

# 166<sup>th</sup> MEDICAL GROUP



## LINEAGE

166<sup>th</sup> USAF Dispensary  
166<sup>th</sup> Tactical Clinic  
166<sup>th</sup> Medical Group  
Redesignated 166<sup>th</sup> Medical Squadron, 1 Mar 1994

## STATIONS

New Castle, DE

## ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

Dr. Robert L. Fardelmann  
Dr. William H. Long  
Dr. Malvin J. Dougherty  
Dr. Marvin Shuster  
Dr. Russell G. Doyle  
Dr. Ralph A. Skowron  
Dr. Charles A. R. Skowron  
Dr. Arthur W. Spiro

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

On a disc Celeste, a globe in nombril point Or, gridlined of the first, overall in dexter a caduceus Gules, and in sinister a Blue Hen Azure, garnished of the field, combed and eyed of the third, all within a diminished bordure Sable. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "166TH MEDICAL SQUADRON" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "MEDICINA CURARE EXCELLENTIA" in Black letters. 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 globe alludes to the Squadron's worldwide capability. The winged caduceus denotes the medical field of support, and the Blue Hen is representative of the locale of the Squadron's base of operations in Delaware.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

There has been a medical unit associated with the flying unit of the Delaware Air National Guard since its origin in 1946. They were Army units then, since the separate Air Force wasn't born until 1947. The Medical section at that time consisted of a doctor and three enlisted members, housed in a single room on the part of the airport now occupied by the Delaware Army National Guard flying unit. Things remained pretty much that way through the time the unit was flying the P-47 and P-51, but the F-86 brought a change in 1959.

The Medical Section became a Medical Flight, with a flight surgeon and seven enlisted members, and moved to occupy one room; still second floor, but a corner room with windows on two walls! This room was in headquarters building 1504. Gradually, as the requirement developed for more detailed medical examinations, more ancillary procedures and more equipment, the Medical Flight annexed more territory.

It finally acquired a whole ground floor wing in the Headquarters building at about the same time as the flying unit traded in its F-86s for C-97s in 1962.

At the same time the 142nd Tactical Fighter Squadron (Augmented) became the 166th Military Airlift Group (Heavy), the Medical Flight became the 166th USAF Dispensary (Class B). Its strength increased to 41 members, paralleling the group's increase to over 900 members. There was an unbelievable number of exams to be done.

Before 1960 the Medical Section annually accompanied the Flying Squadron to its active duty site, there becoming part of the Wing Infirmary and providing medical support.

In 1960 the advent of the "Texas Plan" of active duty for training allowed fractional periods (less than 15 days at a time) of training. This plan changed the emphasis to training individual flights with like units of the active duty establishment. The Dispensary could now assign individual members to train for as little as five days at a time at, for example, USAF Hospital, Dover, Del.

The 1984 tour at RAF Upper Heyford, United Kingdom showed the members not only the workings of an overseas USAF Hospital, but also the English countryside, pubs, and a weekend excursion to London. In 1985 at Andrews AFB, Malcom Grow Medical Center extended its hospitality and unparalleled cooperation in accomplishing the unit's many and varied training requirements.

During the time of civil unrest in the late 1960s, dispensary members took Dart in providing medical backup to guard members billeted in the old armory at 10th and DuPont Streets in Wilmington and the armory by the State Capital in Dover. Fortunately medical services were only needed for mundane problems such as athlete's foot and runny noses.

In 1971 the C-97s became history; a new era arrived with the C-130s. The medical unit again changed its identity, and reduced its strength to 28. It became the 166th Tactical Clinic.

The emphasis for medical training again gradually changed. The preferred mode now became a two week tour for the entire clinic at an active duty medical establishment. In 1983 there was an active duty tour at the USAF Dispensary at Charleston, AFB, SC, during which members found they could field a pretty good softball team. And, that they could effectively function in an active duty dispensary.

In 1985, ground was broken for a new Clinic building, which the members expect to occupy in 1986. It is probable that the strength of the clinic will be doubled within the next four years. Whatever happens, those who have been there can feel that they laid a pretty fair foundation for those who will follow.

In January 1991 the Headquarters 166th Tactical Airlift Group, 166th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and the 142nd Tactical Airlift Squadron were activated involving over 275 Air Guard members. Shortly thereafter, members of the 166th Tactical Clinic were also called upon, bringing the total Air Guard involvement to over 350.

The 166<sup>th</sup> Medical Group ensures that the personnel of the Delaware Air National Guard, and others as designated, are medically qualified for flight duty and world-wide deployment. The 166 MDG provides medical services supporting unit wartime tasking, state emergencies and natural disasters upon mobilization, to provide lifesaving medical care to the gaining major command, Air Mobility Command. Additionally, group members provide the same lifesaving care to citizens when called to action by the governor, as was done in multiple hurricane evacuations. To this end, the 166th MDG operates the Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility, previously a mission of the 142nd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

At home station the group provides physical exam services for about 1,000 personnel assigned to the wing, ensuring our ability to fight, fly and win. 166th MDG members have deployed in force to Hurricanes Isabel, Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike.

In 2008 the group spearheaded a humanitarian aid mission to Delaware's State Partnership Program neighbor, the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. That same year the group was the lead

unit in a history making exercise bringing together the Delaware Emergency Management Agency, the Delaware Division of Public Health, the Delaware Army Guard aviation unit, the 142<sup>nd</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, the 142<sup>nd</sup> Airlift Squadron and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in an exercise testing, for the first time, all the agencies that would respond in a real world emergency in Delaware.

The group has also deployed members around the globe; to Afghanistan, Iraq, Antarctica, Uzbekistan and Germany, to name just a few places.

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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.

Unit History. DE ANG. *166 Tactical Airlift Group, Delaware Air National Guard, 40th Anniversary, 1946-1986.*

Unit History. DE ANG. *166 Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard, 50th Anniversary, 1946-1996.*