

657 USAF CONTINGENCY HOSPITAL



MISSION

LINEAGE

657 Tactical Hospital
657 USAF Contingency Hospital

STATIONS

Clark AB, Philippines, 1 Jun 1964

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

At the base hospital, one of PACAF's large regional medical centers, workers packed expensive medical equipment as they sloshed through muddy ash which had flooded all the floors through huge leaks in the roof. By mid July the effort was going swimmingly and the CAT-scan equipment was moved to Subic Bay. Due to lack of power to operate the hospital's elevators, many bulky and expensive medical items were initially stranded on the second floor. By using two 4,000-pound forklifts and a borrowed crane they were able to salvage these items. Three weeks later all the radiology equipment was shipped, and by early September the huge building was empty of valuable, salvageable equipment except for an "angio suite" that was shipped in the next two weeks. Medical and dental records, which were removed before the evacuation and taken to Subic Bay in a school bus, arrived at Kadena Air Base, Japan, where they were held until families called for them. Ultimately, they salvaged over \$23 million of medical and dental equipment. While they packed they still cared for the Ash Warriors. The day after the volcano erupted, the 657th Tactical Hospital, commanded by Lt Col (Dr.) Charles B. Green, erected a mobile facility and started seeing patients. The 23-person unit worked 12-hour shifts and saw more than 100 patients a day for everything from broken bones to aspirin dispensing. They also tested water and food supplies.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 19 June 2014

Updated:

Sources

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