

68 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

68 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight constituted and activated, 27 Oct 1966
Organized in the Reserve, 1 Jan 1967
Redesignated 68 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 23 Apr 1971

STATIONS

March AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1967
Norton AFB, CA, 1 Aug 1970

ASSIGNMENTS

942 Military Airlift Group, 1 Jan 1967
944 Military Airlift Group (Associate), 1 Aug 1970
Western Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Mar 1972
914 Military Airlift Group (Associate), 1 May 1972
445 Military Airlift Wing (Associate), 1 Jul 1973

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



A blue disc edged with a narrow yellow border on which is a globe with axis bendwise, light blue with yellow rim and gridlines on the sinister half, and blue with green rim and gridlines on the dexter half, enveloped by a white vapor trail originating in back of the globe in dexter base and arced over the globe terminating below a red cross couped in the upper sinister portion of the disc. Attached below the disc is a blank white scroll edged in Yellow. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the unit and the Air Force colors ultramarine blue and golden yellow as well as the National colors are used in the design. The background color of blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. The red cross signifies the honorable and professional skills of the humanitarian life saving support of the squadron and encircles the globe leaving a pure white path of flight. The colors in the center of the globe, light and dark blue, are symbolic of the 24-hour day and night vigilance of worldwide aeromedical evacuation missions. Highlighting the entire emblem is a border of golden yellow typifying the excellence of medical care executed by the squadron personnel. (Approved, 9 Jan 1976)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 68th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight was originally activated in t at March Air Force Base, CA. In 1968, it moved to Norton Air Force Base, CA, and was activated as an Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and assigned to the 445th Military Airlift Wing, an associate reserve wing of the Air Force Reserve. The 68th AES began operational support Aeromedical missions to

Elmendorf AFB, AK, in 1973 sharing this active duty mission with two other West Coast Reserve AE Squadrons.

In February and March 1973, the North Vietnamese released American aviators who had been shot down and taken prisoner during the war. In Operation Homecoming, as the repatriation effort was called, the freed prisoners were airlifted to Clark AB in the Philippines before being returned to the United States for thorough medical examinations. The Air Force Reserve contribution to HOMEcoming included aircrews, doctors, nurses, medical technicians, general casualty assistance, and intelligence personnel. Air Force Reserve C-141 associate crew member participated in five Operation Homecoming flights. Also, one loadmaster and eighteen medical technicians of the 938th Military Airlift Group (Associate) at Travis AFB participated in twelve airlift missions with active duty crews, and thirty aeromedical personnel from the 939th Military Airlift Group (Associate) at McChord AFB, Washington, served on various Homecoming legs with both reserve and active crews. Other aeromedical evacuation crew members, nurses and technicians, from the 68th (Norton), 40th (McChord), and 55th (Travis) Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons as well as the 73d Aeromedical Airlift Squadron (Associate) at Scott AFB individually volunteered as crews on the Homecoming flights. Twenty reserve physicians also voluntarily participated in the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action, Next of Kin Program developed by the Air Force Surgeon General to counsel families of the missing and imprisoned men.

In 1976 the 68th and the 445th began supporting the Pacific Air Force directly by providing Aeromedical Evacuation crews and support flights to the 9th AES located at Clark AB, Philippines.

In 1980 members of the 68th began standing alert for urgent missions from Detachment 1, Hickam Air Force Base, HI. In 1983, the 68th began providing alert Aeromedical Evacuation crews at Elmendorf AFB, AK, for urgent missions originating in Alaska.

In 1991 the 68th was mobilized for several months during Desert Storm. Most of the members of the unit were deployed either to England, Germany or Saudi Arabia in direct support of the Gulf War. Those deployed were assigned to positions flying Aeromedical Evacuation missions, staffing Aeromedical Evacuation Control Centers or providing logistical and administrative support to other components of the provisional Aeromedical Evacuation system in the Area of Operational Responsibility.

In 1993 the 68th AES with the 445th Airlift Wing moved back to March AFB. This was a result of the Base Realignment Commission's recommendations under the Clinton Administration to close Norton AFB, CA. Subsequently, the 445th AW was inactivated. The 68th was reassigned to the 452nd Air Mobility Wing.

USAF UNIT HISTORIES
Created: 10 Aug 2011
Updated: 30 Aug 2023

Sources

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