

176 MEDICAL GROUP

MISSION

The 176 Medical Group is a group of military health professionals primarily responsible for the force health management, individual medical readiness and performance enhancement of the operational and support personnel of the 176th Wing. They also oversee and manage the biological, chemical and radiation hazards of the environments in which they operate. The Medical Group is composed of aeromedical physicians, physician assistants, nurses, a dentist, optometrist, bioenvironmental engineer, public health officer, lab personnel, a command and control staff, medical services administration staff and supporting technicians for these services. It is a group of medical personnel assets trained and ready to be utilized by the State of Alaska when needed for natural disaster incident management, homeland defense, humanitarian relief efforts and foreign nation partnership building. The group is also a Total Force asset for the Nation, a resource of medical personnel trained to support the War on Terror, and world-wide contingencies employing the Expeditionary Medical Support air transportable hospital. When not providing military medical service, the vast majority of our diverse MDG members are civilian medical professionals working in the Alaskan community.

LINEAGE

176 USAF Clinic
176 Tactical Clinic
176 Medical Group

STATIONS

Kulis ANGB, Anchorage, AK
Elmendorf AFB, AK

ASSIGNMENTS

176 Wing

COMMANDERS

LTC Majorie Paulson (Acting)
Col Ron Kichura, #2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The MDG regularly participates in numerous local and global training exercises which ensure they are a highly capable, precise, reliable and disciplined medical support force for the state and nation. Members of the 176 MDG have voluntarily participated in and contributed to the Alaska-Mongolia National Guard State Partnership; Arctic Care, a humanitarian medical mission serving rural Alaskans; and national hurricane disaster relief. They have also proudly volunteered for service in war zones, most recently in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

176 USAF Clinic has provided the medical support for Kulis over the years through much change and expansion. Originally known as the 176th Tactical Dispensary, the unit was redesignated the 176th Tactical Clinic in 1973. The new title reflected the Clinic's growing role of support for base and the active Air Force.

Finally, in 1990, the Clinic would again receive a new name, that which it is known as today, the 176th USAF Clinic.

The Clinic's notable contribution to the Alaska Air Guard history belongs to the Capt. Marjorie S. Paulson. Capt. Paulson was distinguished as being the first woman to join the Alaska Air National Guard in 1970. Capt. Paulson has since been promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and functions as the Clinic Chief Nurse. Over the years Clinic personnel have taken their skills to active duty facilities throughout the world and have integrated with their active Air Force counterparts.

In 1982 members deployed to Howard AFB, Panama. 1986 found the unit in the Philippine Islands receiving valuable training at, then, one of the military's largest medical centers. Europe was the destination in 1987 when their annual training deployment took them to Torrejon AB in Madrid, Spain. Most recently, in February of 1992, the Clinic ventured to the Far East where they performed their tasks at Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan in a joint deployment with their Alaskan sister medical unit the 168th USAF Clinic for Fairbanks.

While preparing for another overseas deployment to Korea, the unit volunteered to forego that opportunity to support the Air Force where they were needed more urgently. The Air Force responded by deploying the unit to Shaw AFB, South Carolina two separate times to augment and provide the needed medical support for those remaining behind.

As world events have changed the mission and focus of the Air Guard, the mission and focus of the Clinic will change likewise. New opportunities will arise along with new challenges for the unit. A member of the unit recently deployed to Africa to support the humanitarian effort being established in that former "closed continent."

Although the primary mission of the Clinic is to train, they provide many services to the base and its personnel. An active Health promotion program provides Alaska Air Guard members with information and guidelines to better, healthier living.

Past events have included health fairs and fun runs. Additionally, the Clinic provides training and equipment to other base agencies educating Guardsmen in life saving procedures for both war time and peacetime emergencies.

Finally, the Clinic provides periodic medical examinations to ensure the deployability and wellness of Air Guard members. The Clinic possesses an already rich history and the path to the Alaska Air Guard's 50th year anniversary promises to make it even richer.

In support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, members of the 176 Clinic went to Shaw AFB, SC to backfill for personnel assigned to the Mideast.

In May, 35 members of the 176th Medical Squadron deployed to Hayneville, AL, to host a free medical clinic for area residents. The group deployed as part of a joint-services mission organized by the Department of Defense Innovative Readiness Training program. In just seven and a half days, the team received valuable medical and annual training while assisting nearly 1,000 citizens in the community. 2011

USAF Unit Histories

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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 yearbook. *176 Tactical Airlift Group, 30th Anniversary, 1952-1982.*

Unit yearbook. *Alaska Air National Guard, The 40th Anniversary, 40 Years and Still Going Strong, 1952-1992.*