

## 31<sup>st</sup> MEDICAL SUPPORT SQUADRON



### MISSION

The 31st Medical Support Squadron provides resource management (financial and manpower), TRICARE (health plans management), patient administration, medical logistics, medical readiness, medical information services, personnel and administration, pharmacy services and clinical laboratory services, in support of the 31st Medical Group and the readiness of the 31st Fighter Wing and associated units throughout the Southern Region. It supports a \$56 million, 175,000 sq. ft., 21-bed physical plant, with a \$15 million annual operating budget and \$24 million manpower budget. It supports 8,700 eligible beneficiaries by providing optimal patient-focused medical care from internal, Department of Defense and host nation resources. The 31st Medical Support Squadron employs all its resources to ensure the human weapons system remains mission ready to support the Expeditionary Air Force, as well as U.S. and NATO objectives worldwide.

The 31st Medical Support Squadron was activated as a subordinate squadron to the 31st Medical Group when the 31st Medical Squadron became the 31st Medical Group in September 1994 as part of the Objective Medical Group realignment. The 31st Medical Support Squadron has played an integral support role in the dramatic build-up that has taken place at Aviano since the Bosnian peacekeeping efforts began in 1994. Addressing the predominant "quality of life" concern of the expanding American community at Aviano, a first-of-its-kind joint-lease agreement was signed in August 1996 with the neighboring community of Sacile to lease two floors of their inpatient hospital. In addition to the successful completion of the Sacile project, the 31st Medical Support Squadron directed construction of a state-of-the-art health and wellness center, a new flight medicine clinic, and developed an extensive TRICARE Network consisting of over 60 host nation providers and six local hospitals. The latest accomplishment is the \$32.6 million NATO-funded hospital. Construction began in 2001 and phase 1 of the NATO hospital concluded in the summer of 2005 with the relocation of the Sacile inpatient and outpatient medical operations as well as existing ancillary and administrative services. Phase 2, completed in July 2006, transformed and

integrated many existing Aviano AB medical operations.

#### **LINEAGE**

31<sup>st</sup> Medical Support Squadron

#### **STATIONS**

Aviano AB, Italy

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

31<sup>st</sup> Medical Group

#### **COMMANDERS**

#### **HONORS**

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

#### **EMBLEM**



Per bend nebuly Or and Azure between two columns Argent a torch Gules entwined with a serpent Vert langued and eyed Red, all within a diminished bordure Blue. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "31ST MEDICAL SUPPORT SQ" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "WE SUSTAIN THE EFFORT" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air

Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The nebuly divided disc alludes to the coat of arms of the Squadron's parent unit, the 31st Fighter Wing, and reflects the support the Squadron provides as an integral part in the Wing's mission. The Staff of Aesculapius, a long time symbol for the field of medicine as well as the medical service, denotes the specialized support function the unit provides. The Greek columns allude to the strength and endurance of unit personnel.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

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Air Force Order of Battle

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### Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.