

## USAF TACTICAL MEDICAL CENTER



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

Inactivated, 1957

### STATIONS

Donaldson AFB, SC

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The Center was established on 1 October 1953. Upon its formation, the 1st Aeromedical Group was discontinued and the 2d Forward Aeromedical Evacuation Flight was formed and attached to the Center.

At Donaldson Air Force Base, S. C., the USA Tactical Medical Center continued to develop and test tactical medical concepts, doctrines, and systems; participate in joint exercises and maneuvers; indoctrinate and train medical and tactical units and cadres; field test tactical medical unit assemblies ; submit operational recommendations and requirements; and participate in disaster relief. Headquarters, USAF Tactical Medical Center, was activated at Donaldson Air Force Base on 1 February 1955. Designated a non-Table of Organization unit, with an authorization of 26 officers and 194 airmen, the Center embraced a Headquarters; Headquarters Squadron Section; 4 divisions, containing a total of 12 branches; a medical library; and a projects board. Effective 1 February 1955 the 2d Forward Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, formerly attached to the 4421st Medical Services Group, was attached to the Tactical Medical Center Headquarters for administrative, logistical, and operational support.

The Center is commanded by a Medical Corps officer, who is assisted in the Command Section by two Medical Service Corps officers Executive Officer and an Adjutant) . The four division chiefs function as special staff officers to the commander and, together with the executive officer, are members of the Projects Board. A critical concern at the Center, as elsewhere, was the shortage of experienced officers ; the shortage interfered with the acceptance or completion of many important projects. On 30 June 1955, assigned officers (14) were 12 under authorization and assigned airmen (160) were 34 under authorization. The four divisions of the Center are (1 ) Professional Services, (2) Plans and Operations, (3) Training, and (4) Administrative Services. A brief description of the branches making up the divisions, and their functions, will serve to delineate the scope of activities of the Center.

The Professional Services Division is responsible for professional treatment and aeromedical functions of the Center. In this period, duties of this division's three branches were differentiated. The Tactical Treatment Branch deploys, services, and field tests existing tactical treatment facilities and unit assemblies of the Center and makes necessary recommendations for their improvement. During this period, this branch supervised the airlift of the complete 36-bed Air Transportable Infirmary from Donaldson to Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D. C., to put it on display during Armed Forces Day. The same infirmary was airlifted from Donaldson to Grenier Air Force Base, N. H., to furnish the 89th Tactical Hospital at Bedford, Mass., tactical medical support for use as a training medium.

The Tactical Treatment Branch also furnished the necessary trained personnel for deploying the Eighteenth Air Force Disaster Assistance Team (RITANOW) , which must be maintained in constant readiness for its numerous rescue operations. Equipment assemblies for RITA NOW were considerably revised during this period and a complete master inventory of equipment and supplies for the team was developed, resulting in increased mobility. Demonstration of the prowess of this Team was made during this period when RITA NOW was dispatched to Bolling Air Force Base for simulated treatment of 50 "casualties." The performance of the Team was regarded as highly satisfactory.

The two other branches of the Professional Services Division are the Aeromedical Evacuation Branch (provides the movement, control, staging, triage, on-loading, off-loading, and in-flight care and treatment of aeromedical evacuees) and the Nursing Branch (supervises nurses assigned to the Center and monitors their activities within the Division). Important activities of the Aeromedical Evacuation Branch during this period included Exercise WOODWIND (a two-phase escape and evasion training program for flying personnel of the tactical wing) , various "standby" aeromedical evacuation support actions, and the filming of a typical "aerial port" story.

The Plans and Operations Division is responsible for operational and planning support; preparation of all operational plans and orders; supervision of all projects assigned to the Center; preparation of mobilization and emergency action plans and coordination of requirements for these plans; intelligence and liaison ; supervision and coordination of all planning and operational requirements for the Center's participation in disaster relief and other domestic emergencies; maintenance of reference files and flying records; and aircraft requirements of the Center. These duties were handled by four branches: ( 1) Plans, (2) Operations, (3) Intelligence and Liaison, and (4) Projects. The first three branches, in this period, were concerned largely with preparing training aids and exhibits for instruction of Air Force organizations in aeromedical evacuation procedures; the Projects Branch dealt chiefly with planning and supervising projects pertinent to the aeromedical aspects of the tactical Medical Service. Among these projects were field tests of an air transportable facility, a manikin training aid, a Dictaphone time master for evacuation; and preparation of an evacuation manual and a prospectus of capabilities to provide emergency care of casualties in aircraft.

The Training Division supervises all training requirements for the Center needed to ensure that all elements and groups have the necessary proficiency to take part in any exercise or maneuver demanded by the Center's mission. Such training embraces specialized instruction for participating in arctic and tropical missions, as well as establishment of all school quotas and of proficiency standards. The division's three branches operate as follows: (1) Unit Training Branch handles on-the-job training and unit training programs (physiological, parachute, and military principles); (2) Tactical Medical Training Branch covers medical training in assault-type aeromedical activities, and escape and evasion exercises; (3) Training Standards and Aids Branch procures and disseminates all aids considered useful in describing or training for aeromedical evacuation. The Administrative Services Division handles the major administrative workload stemming from the Center's activities. The administrative workload in this period derived chiefly from such activities.

as the activation of the Center's Headquarters, preparation of displays and exhibits, and preparation of the overseas assignment of the 2d Forward Aeromedical Evacuation Flight. Additional work pertained to maintenance and transfer of personnel and other records, and to procurement of equipment needed for special projects and studies. These functions were carried out by 2 branches-Supply and Personnel and 2 sections-Headquarters Squadron and Transportation.

During this period the 2d Forward Aeromedical Evacuation Flight participated in all major activities of the Center by augmenting the latter's personnel and equipment with its own. In March 1955 the Flight received an order for reassignment and the remaining months of this period were spent in training and preparation for departure.

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USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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