

## 144 MEDICAL GROUP



### **MISSION**

The 144 Medical Group's primary mission is to provide bio environmental, public health, and medical support to monitor the health and wellness of the members of the 144th Fighter Wing. Ensuring our members are fit-to-fight makes our wing a valuable and viable asset to the California Air National Guard which integrates seamlessly with Expeditionary and Joint Forces.

In addition, the 9 medical professionals and 41 medical support personnel also participate with the California National Guard's Combined Enhanced Response Force Package, overseas medical missions, and ongoing humanitarian efforts.

### **LINEAGE**

144 USAF Clinic  
144 Medical Group

### **STATIONS**

Fresno, CA

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

144 Fighter Wing

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Brian Ginsburg,  
Col Joseph M. Pascuzzo Jun 2009  
Col John Blackburn

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS<sup>1</sup>**

The mission of this unit is to maintain a constant state of readiness to support emergency plans and to operate a base level medical service. The medics conduct physical examinations and immunizations, medical care for those who are sick, preventive and sanitary inspections. A base ambulance service, a pharmaceutical and medical supply service, dental and veterinary services are also provided for by the men of the 144th Dispensary Squadron. To maintain their state of readiness the medics constantly attend classroom sessions as well as field training to meet any emergency. They are, in general, responsible for the health and physical condition of the individuals that make up the 144th Fighter Group and assigned units.



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<sup>1</sup> Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency; Unit yearbook. 144 Air Defense Wing, 1943-1969.



The 144<sup>th</sup> Medical Group recently conducted hands-on training alongside Soldiers while visiting Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. Thirty-seven Airmen deployed from Fresno 2 Feb for their two-week clinical training. LTC Theodore Inouye, 144<sup>th</sup> Medical Group Commander, explained that the scope and depth of training possible at a major regional medical center such as Tripler greatly enhanced the unit's readiness for worldwide duty.

"The medical group completed most, if not all, of their mission essential training," Inouye said. "The deployment not only reinforced our training skills but was also a tremendous team builder and morale booster." The clinicians worked side by side with their Army counterparts sharing experiences and practices, facilitating learning by both Soldiers and Airmen. During their visit to the Army hospital, the medical professionals trained with equipment and procedures they rarely have the opportunity to experience at home station. According to Senior Master Sgt. Michele Fields, 144 FW Health Systems Technician, the training and experience was very beneficial.

"Our members were able to sign off every one of their Readiness Skills Verification tasks that could not be provided at our base," she said. "The staff at Tripler was very accommodating and provided us with a great training experience." The Tripler staff echoed the sentiment adding that Tripler is a premier training site and is critical for blue and green to train together. "It will be the medical troops who will be the first to go entirely purple," said LTC Steve Ferst, Tripler's Chief, Reserve Affairs.

"It's important for the readiness of the entire military medical department." Ferst said that in today's battlefield it is even more important for each of the services to know the other's capabilities since they will be working side by side. "This joint training helps them get over their cultural differences," Ferst said. According to the Medical Group's trip report, working out of an active duty Army hospital facilitated a better understanding of working in a joint environment. Medical personnel observed an open heart surgery, performed suturing on pig tissue, catheterized patients and trained in real-world emergency room operations. Dental personnel also received valuable training where they performed operative dentistry and oral surgery on

both military and civilian patients.

They also exposed and recalled digital radiographs and input information into advanced computer systems, which are critical in tracking wartime dental readiness. The dental technicians had the rare opportunity to observe forensic dentistry at the Joint POW/MIA Accountable Command. This forensic lab is the only one in the world identifying the remains of Soldiers. The lab and drug testing personnel toured Tripler's Urinalysis Drug Testing Lab which processes the testing for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Air National Guard. The tour provided insight on the importance of proper processing and preparation of urine samples taken at the 144 FW. During their time off, the clinic members were able to visit historic and cultural sites around the island including Pearl Harbor and the world-famous Waikiki beach. 2008

144<sup>th</sup> Medical Group Provides Humanitarian Support to Nicaragua More than 30 Airmen from the California National Guard's 144<sup>th</sup> Medical Group returned to Fresno after a two-week-long deployment to Managua, Nicaragua. The Airmen were deployed 17 Mar through 30 Mar 2007, in support of the U.S. Southern Command sponsored New Horizons 2007 training exercise. This readiness exercise provided an excellent opportunity for the Fresno based medical group to receive crucial training while improving the quality of life for the people of Nicaragua. Members provided basic medical care for patients at three separate worksites.

The services centered on public health and education, family medicine, optometry, dental services, pediatric care and women's health. Over the years various hospitals in the area have turned to the pilots of the 144<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing for mercy flights to pick up and deliver urgently needed blood, medicines, and antitoxins to the lives of critically ill patients. Many times each year, members of the 144<sup>th</sup> Clinic participate in community projects ranging from hypertension clinics and to assist the Fresno Police Department in first aid disaster preparedness training.