

37 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

37 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

STATIONS

Homestead AFB, FL, 15 Aug 1966-15 Jun 1968

ASSIGNMENTS

7 Aeromedical Evacuation Group

Third Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Oct 1965

915 Military Airlift Group, 1 Jan 1967

COMMANDERS

Capt Louis DeFelice

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 37th Aeromed Evacuation Flight "displayed marked improvement in all functional areas" according to the 21st Air Force Advisory Staff Visit report. The unit was commended on military bearing and courtesy as well as ground training and inflight training. In spite of the

limiting factor of eleven flight nurses at the time of the report, the Advisory Team felt that "the morale and pride of achievement exhibited by unit personnel should greatly enhance flight nurse recruiting and retention".

During the reporting period the unit recruited two additional nurses making a total of twelve. Of these twelve, eleven were on flying status and six were aircrew qualified. In addition, the unit had one nurse attending flight school, three nurses processing, and three prospective nurses at the end of the reporting period. Four nurses completed the Flight Nurses Course at Brooks AFB, Texas during this reporting period.

Concerning medical technicians, there are twenty-six aircrew qualified. The Unit had two qualified 7 level airmen and an increase from 28 to 34 qualified 5 level airmen.

During the reporting period the 37th AME Flight participated in 40 additional Flying Training Periods, an increase of three, for 85 flying hours.

The Unit flew six actual airlift support missions to Washington, D. C. , Houston, Texas; and Las Vegas, Nevada for a total of two hundred personnel airlifted. A medical crew was aboard each flight to take care of any medical problems or emergency that might arise, particularly, since the flying time per mission was long in duration.

In the area of OJT, the Unit maintained an OJT effectiveness rate of 95 percent for the first 3 months of this report period and 100 percent effectiveness for the past 3 months.

At the end of the reporting period the Flight had on hand 97 percent of its equipment. 100 percent of the AECC personnel are qualified and three complete Aeromed Evac crews were qualified. General Military Training was 100 percent completed and the SKI passing rate to five level was 95 percent. The Unit at the end of the period is currently processing three applications for nurses to join; two non-prior nurses and one prior service.

As a result of a reorganization from Squadron to Flight in June 1968, the Unit is the largest Aeromedical Evacuation Flight in Air Force Reserve. It is larger than five of the Squadrons since it possesses 14 complete crews plus a requirement for an Aeromedical Evacuation Control Center. As result of the reorganization the Unit kept all of its crews but lost its administrative and supply personnel thus causing an added administrative and command burden on the remainder of the Flight.

37 AME Flight - The Flight has been engaged in building up its forces including the addition of a new commander. Three new nurses have been recruited giving us a total of twelve assigned of which eight are on flying status. Twenty-five medical technicians assigned of which twenty-four are crew qualified. 95 percent of unit's equipment on hand with the remaining five percent on order.

During the period 22 July 78 to 5 August 78 the 37th Aeromedical Evacuation Group, MacDill AFB, Fla. provided aeromedical evacuation training opportunities for other Air Force Reserve

and Air National Guard tactical aeromedical evacuation squadrons and flights during the annual training tour at Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts.

Approximately 540 Air Force Reservists and Air National Guardsmen took part in a Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation Field Training exercise. Nine units assigned to 14th Air Force (Reserve) took part. Besides the 37 AEG, 94 TAW units included the 64 AEF, Dobbins and the 35 AEF, Maxwell AFB, AL.

The 37 AEG, the largest aeromedical unit in 14 AF(R), was the guiding force throughout the operation. Drawing over 20 tons of equipment from its warehouses at MacDill the 37 AEG provided all the support equipment except the vehicles which were supplied by Westover AFB.

The mission of the field training exercise was to train nine Air Force Reserve and two Air National Guard tactical aeromedical evacuation units in the employment of a Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation System (TAES). Pre-deployment, deployment, employment, redeployment and post-deployment activities were conducted by 21 officers and 80 airmen from the 37 AEG. The unit employed six mobile aeromedical staging facilities, two aeromedical evacuation liaison teams, an aeromedical evacuation control center and an aeromedical evacuation support team during the field training exercise. In addition, equipment and supplies were deployed to simulate a Medical Clearing Company and Combat Support Hospital.

Unit personnel trained other Reservists and Guardsmen in management and operation of the system. In addition, medical supply, communications and administrative personnel were trained in operational policies and procedures critical to the efficient functioning of the TAES. Scheduled flying activities included 72 sorties, 24 each by C-7, C-123 and C-130 aircraft. Numerous distinguished visitors observed the exercise and the unit received many laudatory comments.

In wartime the mission of the unit is to evacuate the sick and injured to hospitals in a speedy and safe manner. In peace time, the 37th must maintain a constant readiness by training, keeping supplies and equipment in top shape and developing constant plans for mobility, emergency, and medical operations.

At the beginning of this reporting period, Maj Richard C. Hoffman was the Commander of the 37th AMES until his resignation, 30 June 67. M/Sgt Robert E. Nichols was an air technician with the unit. Upon resignation of Maj Hoffman, Sgt Nichols assumed the administrative duties.

Maj Charles L. Nelson is the Executive Officer and Acting Commander of the 37 AMES; Capt Theresa C. Gesse, Chief Nurse; 2Lt Judy Clack, Recruiting Officer; and 1Lt David Press, Operations Officer.

The unit is fortunate to have fine flight nurses. Two examples of these talented women are Capt Theresa Gesse and Capt Annie R. Spurlin. Chief Nurse is Capt Gesse. As a civilian

she is a nurse in the OB Ward at the base hospital and this greatly benefits the unit because of the knowledge she has of AF policies and procedures. Capt Spurlin holds a BS Degree in nursing

and is on the teaching staff of the University of Miami Nursing School. Both women bring the unit a wide scope of knowledge from their civilian jobs.

During the reporting period, the reserve personnel status has fluctuated, however, the future looks bright with an anticipated goal of good recruitment. The assigned members are all high caliber and promise to upgrade the unit in many ways.

Right now the unit is with 13 nurses assigned, 5 crews qualified; 3 MSC officers assigned, 336 medical technicians assigned with 15 qualified as crew members. The authorized strength is 99 with 62 personnel assigned. Four nurses are waiting to attend flight nurses school.

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 10 Aug 2011

Updated:

Sources

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