

# 32<sup>nd</sup> AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION GROUP



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

32<sup>nd</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Group

## STATIONS

Ellington AFB, TX

Kelly AFB, TX

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM

## MOTTO

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Ninety-three members of the 32d Aeromedical Evacuation Group began their first training assembly at Kelly in April. The AEG moved from Ellington AFB to main base Kelly. Lieutenant Colonel David Huffines was impressed with the many training possibilities in the area, namely Wilford Hall Medical Center. The immediate concern of the Colonel was the 71 vacancies in the unit, a consequence of the move from Houston, Texas. Huffines stressed 80 percent of the unit's members were on flying status and anyone thinking of joining should consider that. 1976

1981 Set for September, the 32nd Aeromedical Evacuation Group received notification they would participate in Reforger 81. Reforger was the annual NATO exercise testing units' ability to deploy U.S. forces to Germany. The 32nd provided a mobile aeromedical staging facility, with vehicles, equipment and six aeromedical evacuation crews of three people each for the NATO exercise.

1982 The Alamo Wing took part in another humanitarian mission involving a 10-day-old baby, born prematurely with congenital heart disease and other cardiac anomalies. The most recent patient to receive emergency aeromedical evacuation came in April, with the baby at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and in need of special treatment available only at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio. Within two hours, an aircrew from the squadron and aeromedical evacuation personnel from the 32 AEG assembled at the unit for the trip to England AFB, Louisiana. The mission grew from a baby needing urgent care to a total of four litters and two ambulatory patients with five attendants.

1983 Humanitarian efforts continued in July with another infant being airlifted to Kelly AFB and then onto Wilford Hall. This time the Alamo Wing's aircrews and 32nd Aeromedical Evacuation Group took part in an emergency airlift of a 15-hour-old infant boy from Dyess AFB, near Abilene, Texas. The infant was suspected of suffering from a general bloodstream infection and heart problems.

1986 Several organizational changes took place that affected the wing. While the 433d Tactical Airlift Wing, the tactical aeromedical evacuation function was part of the wing mission. The 433d Military Airlift Wing does not have an aeromedical evacuation role because the C-5 was not equipped for evacuations. Therefore, the 32d Aeromedical Evacuation Group and the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron were reassigned to the 302d Tactical Airlift Wing, Peterson AFB, Colorado. The two units remained at Kelly, and continued to be attached to the Alamo Wing for support.

1986 During February Alamo Wing aircrews left Kelly with a stop at Dover AFB, Delaware, to pick up equipment to be The 32d Aeromedical Evacuation Group and the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron spent two weeks practicing wartime skills in August. Patriot Spirit, the largest aeromedical evacuation exercise involved 1,200 Air Force, Army and Navy reserve and active duty personnel working in simulated battle conditions at Fort Lewis, Washington. The exercise involved a hands-on test at simulated forward operating bases, the exercise moved more than 400 wounded from Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facilities (MASFs) on C-130 aircraft. In a real wartime scenario the Air Force reservists would handle more than 90 percent of the aeromedical evacuation.

1988 The 32nd Aeromedical Evacuation Group and the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight were voluntarily mobilized 15 September to assist with the emergency air evacuation missions resulting from

impending danger and destruction of Hurricane "Gilbert". "Gilbert's" path was Corpus Christi, Texas, 150 miles South of San Antonio. Two hundred and twenty-five patients were airlifted out and returned.

1988 The Alamo Wing became involved with hurricane relief missions to Jamaica, while Texas Governor Bill Clements activated the Texas National Guard, evacuating Corpus Christi residents and the Corpus Christi State School for handicapped children. Using C-130s, the 32nd and 34th Aeromedical Evacuation units received valuable aeromedical training during the hurricane evacuation. The recovery process from Altus AFB began 18 September.

1989 Relations with Panama had been deteriorating since 1988. With the rising tension in Panama, the U.S. Southern Command developed a strategy, which gradually increased the strength of U.S. Forces in Panama to deter the dictator, General Manuel Noriega, from attacking U.S. citizens or interfering with the Panama Canal. During December, the wing became involved in Operation Just Cause. Part of the credit for the success of this limited invasion went to a little known

Alamo Wing reservists were among the first to go into action during Just Cause. Medical Service Corps members, flight nurses, aeromedical evacuation technicians and communications specialists from the 32d Aeromedical Evacuation Group and the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight gathered at Kelly AFB as soon as Military Airlift Command alerted them. A 32 AEG command post was operating and a Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility was ready to receive patients here while troops were still landing in Panama. Immediate support of the battle plan was started by providing the cargo and troop carrying capacity of the C-5 directly to Panama. Over 200 assigned personnel, eight aircrew and support volunteers participated in the operation. Equipment flown to Panama included medical supplies, tanks and field rations.

Patriot Spirit 90 involved the 32 AEG and the 34 AEF training in a real tactical environment. Patriot Spirit trained aeromedical evacuation members in their jobs. The exercise involved 1,700 Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines participating with nearly a fifth coming from the Alamo Wing.

1991 In support of Desert Storm 134 members of the 433 CRS activated in February. The 68 MAS possessed an average 16.17 airframes ending June. The flying hour tracking became a, nightmare, because the crew would not necessarily stay with the airframe. Crews placed in the window of opportunity meant the aircraft would keep moving and crews would rotate to different aircraft. Ending in June the 68th aircrew manning numbered 77 pilots, 56 engineers, and 75 loadmasters with 98 percent manning. Exercise Provide Comfort, the delivery of relief supplies to Kurdish refugees in southern Turkey and northern Iraq began in April. The exercise received support from reservists from the 32d Aeromedical Evacuation Group and the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron both assigned to the Alamo Wing.

1992 In addition to airlift missions into Somalia, five members of the 32nd Aeromedical Evacuation Group also supported the Somalia operation. Among other responsibilities in the area of responsibility, the 32 AEG members treated and prepared sick or injured American service personnel for evacuation by military airlift to hospitals in Europe. The Alamo Wing support continued a long tradition for the wing, which had conducted many humanitarian relief missions in the past few years. In this year alone, the wing flew thousands of tons of relief cargo to the Commonwealth of Independent States, Florida and Hawaii in the wake of Hurricanes "Andrew" and "Iniki", and to war-torn Croatia.

1993 Sometimes real-life crises offer the best training. Such was the case for three reservists from the 32nd Aeromedical Evacuation Group deployed to Panama as part of their annual tour in April. While

assigned to an aeromedical evacuation CAE), unit at Howard AFB, the reservists were called upon to evacuate two nationals at another location in Central America to Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB. Both men sustained injuries from an explosion. "We received 20 minutes notice of a mercy mission during our second week in Panama," recalled Major Diane C. Price, a flight nurse. Price and two other medical technicians from the 32 AEG received a fax in Spanish giving the details. "The two patients were seriously injured, suffering from metal fragments in the chest and head," said Price. Local doctors had attempted to remove some of the fragments, but there was no accurate documentation giving the status of the two. "We made the best assessment possible to prepare them for the five hour flight to San Antonio. One patient was a diabetic who required insulin. There was no record of his last dose.

1993 The 32 AEG saddled up for "Longhorn 94" during April. Approximately 50 reservists participated in the six-day exercise, which included patient treatment procedures and air evacuation on C-130 aircraft. While reservists at the Air Evacuation Control Center and Air Evacuation Liaison Team coordinated aircraft requirements and other aspects of the exercise, nurses and medical technicians at the MASF were busy taking care of the simulated patients.

Saying the United States cannot turn its back when so many people are at mortal risk, President Clinton prepared to send about 800 U.S. troops to support humanitarian efforts in Rwanda. The order came as over a half million Rwandan displaced by a bloody tribal war two years prior made their way back to Rwanda from refugee camps in Zaire. The UN mission helped international relief agencies to provide food and water.

"The mission's aimed to speed delivery of humanitarian aid and help refugees, who wanted to go home," said Clinton in his weekly radio address. "Our contribution reflected our special capabilities, such as providing airport security and helping to airlift forces." DoD plans called for the Air Force to establish airport operations at three locations - Entebbe, Uganda; Kigali, Rwanda; and Mombasa, Kenya. DoD flew reconnaissance flights over the region and had assessment teams in Rwanda meeting with government officials. Once approved to deploy, troops moved quickly into position and began humanitarian operations. Nearly half of the American troops deployed, worked at the main staging area at Entebbe Airport. It took the big planes like the C-5s where there was enough room to unload equipment, parcel it out to smaller planes like the C-130 and the C-141 and move closer to Kigali.

On 23 July, the first reserve missions to Rwanda from Kelly AFB left for McGuire AFB, New Jersey, with sixteen aircrew members on board. The mission of the flying squadron involved relief efforts in Rwanda, moving more than 2,000 passengers and nearly 5,000 tons of cargo. Once the Rwanda operations began in Africa, the use of the military airfields helped distribute nearly \$140 million in U.S. Humanitarian aid to the refugees. Four members of the 26 APS supported the 32 AEG in loading the unit's four vehicles bound for the Rwanda Support efforts. Operation Support Hope took place in July through August, when four members of the 32 AEG deployed to Rwanda for the humanitarian relief efforts.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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