requested assistance from the 908th in moving a woman to University Hospital in Birmingham. Her diagnosis was premature labor (she was seven months pregnant with twins and renal complications). Sergeants Bonta and DeVaughn, 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, responded to the emergency and were waiting at the C-7 with the aircrew when the patient and a nurse arrived from the Maxwell Hospital. On 21 June the 35 had another unscheduled air evacuation when they moved MSgt Doyle Wiggins from Avon Park AFS, Fla to ' MacDill AFB, Fla. The Medical Crew Director was 1Lt Janis Sutliff with Medical Technicians MSgt James Cardin and MSgt Troy Hughes.

The 35 hosted a Live Mission Aeromedical Evacuation Training Conference on 26 June. Attending were representatives from Hq MAC, 375th AAW, Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, and Central Air Force Reserve Region. Basic guidelines were established for live mission AME training. During the June UTA 35 Flight Nurses visited the Intensive Care Unit at the Maxwell Hospital for a class on the MA-1 Volume Respirator. Other training in the quarter included lectures by Dr. (Col) Silvernail, 908th Tactical Clinic Commander, and Dr. (Lt Col) Reed, 908th Flight Surgeon.

The 35 and the 64th Aeromedical Evacuation flights from Maxwell and Dobbins took part in the largest aeromedical evacuation field training operation in reserve history. The flights were part of a 10 day aeromedical evacuation field training exercise conducted at Westover AFB, Mass., by Eastern Air Force Reserve Region Headquarters and the 375th Aeromedical Airlift Wing from Scott AFB, Ill.

For two days intensive training was held involving more than 500 aeromedical personnel from the Eastern Region. The purpose of the exercise was to train reservists in the operation of a tactical aeromedical evacuation system under like-real conditions.

Field activity for the reserve aeromed units during the exercise centered around the mobile aeromedical staging facilities set up along the Westover flightline. This is where the patient awaits his airlift. C-130 and C-123 aircraft flew 36 sorties between Westover staging facilities during the exercise. Each re-serve aeromed unit operated its own staging facility.

"This is where the real aero- medical evacuation action takes place," Maj. Bruce Carlile, 35 commander, said. He was standing in front of a 24 by 60 foot hospital tent with a cardboard "MASK #4" sign dangling from the front flap. "Our primary job here is to hold the patients until the plane arrives, then configure the plane for litters, load the patients and see that they are delivered to the hospital in a medically stable condition.

The chief flight nurse, who provides the key element of medical care throughout the TAES chain, is responsible for planning the configuration and arrangement of the patient load aboard the aircraft. Maj. Shirley Woodard is chief nurse of the 35 AEF. Where should the litters of the most seriously injured patients be located to maximize accessibility? How many ambulatories will have to be seated? How high will the litters be stacked? There are the chief nurse's concern shortly before the plane arrives and if it's a C-130 such as those used in the exercises, she has up to 74 litter positions or 92 seats to juggle.

One airman who participated in the exercise said, "I've worked on various aspects of medical evacuation during UTAs. but this is the first time I've ever seen it all work together like it's supposed to. It was worth the trip just to know we can actually perform our entire mission when we have to."



Lt Janis Sutliff, 35 AEF flight nurse checks a litter patient's evacuation card during a C-123 Medevac mission.



35 AEF technician takes a patient's blood pressure during a C-123 flight from Westover AFB, MA.



Capt Kathleen Sparkman, 35 AEF flight nurse directs the loading of a litter patient aboard a C-123 at Westover AFB, MA. 1975

1978 During the quarter, 35 AEF personnel flew a total of 86 flying hours. Flying training consisted of 12 AFTP's simulating AME missions and three cross country missions with simulated patients. Two flight nurses received initial upgrade evaluation and one flight nurse no-notice evaluation was accomplished. Two medical technician instruction flights were performed and one medical technician was upgraded to Charge Medical Technician. Four nurses and 20 medical technicians were assigned for clinical training at Maxwell Air Force Base Hospital. Annual requirements in Security Education and Motivational Training were accomplished.

Special contributions by 35 nurses and medical technicians include the demonstration of an artificial kidney machine for the Kidney Foundation by MSgt Brezel Bryant; CPR classes held for 28 Elmore County school teachers by Major Helen V. Armstrong; a blood pressure screening at a local shopping center; and CPR taught to ten members of the 908th Communications Flight.

During the quarter ending 30 June 1980, 35 AEF personnel flew three cross country missions, eight local AFTP's, and three Unit Training Assembly (UTA) flights. One biannual checkride was completed. Cross country missions included trips to Savannah Army Air Field, Georgia; Pensacola, Florida; Jacksonville, Florida, and Mobile, Alabama.

Ground training included classes on chemical warfare, egress training from various air evacuation aircraft, chest tubes and head injuries, legal aspects of medical records, and life support training.

Ongoing medical training included 35 AEF nurses attending conferences on management, tumor, anaerobic bacteria, rehabilitation of injured hand, oxytocin challenge tests, fetal monitoring, and the meeting of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists. Three nurses and one medical technician attended the Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation Conference from 28 - 30 April 1980 in San Antonio, Texas.

Hospital training was accomplished according to plan. Three flight nurses and eight medical technicians had clinical experience at USAF RGN Hospital, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, during each Unit Training Assembly. 35 medical technicians are now paired with active duty medical technicians and assist on a one-on-one basis.

Personnel changes saw Captain Betty Williams assigned as the 35's Assistant Chief Nurse, and the assignment of two flight nurses and three medical technicians.

During the month of July 1982, the 35AEF personnel participated in the "Condor Crest" Exercise. This exercise was simulated in conjunction with the 908 TAG annual tour. Condor Crest was held at the Savannah Georgia Air National Guard Base. One crew from the 35 AEF participated in Condor Crest. Also during the month of July, missions were flown on July 7th and 8th. Two of the 35 personnel completed their aerospace physiological training requirements at MacDill AFB. One person completed the initial aerospace physiological requirements and one person completed the refresher aerospace physiological training requirements.

August for the 35 yielded missions on the following dates: August 11, 12, 18, 19 and the 25th. Two cross country flights took crews first to Jacksonville Florida/Patrick AFB on August 13th, 15th, and on August 20th thru the 22nd two crews were flown to MacDill AFB Florida. Also in August, four (4) AECM's completed their refresher aerospace physiological requirements.

Finally, in the month of September, missions were flown on September 1, 8, 9, 12, and 22nd; a cross country was flown to Kessler AFB in Biloxi Mississippi with two 35AEF crews. One person completed the initial aero- space physiological training. Captain Brewer completed Inflight

patient care training. Two officers completed the Medical Indoctrination course for Medical Service Officers during the month of September. In retrospect, the fourth quarter of FY 1982 was a very busy quarter for the AECM's of the 35AEF.

On 17 July 82 five of the 35 AEF's Aeromedical Evacuation Crew Members (AECM's): one medical crew (two flight nurses (FNs) and three medical technicians (MTs)) deployed with the 908 TAG to the Air National Guard training site at Travis Field, Savannah, Georgia. They accompanied the 908th on its annual tour to augment medical support provided by the 357 TAS's Squadron Medical Element (SME) and to fly Aeromedical Readiness Missions (ARMs).

The SME, comprised of a flight surgeon and two medical technicians, staffed the training site's clinic building - providing medical coverage 24 hours a day. That full time medical support would have been a difficult, if not impossible task, without augmentation of the 35AEF's AECMs.



An average of 24 patients were served in the clinic daily. Most conditions presented were of minor nature requiring no surgical intervention, though several lacerations required sutures. About 95% of the bruises, contusions, abrasions, strains and sprains were the result of participation in athletic events after duty hours. Several members were referred to Hunter AAF Hospital for internal medicine problems and three were returned to Maxwell AFB via our own "domestic" Air Evac System. Only one aircrew member was placed in DNIF status: a pilot who suffered torn back muscles while playing softball.

Our AECMs provided flight line emergency coverage using an Air Guard field ambulance and were on standby alert at all times when our aircraft were flying local missions. The 908th medical contingent also participated in two exercises involving mass casualties from simulated vehicle accidents. Responses were judged good and timely. Our ambulance crews covered three other exercises - hostage/hijack situations and bomb threat.

The 35 AEF's AECMs flew two ARMs from the training site - one on 20 July and the other on the 26th. Both were flown on our C-7A aircraft. Two additional ARMs were flown by five other AECMs on a week-end cross country mission from Maxwell AFB to Savannah. Those ARMs were run on 23 and 26 July. The exercises (a total of 6) were conducted during the first week of the tour and were arranged and evaluated by a Group Exercise Evaluation Team headed by the 35AEF Commander per direction of the Group Commander. The exercise scenarios were realistic and created considerable interest and enthusiasm - a most worthwhile undertaking

1983 During the second quarter of Fiscal Year 1983, 35AEF personnel participated in two cross country missions. One of the cross country missions was flown to Eglin AFB FL (VPS) and the other to Dobbins AFB GA (MGE). Both cross country missions were flown using 2 C7-A's. In addition a total of 18 other Aeromedical Readiness Missions were flown through AFTPs and during UTA's. Five 35AEF AECMs flew C-141 missions to the 2AES on two separate occasions. Mission load planning training was accomplished on both missions and the AECMs were in Annual Tour status.

Four 35 AEF personnel completed refresher physiological training during the quarter. Three of the aforementioned personnel completed their training at Tyndall AFB and one completed his training at MacDill AFB. One nurse completed Flight Nurse School at Brooks AFB TX. Two medical technicians completed Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation Training at Kelly AFB TX. One flight nurse and one medical technician completed in-flight patient care training at Scott AFB at the 57 AES during the quarter. One person completed 6 weeks of hospital training.

On 1 October 1983, members of the 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight and 908th Tactical Clinic participated in an integrated exercise, "Patriot Samaritan 83", with medical units of the 94th Tactical Airlift Wing in a combat scenario that deployed nearly 1,000 personnel to six operating sites in four states. The 35 AEF and the 908 Tac Clinic participated from Maxwell. This exercise demonstrated most aspects of combat medicine, including casualty management, chemical warfare defense, patient care under combat conditions, patient movement by land and air, and extensive user service interface.

Locally the exercise involved reservists completing the following scenario twice: simulated battlefield casualties received at field hospital; stabilized and transported to a mobile aeromedical staging facility where they are pre- pared for evacuation by C-130.

Members of the 109th Evacuation Hospital, Alabama Army National Guard flew in from Birmingham on a CH-54 helicopter to act as "battlefield casualties." The casualties were transported by ambulance from the field hospital to a staging facility manned by 35 personnel. Here the patients awaited the 908th C-130 on which they were loaded (several on stretchers) and flown back to Birmingham. The exercise was a success, showing that these members were combat ready.

Tactical Clinic mobilized 24 members of the clinic and 6 members of the 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight to Torrejon AB Spain on 4 May 84 for annual encampment. Members worked

in the hospital at Torrejon AB covering positions vacated by active duty members who were mobilized elsewhere for their exercise. Training and experience was abundant on all areas of training. 1984

1986 The 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight training was conducted in Mass Casualty Exercise; Weapons Familiarization/Qualification; Base Disaster Preparedness Training; and Chemical Warfare Task Qualification Training. Forty-three members performed annual tour at Eglin AFB Hospital, Florida during July. A "mercy" mission was flown in August from Lawson AAF to Keesler AFB, MS. Numerous members were in training or upgrade training.

35th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight personnel flew three cross-country training missions and 11 local AFTP's, along with three UTA flights. Cross-country trips were to Mobile, Alabama; Keesler Air Force Base and Pensacola Naval Air Station; and to New Orleans Lakefront Municipal Airport. Training missions were accomplished on each flight. Ground training classroom learning included a class on EKG interpretation, care of Renal patients, and care of psychiatric patients. All aeromedical evacuation technicians were skill-tested on eight nursing procedures for competency. For those not proficient at a particular function, make-up training and retesting were arranged. Hospital training was accomplished also, involving two types of training. A flight nurse and three medical technicians trained at the hospital, administering patient care under the supervision of the flight nurse. In addition, they worked parallel to ward medical technicians. Small groups of flight nurses went to the hospital for practice in patient assessment of eyes, ears, hearts and lungs, in conjunction with a continuing education course taught in the unit.

In Jan 1991, medical support personnel from the 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron were activated and deployed in support of Desert Storm. Members of the 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron were deployed to the RAF Mildenhall England to provide in-flight medical care aboard C-130s and C-141s, to casualties evacuated from the battle zone to hospitals in Europe and CONUS.

In 1993, the 35 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was inactivated and the 908 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was activated assigned to the 908 Airlift Wing.

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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.