

86th AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was the movement of sick and wounded personnel under medical supervision from battle fields or disaster sites to adequate medical facilities.

LINEAGE

86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

STATIONS

Ramstein AB, Germany

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron emblem

86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, a globe throughout gridlined Or, bearing a Staff of Aesculapius Argent winged of the last (Silver Gray), superimposed with a cross coupé Gules, all within a narrow border White. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow White border and inscribed "ALWAYS READY" in White letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow White border and inscribed "86TH AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQ" in White 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 red cross and Staff of Aesculapius represent the medical profession. The globe stands for the worldwide mission of the unit. The wings refer to rapidly providing life-saving medical care for the sick and wounded.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On Aug. 7, 1998, terrorist bombs damaged the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar Es-Salaam, Tanzania. More than 200 persons lost their lives, with 4,000 injured as a result of the blast. The 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, with C-141 support, evacuated US victims to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Then, a little over two years later, on Oct. 12, 2000, the US Navy destroyer *USS Cole* was refueling at the port at Aden, Yemen, when a terrorist small boat pulled close and detonated a bomb. The bomb opened a 40 by 40 foot hole on its port side, killing 17 sailors and wounding 39 others. The Wing's 86th AES and 75th AS evacuated the 39 injured sailors from Yemen to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center for immediate life-saving medical care. Crews from both the 75th AS and 86th AES carried 25 injured sailors from the *USS Cole* in October 2000. Both squadrons were recognized for their meritorious mission as the National Aeronautics Association chose both squadrons to share the Mackay Trophy.

The 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and 435th Contingency Response Group continuously train to meet sustainable medical readiness throughout the European theater here. Training not only benefits Ramstein Airmen, but also other allies like the Polish air force who have consistently engaged in AE training and familiarization throughout 2012 and 2013. "All NATO countries benefit from having highly skilled and qualified teams to transport wounded warriors from theater back to higher levels of medical care, and eventually back to their home country," said Lt. Col. Kevin D. Hettinger, the 435th CRG flight surgeon and Poland AE Building Partnership Capacity team lead. In early 2012, Polish AE team members visited the 86th AES Airmen here. In turn, three months later, a member of the 86th AES attended the first medical evacuation and aeromedical evacuation conference at the Polish air force academy. Last month, two Airmen from the 86th AES, and one Airman from the 435th CRG engaged with Poland again to focus on advancements of the Polish AE team from the previous year. "The Polish (Aeromedical Evacuation) team has a goal of obtaining NATO certification for aeromedical evacuation," Hettinger said. "Our team was able to provide some recommendations toward this goal after reviewing published NATO standards for AE and inspection checklists." Currently, the Polish AE team can transport stabilized Polish troops from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center back to Poland. "Their team is amazing," said Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Araujo, a 86th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron technician and fluent Polish speaker. "It's a team of six. They fly as a CCATT (Critical Care Air Transport Team). They do everything, they receive the phone call, they receive the plane, they set up and they fly." While the Poland AE team impressed their U.S. counterparts, the Polish medical experts continue to work to reach their certification and sharpen their skills. "It was nice to see how receptive they are and how willing they are to take in that information," Araujo said. "They're hungry for information, they want it, they're open to suggestions, they're willing to take criticism and learn from it." While, the Polish AE team was absorbing information, the three Ramstein Airmen also learned from their interaction with fellow medical professionals. "Both teams benefited as each shared their processes for safely moving patients during air evacuation," Hettinger said. Training between both countries is planned to continue to ensure strategic capabilities for NATO allies throughout the European theater. 2013

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.