

403 AEROMEDICAL STAGING SQUADRON



MISSION

Although the unit medical mission may vary, the main thrust is constant: providing quality life saving medical care, treatment and services to the sick, injured and wounded. In providing for the patient, we strive to encompass the whole person on the physical, mental and spiritual (or life-essence) level. In performing our mission, we will never leave a patient behind, alone, deserted, or abandoned regardless of the sacrifices. This is our strength. The Patient's Psychic. Many sick, injured or wounded patients experience sorrowfulness through or as if through separation from a loved one, especially when the prognosis is uncertain or grim. Providing warmth, comfort, compassion, and especially hope, however slight, is essential to the patient's recovery and can often spark or enhance the will to survive. This is our courage. The Spiritual or Life-Essence. We are trained and prepared to perform our mission under a variety of conditions in wartime, and often in peacetime, under some austere conditions. During these times we tend to conduct our life in accordance to many factors and outside influences. It is all too often when the patient realizes the inevitable sense of the ultimate sacrifice in defending our country may be eminent, the patient may seek comfort deep within.

LINEAGE

403 Medical Group constituted, 10 May 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to Active Service, 1 Apr 1951
Relieved from Active Duty and inactivated, 1 Jan 1953
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jan 1953
Redesignated 403 Tactical Hospital, 18 May 1954
Ordered to Active Service, 28 Oct 1962
Relieved from Active Duty, 28 Nov 1962
Discontinued and inactivated, 11 Feb 1963
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Mar 1977

Inactivated, 1 Nov 1983

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Nov 1983

Redesignated 403 Medical Squadron, 1 Nov 1990

Redesignated 403 Aeromedical Staging Squadron, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Portland Aprt (later, Intl Aprt), OR, 27 Jun 1949-29 Mar 1952

Ashiya AB, Japan, 14 Apr 1952 -1 Jan 1953

Portland Intl Aprt, OR, 1 Jan 1953

Selfridge AFB, MI, 16 Nov 1957-11 Feb 1963

Selfridge ANGB, MI, 1 Mar 1977-1 Nov 1983

Keesler AFB, MS, 1 Nov 1983

ASSIGNMENTS

403 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 27 Jun 1949 - 1 Jan 1953

403 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 1 Jan 1953

403 Air Base Group, 28 Oct 1962-11 Feb 1963

403 Rescue and Weather Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Mar 1977-1 Nov 1983

403 Rescue and Weather Reconnaissance (later, 403 Tactical Airlift; 403 Airlift) Wing, 1 Nov 1983

403 Medical Group, 1 Aug 1992

403 Wing, 1 Oct 1997

COMMANDERS

Col Benton Busbee, 1 Feb 1997

Col Terrell Hebert, 2 Mar 2002

Col Maria Pons, 11 Jan 2004

Col (Dr.) Guy W. Favaloro

Lt Col Barbara A. Persons

Lt Col Lauren Defrates, Apr 2021

Col Carl H. Spear, Jr., 10 Sep 2021

HONORS

Service Streamers

Korean Service

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Jul 1977 -31 Dec 1978

1 Jul 1984-30 Jun 1986

1 May 1992-30 Apr 1994
1 May 1994-30 Apr 1996
1 May 1996-31 Aug 1997
1 Jan 2004-31 Dec 2005
1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2010

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
14 Apr 1952-1 Jan 1953

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure below three mullets enarched in chief Argent, in dexter a Rod of Aesculapius Proper entwined by two serpents, heads endorsed of the second eyed Sable and in sinister a cross-couped Gules fimbriated of the third bearing a vol Or, all within a diminished border Black. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "403D AEROMEDICAL STAGING SQ" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "NONE LEFT DESOLATE" in Black letters.

SIGNIFICANCE: 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 red cross represents the international provision of life-saving services and care to the sick, injured and wounded. The Air Force wings signify to unit's ability to deploy immediately to support aeromedical evacuation of sick and injured. The Rod of Aesculapius, with two entwined snakes, signifies the unit's commitment to the Hippocratic Oath. The white stars allude to the Air Force core values of integrity, service and excellence. (Approved, 4 May 2001)

Unofficial, unit supplied significance: A red cross, outlined black is recognized on emblems worldwide for standing for health and dental care and for life-saving services and care through humane and fair treatment of all sick, injured and wounded. Air Force yellow wings centered on the cross Nightingale's angels of mercy - symbolize the ability to deploy

anywhere at anytime to support the aeromedical evacuation of sick, injured and wounded. A dual Caduceus represents the commitment to the Hippocratic Oath to service health and dental needs of all under our care. Three white stars atop the design represent the Air Force core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. They also symbolize to unit members the principles of faith (faith in our own individual deity, our country our leaders and our mission), our courage (to face adversaries and perform our mission), strength (to ensure tenacity and persistence in the performance of the mission regardless of cost). All elements reflect the unit motto: NONE LEFT DESOLATE. THREE STARS: The stars represent the Air Force Core Values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do. The stars also stand for the unit personnel's three cohesive basic characteristics of faith, courage and strength. Faith: In our own individual deity, our country, our leaders, and our mission. Courage: To face the adversities and perform our mission. Strength: To ensure tenacity and persistence in the performance of our mission regardless the cost. They also represent the constellations and our worldwide commitment day or night. It also represents a modification of part of our nation's heritage: one if by land, two if by sea, three if by air. DUAL CADUCEUS: Representing the health, dental and all associated fields in providing life-saving treatment and services to all sick, injured and wounded who come under our care; our Hippocratic Oath. RED CROSS: For International recognition of our standing as a health and dental care U" type unit, and by providing compassion and life-saving services and treatment through humane and fair treatment of all sick, injured and wounded. WINGS: A part of our mission to be deployed anywhere at anytime for any reason to support the aeromedical evacuation of the sick, injured and wounded. The wings of angels are white. Angels representing the "Nightingale's" angels of mercy in providing for the sick, injured and wounded. COLORS: Blue, Red, White BLUE: The standard color of the United States Air Force. To perform our mission in the "wild blue yonder" at all cost. The color also represents the sky, which depicts the "Can-Do" attitude of unit personnel in that "the sky is the limit." RED: International indication of health and dental care and humane treatment with compassion. For the blood of our forefathers and our fellow countrymen in keeping our great nation free. WHITE: For the neutral aspects of our mission to treat all sick, injured and wounded regardless of their status, nationality, race, sex or religious beliefs. It also represents the purity of our intent to provide such care and treatment to the best of our abilities and should be allowed to do so unhindered under the auspice of the Geneva Convention.

MOTTO

NONE LEFT DESOLATE

The motto is also based, in part, on Psalm 34, verse 22: "The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants; and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate." This is our faith.

OPERATIONS

In summer 2019, 403 ASTS personnel began the process of moving building facilities as their primary locations, buildings 901 and 904, were shared with other units and did not fully meet the needs of medical personnel. Final building design drawings were completed in August 2019 and construction began thereafter. The squadron contracted out a construction project

with U.S. Navy contractors located at Gulfport, Mississippi for the move. As construction finished, ASTS personnel scheduled the final interior inspection for 27 May 2021 at 1300L. During construction, it was noted that several pieces of furniture were damaged by contracting personnel and that additional upgrades to the COMM room were needed before the project could be completed. Contracting personnel gave ASTS leaders a new project completion date of 23 July, which was the last day in which several ASTS personnel were on orders conducting their annual tour to help move equipment to the new building.

Final inspections were delayed to August 2021 due in part to weather and when conducted, ASTS personnel noticed 13 exterior deficiencies, 23 interior deficiencies, and 3 administrative deficiencies. These deficiencies were expected to be resolved within 30 days. As the work was finally done by August UTA, ASTS leaders authorized PT gear for the duty day so that Airmen could help move equipment into their new building, building 826.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was also scheduled for 6 August at 1300, over which Lt Col Lauren Defrates, 403 ASTS commander presided. Squadron personnel continued moving equipment into the new building but was not completely finished for several more weeks. Limited attendance at UTA inhibited the squadron's ability to move everything as scheduled. Airmen finished moving buildings by 17 August 2021 and were open for business.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 23 Nov 2010

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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.