

315 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

315 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron constituted, 9 Sep 1994.
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Charleston AFB, SC, 1 Oct 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

315 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1994

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Florence M. Ray, 1 Jan 2011
Lt Col Diane DiFrancesco, 26 Mar 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
[1 Oct 1994]-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1997

EMBLEM



315 Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron emblem: Azure, an increscent in dexter Argent} in base a cross coupé Gules below an eagle stooping Proper; all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the disc a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and 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 increscent represents a crescent moon and denotes the unit's twenty-four hour readiness capabilities. The red cross is a traditional symbol of the medical profession. The eagle descending to rest on the cross alludes to the flight units served by the squadron. (Approved, 5 Jun 1996)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Aeromedical evacuation squadrons from six bases around the country trained together at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., Feb. 14-15 as part of an annual aeromedical jamboree. The 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron was host for the event, which brought three different aircraft together to give crews the vital training they need to be qualified in each plane. "We have to be 'tri-qualified,'" said Master Sgt. Willie Epperson of the 459th AES, Andrews AFB, Md. "Everyone has to be able to work on all three airframes: the C-130, C-17 and KC-135." The medical crews consisted of teachers, evaluators and students. Each part of the mission is critical to moving wounded service members out of hostile areas such as Iraq and Afghanistan. "It is important to bring us together in a central location where we can get many of our qualifications checked off on the same day," said Col. Dom DeFrancis, the Air Force Reserve's command surgeon. "We come under A3 (operations), and the job these AES crews do every day, around the world, is amazing." Starting with static, non-flying training and ending with a flight up the East Coast is part of the jamboree. "This takes a lot of coordination," said Col. Cherie Roberts, 315th AES commander. "There is a lot of adjusting to the different environments each airplane brings." Members of

Charleston's 317th Airlift Squadron flew the aircraft, also gaining valuable training and experience for pilots and loadmasters who airlift these medical professionals in and out of the different theaters of operations. "We make it a team effort," said Staff Sgt. Lisa Hanes, a medical technician from Andrews AFB. "We might have to deploy on short notice and have to be ready." All the training and hard work pays off in a 95 percent patient survival rate. "Getting them (patients) stabilized, to the stage and into the jets makes all the difference in the world," Colonel Roberts said. "We have to fly at least every 90 days, but this type of training lets us get a lot done in a short time." 2009

To maintain the strong relationship between aeromedical evacuation components of the Royal Air Force and U.S. Air Force, Airmen from Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina's 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron completed a training event alongside their RAF counterparts from the Royal Auxiliary Air Force No. 4626 (County of Wiltshire) Aeromedical Squadron, July 12-14 at RAF Brize Norton. "The leadership exercises that we've been involved in this weekend are very valuable to our reservists," said Flight Lieutenant James Iddon with No. 4626 Squadron. "They are great skills that we can take from our RAF training back into our (civilian) roles, and they also foster the ongoing relationship with the U.S. Air Force."

The ongoing affiliation allows medical evacuation components of both nations' air forces to evacuate patients to higher-echelon medical care, in a time of need. "We work together - and we have worked together," Iddon said. "And we want to be able to be effective from the start. These kinds of exercises mean that our relationship is already built up. We already know each others' languages and have understanding so that when we are needed to work together, half the work is done and we can really focus on the task at hand." Wing Commander Graham Banks, commanding officer of 4626 Squadron, provided 315th AES members with a tour of the 4626 Squadron's facilities to discuss their capabilities before members participated in combined physical training, team building activities and a leadership presentation led by Al Sylvester, professional speaker and former RAF member.

"The relationship between 4626 Squadron and the 315th Airlift Wing has developed over a long period of time," Iddon said. "It's really important to the squadron that we develop these skills together and look toward the future interoperability of our personnel. Having these skill sets means that in the future we have really solid building blocks to work on." The units have another similarity in that, while they are able to operate on multiple aircraft, the C-17 Globemaster III serves as a common platform for medevacs both within and out of theater. "We have a very segmented part of the AE mission - fixed wing aeromedical evacuation," said Maj. Lee Knoell, 315th AES Medical Service Corps officer. "This unit does everything from level one, all the way up to getting (patients) through the aeromedical staging facility, so we get to learn about these other pieces that we may need to do down the road."

RAF Brize Norton, located in Oxfordshire, England is the largest RAF station, with approximately 5,800 uniformed personnel. It serves as the headquarters of the RAF's air mobility and aerial refueling forces, and operates the C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, the same aircraft flown in the U.S. by Joint Base Charleston's 437th and 315th Airlift Wings. "I have been lucky enough to be a part of these training exercises," Iddon said. "There's already this relationship and understanding of the way that each other work. And it's about building that culture, and that can't be done in an

instant. Being interoperable opens up the resources that are available to achieve what we need to achieve around the world." 2019

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USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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