

## 59 LABATORY SQUADRON



### **LINEAGE**

859 Diagnostics and Therapeutics Squadron constituted, 5 Mar 1998  
Activated, 1 Apr 1998  
Redesignated 59 Laboratory Squadron, 31 May 2007  
Inactivated,

### **STATIONS**

Lackland AFB, Texas, 1 Apr 1998

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

59 Diagnostics and Therapeutics (later, 59 Clinical Support) Group, 1 Apr 1998

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Thomas M. Rice.

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

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

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
[1 Apr]-30 Jun 1998  
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 1999  
1 Jan 2000-31 Dec 2001

1 Jan 2002-31 Dec 2003  
1 Jan-31 Dec 2004  
1 Jan 2005-30 Jun 2006  
1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007  
1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008  
1 Jul 2008-30 Jun 2009

## EMBLEM



Approved, 28 Aug 2001

## MOTTO

### OPERATIONS

During 2005, the squadron performed over 3M laboratory procedures as well as 26,000 surgical and 80,000 cytology studies. The squadron continued to lead DoD lab innovations, enhance health care delivery systems, maximize lab productivity through automation, integrate AF/Army/Navy lab services, leverage technology, and consolidate lab testing platforms.

The Cytology section was selected as the consolidated AF Cytology Center. Six cytology labs were consolidated into one at the WHMC Cytology Center, eliminating 32 non-warfighter positions across the USAF. The combination of thin prep smears and performing over 10,000 HPV tests significantly improved the diagnostic and prognostic capability of the gynecological physicians in the detection, prevention, and treatment of cervical cancer.

The Disease Identification and Management Element microbiology lab was certified by the CDC as a Bio-Safety Level 111 laboratory. The lab coordinated DoD validation studies for biological agents and expanded both in-theater and homeland defense capabilities. The effort helped in charting the development and deployment of this state-of-the-art technology for the rapid identification of biowarfare agents. The WHMC Microbiology Lab (Lab National Response Network) was selected by Air Staff to lead a Homeland Defense pilot program to test AFMS' lab responses to CBRNE incidents. The element is the first in the Air Force to establish testing for

definitive diagnosis of B-cell malignancies and genetic mutation. The element stood up the AF Stem Cell Laboratory, the only DoD laboratory accredited by FACT. It is the only DoD stem cell collection site and had 60 patients transplant in 2005.

The Laboratory Systems Office managed the AF's largest laboratory computer database. The database contained 6,300 test files and supported 780 users 24 hours a day. The element was vital in allowing the 59<sup>th</sup> MDW to launch the Outpatient Itemized Billing project. Verifying over 6,000 test codes enabled the wing to recoup \$12M. The development of a basic trainee auto-registration program eliminated over 258,000 repeat tests with an estimated saving of \$1.3M. The Laboratory Systems Office was also singled out to perform alpha and beta tests for a DoD lab interoperability project valued at \$7M.

The Blood Donor Center processed over 18,000 donors and increased their collections 640%. They directed shipment of over 35,000 blood products in theater, to 11 countries and 50 coalition MTFs, and was part of over 4,000 transfusions. During the war, they shipped 7,000 blood products and were the only AF unit to meet their wartime quota. They were the only donor center to perform nucleic acid tests, screening 90% of all AF donors, saving \$450,000. The center was rated "Best in DoD" by the Armed Services Blood Program Office and also boasted the lowest cost per test in the DoD. The blood transfusion element renegotiated the blood sharing agreement with South Texas Veterans Health Care (VA Medical Center). The 59th MDW Blood Donor Center was designated as the primary test site for the Defense Blood Standard System. They perfected the DoD security migration and were a model for 78 other sites.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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