

123rd MEDICAL GROUP



LINEAGE

123rd Medical Group
123rd Tactical Hospital
123rd Medical Group
123rd Medical Squadron

STATIONS

Louisville, KY

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Jerome A. Cope, 1951-1953
Maj Harold E. KLXXXXX, 1953-1955
LTC Harold Graves, 1955-1964
LTC Harold E. KLXXXXX, 1964-1966
LTC Donald HarXXXX, 1966-1968
LTC Samuel Cooper, 1969-1971
LTC John XXXXXXX, 1971
Colonel John D. Moore

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 123d Medical Group at that time was commanded by Maj Jerome A. Cope.. Another physician became hospital commander in April, Louisville orthopedic surgeon Harold E. Kleinert, then a major.

On March 1 1954 the Medical Group became the 123d Tactical Hospital, a designation which continues to this time.

1968 Orders for the 123d Tac Recon Wing and all other units of the Ky-ANG (except for State Headquarters) called for 24 months active duty, unless sooner relieved. Kentucky units affected by the call (with their gaining commands in parentheses) were: Hq, 123d Tac Recon Wing (TAC) Hq, 123d Tac Recon Group (TAC) 165th Tac Recon Squadron 123d Tac Hospital 123d Combat Support Squadron 123d Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron 123d Supply Squadron 123d Communications Flight (AFCS) 165th Weather Flight (AWS-MAC) At that point it also became clear that a number of members of the KyANG would not be moved to Richards-Gebaur with the Wing. The Group Headquarters would be shelved for the time being, the 165th Tac Recon Squadron would be greatly enlarged as an "augmented" squadron, and the 123d Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron would be reorganized and redesignated as a Field Maintenance Squadron. The Combat Support Squadron, Weather Flight, Communications Flight, Tac Hospital, and Supply Squadron would all be inactivated "for the duration."

The Tactical Hospital, always a proud unit of the KyANG, was called upon during field training to hear a cry for help. A soldier at nearby Camp McCoy, Wise., was severely injured in a military vehicle accident. He was brought to Volk Field by helicopter and cared for by the Tac Hospital until a med evacuation aircraft could get through severe weather to pick him up. The soldier later recovered at an Army hospital.

Another activity of the Tac Hospital has been physical exams for underprivileged children attending Guard-sponsored youth camp each summer for several years. Hospital staff performed 70 physicals for camp youth so they could go to camp.

Yet another example of fine work done by the Hospital occurred in the winter when ice-covered roads isolated an asthmatic girl at Nelson County, Ky. The hospital commander, Maj John M. Karibo, who is a specialist in children's allergies as well as a flight surgeon, sent an Army helicopter after the girl. A waiting ambulance met the helicopter at Shewmaker and rushed her to a Louisville hospital for recovery.

Members of the base's Fire Department taught various levels of HazMat training to the Ft Knox responders. A member of the Civil Engineer Readiness Flight taught the Louisville Fire Department Chemical and Biological Detection techniques and served as an evaluator for a Domestic Preparedness Exercise held by the City of Louisville. The 123rd Medical Squadron directly supported the mission of the Kentucky Air National Guard throughout the past year by providing more than 500 physical and dental exams, immunizations, and ancillary services such as x-rays, laboratory tests, electrocardiographs, pulmonary function tests and optometry examinations. The medical squadron gave 4,274 immunizations and 1,323 anthrax vaccines since the start of the program. In addition, the squadron conducted monthly mandatory random drug screening and periodic AIDS testing.

The medical mobility mission of the hospital is to provide, upon mobilization, manpower augmentation for a fixed medical treatment facility. With the increasing real world threats terrorism and biological threats, the training emphasis during this reporting period was on the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) at the first ever ANG Medical Cold Weather Survival Training. This training was conducted at the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, Michigan in February 2000. After 123rd MDS personnel received extensive classroom instruction on winter survival techniques and concepts of operations in a cold weather environment, 19 unit members deployed, set up field shelters, and learned field craft necessary for survival in cold weather conditions. This training also included Weapons of Mass Destruction tabletop exercises in conjunction with their field and air transport exercise training. Lessons learned from last year's Turkey Trot Exercise at the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center enhanced their skills in providing perimeter security and retrieving wounded troops from the enemy territory for trauma care and medical evacuation.

The 123rd Medical Squadron has also supported Wing and Air National Guard tasked AEF deployments to Seeb, Oman as well as joint Army/Air medical support efforts for Operation Alaska Road, Ketchikan, AK. With the draw down of Kentucky Army Guard medical units, the 123rd Medical Squadron has become the state's primary military medical response unit. The 123rd MDS has been an active participant in local response planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction and in the activation of a Rapid Assessment and Initial Decontamination (RAID) light team for the state of Kentucky. In May 2000, the Air Force Inspection Agency visited the 123rd Medical Squadron and awarded them a very high rating for services and care provided to the numerous Wing organizations.

In December 04, the 123d Medical Group established a mobile In-Place Patient Decon Team with the capability to move patients exposed to chemical/biological agents through decontamination before placing into a medical treatment facility. The team is available for use throughout Kentucky, as well as medical needs. Through the Health Technician Advisory Council (HTAC) for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 4, unit representatives helped organize Region 4 (Southeast states) classes to implement automated programs to better process flying waivers and initial physicals. The 123d Medical Group deployed three individuals to Task Force Grizzly (Border Patrol in Southern California) medical support to troops and the U.S. Border Patrol 25 June – 9 July. The Group implemented an annual dental exam program and completed over 85 percent of the wing starting from

scratch – successfully address the number one issue that makes personnel non-deployable. Twelve personnel from the Nursing corps completed Nursing Service Top-Star Trauma Training in St. Louis, Missouri, qualifying them for wartime casualty medical treatment tasking.

HURRICANE KATRINA/RITA RELIEF EFFORTS:

On 29 August 2005, Hurricane Katrina swept through Louisiana and Mississippi, leaving a wide swath of destruction. That same afternoon, two Kentucky Air National Guard aircrews scheduled to fly routine local training sorties were tasked to fly the first hurricane relief sorties into Navy New Orleans airfield and by 31 August the 123d Special Tactics Squadron was conducting search and rescue and helicopter evacuation operations in New Orleans with seven pararescue personnel, six FAAcertified combat/air traffic controllers and four Zodiac rescue boats. By the end of September, Kentucky Air Guard personnel had reinforced the unit's reputation as a world-class organization with an outstanding record of support to Katrina victims. Twenty-four members of the 123d STS took control of Air National Guard rescue operations from 31 Aug-8 Sep, managing additional STS personnel from the Alaska, California, New York and Oregon Air National Guard, establishing temporary control of the Navy New Orleans airport tower, and operating round-the-clock rescue and evacuation operations. They evacuated 10,635 people by helicopter, 1,206 by boat and 86 by motor vehicle. Additionally, on 23 September 15 members of the 123d STS deployed to Meridian, Miss. to await the landfall of the hurricane season's second Category Five hurricane, Rita, in Texas. Rita made landfall on 24 Sep but did not pack the destructive force of Katrina, so the STS personnel were released to return home and prepare for the 123d STS' first quarter 05 to Afghanistan. Thirty-one personnel from the 123d Security Forces Squadron under Capt. Mary Decker deployed to New Orleans initially, then on to Baton Rouge to provide security for the state of Louisiana from 1 to 24 Sep at multiple locations, including the Baton Rouge Convention Center and the Louisiana State University football stadium. From 29 August through 30 September, Kentucky Air National Guard aircrews flew 91 Hurricane Katrina relief sorties for 166.3 flight hours, carrying 414 military and 414 civilian passengers and 321.2 tons of cargo. The 123d Operations Group kept aircraft and crews on alert for hurricane relief operations throughout the month of September. Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Whelan of the 123d Operations Group served as Air Liaison Officer to the Louisiana Air National Guard in Baton Rouge from 22-29 Sep. The 123d Contingency Response Group (CRG, consisting 15 members of the 123d Aerial Port Squadron and nine members of the 123d Tanker Airlift Control Element [TALCE], under the command of Maj. Kevin Morris) handled airfield operations at the main Hurricane Katrina airfield hub of Belle Chase, Louisiana from 1 to 24 Sep and in Alexandria, Louisiana from 26 Sep into October. Seven members of the 123d Services Squadron deployed on 6 September to Gulfport, Miss. CRTS to provide dining facility services to deployed servicemen and remained in place through 30 Sep. The 123d Medical Group deployed detachments of nine personnel under Col. Richard Kimbler to Baton Rouge from 6 to 24 Sep, three personnel to Camp Shelby, Miss. from 5 Sep to 15 Oct and two personnel to Belle Chase from 20 Sep to 4 Oct. The Medical Group assigned 10 staff members to work with the Veterans Administration and local volunteers to train them to handle litters and other details for patients expected to arrive in Louisville through the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS). Seventy-five patients arrived at the base by C-130 airlift shortly after midnight the morning of 24 Sep, were processed in at the main maintenance hangar and transported to

various local hospitals. Wing Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Thomas Curry led a two-person Religious Support Team to Natchez, Miss. from 6-18 Sep 05 to assist both soldiers and civilians.

123 MDG Operation Iraqi Freedom Dec 04-Feb 05 1 Southwest Asia

123 MDS Operation Iraqi Freedom Mar-May 05 1 Southwest Asia

123 MDG Operation Iraqi Freedom Jun-Jul 05 1 Southwest Asia

123 MDG Hurricane Relief Sep (05) 9 New Orleans, LA

123 MDG Hurricane Relief Sep (05) 3 Camp Shelby, MS

123 MDG Operation Iraqi Freedom Sep (05) 1 Southwest Asia

123 MDG Hurricane Relief Sep-Oct 05 2 New Orleans, LA

123 MDG Operation Iraqi Freedom Sep 05- 1 Southwest Asia



Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources