

109 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

The 109 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron provides quality patient care and timely movement of casualties during wartime and peacetime operations. Using military and civilian aircraft the 109 AES, made up of more than 110 airmen, transport patients to airfields near designated health care facilities.

LINEAGE

109 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight received federal recognition, 1 Jun 1961

STATIONS

St. Paul, MN

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Henry T. Capiz, #1971

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Berlin crisis brought the unit to active federal service on 1 Oct 1961. Training and recruiting of airmen and nurses became the paramount concern. However, a shortage of Air Force school spaces forced a majority of in-flight medical training and OJT to be done by the organization itself. In 1962, the first actual aeromedical evacuation missions were flown. Every member of the unit rotated on flights with the 11th AMES at Scott AFB. Concurrently, actual missions were flown overseas with the 1457th AMTS at Rhein Main AB, Germany. Training had progressed to the point that by June everyone was confident that the unit, if called upon could perform its mission adequately. On 1 Sep 1962, the unit returned to state control after 11 months of federal service.

During Feb 1964, the 109th AEF, participated in a five day training period at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. During the spring, the entire flight received inflight evacuation training in the C-118.

The next two years saw the AEF housed in the same building as the Squadron headquarters. The manning level was down and the activities of the flight and Squadron headquarters were collective "aeromed" efforts.

With the deactivation of the 133d Squadron Headquarters the 109th AMEF received additional personnel to fill vacancies. Capt. Henry T. Capiz former squadron commander, became the flight commander.

In September 1967, the Hospital Inservice Education Program was initiated at Ramsey County Hospital, St. Paul. The program provided airmen the opportunity to work in surgery, medical service, the psychiatric section, and emergency rooms, and supplemented this work with classroom seminars.

In 1968, the mission of the flight attained global stature with the first of many subsequent aeromedical evacuation flights in support of the Vietnam effort.

Since September 11, 2001, the 109th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has flown in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Jumpstart in locations such as Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, Arizona, Germany, Iraq, Kuwait, Djibouti, Oman, Qatar, and Afghanistan to just name a few. The 109th assisted with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort by flying aeromedical missions to and from New Orleans in September, 2005. Missions have ranged from the retrieval of the remains to comprehensive inter-theater patient movement, in-flight patient care and aeromedical communications systems management.

109 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight was activated at Minneapolis St. Paul Metropolitan Airport Minnesota assigned to 133 Tactical Airlift Wing in the 1980s to provide medical specialist critical care air transport teams to staff C-130 Hercules aeromedical flights flown by 109 Tactical Airlift Squadron aircrews. The Flight normally deploys a five person critical care air transport team comprising a medical crew director physician a flight nurse a charge medical technician and two aeromedical evacuation technicians. Teams carry out missions ranging from the retrieval of remains to comprehensive inter theater patient movement in flight patient care and aeromedical communications systems management.

Teams undertake intense training on board 109 TAS C-130 Hercules aircraft including experiencing practice remedial procedures and maneuvers required in the event of flying incidents such as depressurization that they may have to deal with while providing patient care in the air on deployments in real world situations under adverse conditions.

133 Tactical Airlift Wing was redesignated 133 Airlift Wing with 109 TAS redesignated 109 Airlift Squadron on 16 March 1992.

109 Aeromedical Evacuation Flight was upgraded to Squadron status and redesignated 109 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in the 1990s. 109 AES Teams have also operated on board

civilian aircraft utilized to transport patients to airfields near designated health care facilities.

109 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron has provided specialist teams for flights in support of Operations Noble Eagle following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks and as well as US operations in Colorado Illinois New Mexico and Arizona has undertaken missions to Germany Iraq and Kuwait for Operation Iraqi Freedom and Djibouti Oman Qatar and Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. In addition 109 AES has provided humanitarian assistance and disaster support including following Hurricane Katrina completing aeromedical missions to and from New Orleans in September 2005.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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