

36 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 36 AEF is to provide aeromedical evacuation crew members that are trained and equipped to provide inflight medical care around the clock in intratheater tactical airlift aircraft which have been reconfigured for patient movement. The 36 AEF also provides a direct communication link and immediate coordination between the user service originating patients for aeromedical evacuation and the tactical aeromedical evacuation system. The flight is Military Airlift Command gained.

LINEAGE

36 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron constituted and activated in the Reserve, 25 Jul 1960

Organized, 8 Jan 1961

Redesignated 36 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight, 1 Dec 1971

Redesignated 36 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, 1 Nov 1990

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1993

Activated, 1 Apr 2008

STATIONS

Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO, 8 Jan 1961-1 Oct 1993

Pope AFB (later, Pope Field, Fort Bragg), NC, 1 Apr 2008

Keelser AFB, MS

ASSIGNMENTS

7 Aeromedical Evacuation Group, 8 Jan 1961

4 Aeromedical Evacuation Group, 8 Jan 1963
935 Military (later, 935 Tactical) Airlift Group, 1 Jan 1967
442 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Nov 1974
433 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Oct 1982
440 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Apr 1985
302 Tactical Airlift (later, 302 Airlift) Wing, 1 Jan 1992
442 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992-1 Oct 1993
440 Operations Group, 1 Apr 2008

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Anthony Trezza
Lt Col Rosalind Johnson, 12 Apr 2021
Lt Col Ladonna K. Schreffler, 1 Jul 2021

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a disc divided per saltire blue and green within a narrow gold border, a gold saltire. In chief, gold Staff of Aesculapius winged white detailed gray; in base a white flight symbol ascending charged with a red cross. In the dexter side a white hospital arraswise shaded gray and charged with a red cross and radiating to the border three white flight symbols each charged with a red cross. In sinister six white flight symbols radiating to the border each bearing a red cross. Above the emblem a white scroll bordered gold. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The

emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Against the blue background depicting the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations, the winged Staff of Aesculapius, the symbol of medicine represents the squadron's aeromedical mission. The green, early color representation for medicine, symbolizes hope and the placement of the flight symbols three and six indicates the units numerical designation. The hospital between the flight symbols each charged with a red cross refers to transportation and evacuation of patients by airlift from one hospital to another for specialized care. (Approved, 8 Mar 1966)

Emblem symbolism, unofficial: A round emblem symbolizing the worldwide mission with blue and green backgrounds showing that our mission involves airlift over land and sea. The Medusa at the top signifies the Medical Corps and the "flying red cross at the bottom signifies our aeromedical evacuation mission. The small "flying red cross" emblems on the left and right simply signify the numbers three and six to show unit numerical designation of 36 AEFlt. The large red cross and the building on the left signify a hospital which is the destination of the patients we move by air from one place to another. Our emblem is outlined in yellow with our numerical designation on a white background with black lettering. At the top and bottom are light blue quadrants and on the left and right are green quadrants; these are all outlined in yellow. At the top, on a blue background is a set of wings with the Medusa in the forefront in yellow. In the blue field at the bottom is a "flying wing" with a Red Cross marking. On a green background on the left are three small flying wings with red cross markings and an illustrated hospital with a large red cross; on a green field on the right are six small flying wings with small red cross markings on them, completing the numerical designation of 36.



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Although an eight-hour flight home can seem like an eternity to wounded soldiers coming off the battlefield, flight nurses and medical technicians do their best to make them as comfortable as possible. Sometimes it's the little extra personal attention that can make the difficult path to recovery a bit more bearable. Seeing one of her patients lying in a litter with both hands bandaged, Master Sgt. Tracy Kyle-Treece an aeromedical evacuation technician in

the 36 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, took out the day's edition of Stars & Stripes and asked the soldier if he would like to read it as a way to help pass the time.

He agreed and she held the paper for him, flipping the pages when he was ready to move on. As the soldier began to read page seven she noticed a strange look on his face. She asked him if he was OK. He told her the headline on top of the page was a story about him. She looked at it, and it read: Eight U.S. soldiers killed in Afghanistan. "He told me that two of the guys killed were his best friends growing up, and wondered why was he the one who survived," Sergeant Kyle-Treece said.

"As aeromedical evacuation crewmembers we help them struggle through some of those issues. Sergeant Kyle-Treece was one of six crew members from the 36 AES caring for patients on this January flight from Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Joining Sergeant Kyle-Treece from the 36 AES on the mission were Lt. Col. Pat Rautiola, Capt. Anne Stacey, Master Sgt. Angie Poole, Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Wegehof and Senior Airman Brandon Morgan.

What made this flight special for the crew of six was that it marked the first time the 36 AES flew as a squadron to support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom since the unit was officially formed and activated in April 2008. "This was our very first mission as the 36 AES," said Lt. Col. Pat Rautiola, a flight nurse with the squadron. "Most of us have flown before with other aeromedical evacuation squadrons, but being able to do our job correctly and keep our patients safe is very rewarding. We came together and gelled as a team."

The squadron, which was stood up at Pope AFB, N.C., in April 2008, has "gelled" and matured quickly in little more than a year. At the June 2008 UTA, only seven people signed in. Since that time the squadron has grown to 53 people, with room to expand as it has authorizations for 124 total airmen. In addition to flight nurses and medical technicians, the 36 AES includes medical service corps officers, communications and enlisted medical administrators, medical logistics, aviation resource managers, aerospace ground equipment operators, ground communications, a first sergeant and a unit training manager.

The 36th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron unfurled its flag in a ceremony here today and officially became part of the Air Force Reserve's 403rd Wing. Lt. Col. Brian A. May, 403rd Operations Group commander, presided over the ceremony that made the unit, which relocated here from Pope Field, N.C., part of his organization. The unit, which is scheduled to include 40 officers and 83 enlisted personnel, consists of specialized teams that routinely move critically ill or injured troops after they've been stabilized or received damage-control surgery. "The matching red boots and capes that these folks have when they are flying these missions are real," said May pointing to members of the squadron in the audience. "Those are some super heroes back there."

The Air Force has 32 of these "super hero" units. Four of those AE units are active-duty squadrons and the remainder are in the Guard and Reserve, said Senior Master Sgt. Tony Staut, AE technician. "AE teams provide medical evacuation capability to the U.S. Air Force and the warfighters in any theater of operation or humanitarian mission that is required," said Staut. "Our job is to turn the C-130 into a flying ambulance. We pick up the people that need help, and we get them out of there." The AE teams, consisting of a medical crew director, flight nurse and three aeromedical evacuation technicians, primarily use C-130s, C-17s and

KC-135s to transport patients to a medical facility for care. The relocation to Keesler is beneficial for several reasons, said Staut.

The squadron now has access to the 403rd Wing's training missions. The wing has 20 C-130Js, 10 of which are flown by the 815th Airlift Squadron "Flying Jennies" and the remainder by the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron "Hurricane Hunters." While aircrew are flying their training missions, AE teams can conduct their training in the back of the aircraft, said Staut. It also benefits the 81st Medical Group here, which operates the second largest medical center in the Air Force. AE teams frequently work with Critical Care Air Transport Teams, or CCATTs, and Tactical Critical Care Evacuation Teams, or TCCETs. These 81st MDG CCATTs are specialized medical team that operate a portable intensive care unit, while their TCCETs provide emergency critical care in most rotary and fixed wing aircraft.

The unit isn't wasting any time with its transition to operational capability at Keesler. "Today is our re-designation ceremony, and yesterday we flew our first training mission here," said Col. Thomas M. Hansen, 36th AES commander. "We don't have time to waste; we have to be ready. We have to do that, we have no option, it's what expected of us, and it's what we will do. We have a great group of people here to start." Right now, the squadron has 30 personnel in the unit. "We are rebuilding and looking for nurses and medical technicians to find it in their heart to do this incredible mission," said Staut. Triumph over adversity is the squadron's motto and is displayed on their patch. It not only symbolizes a patient's journey to wellness, but the squadron's ability to overcome the challenges that lie ahead in rebuilding the unit.

"When you get in your car or truck ... take a look ... think for a moment about why that windshield is so big in front of you, but your rearview window is so small. It's not the things that happened in our past – yes that helps shape us, helps define us – but what's important is where we are going in the future," said May. "That's why that window is so big. Triumph over adversity."

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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