

433 AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION SQUADRON



MISSION

Provides theater-level command and control for all aeromedical activities supporting the Worldwide Aeromedical Evacuation System during emergency or wartime operations. Provides fully staffed and equipped aeromedical evacuation elements to support casualty movements in one or more theaters of operation.

LINEAGE

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

STATIONS

Kelly AFB (Later, Kelly Fid Annex. Lackland AFB), TX, 1 Oct 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

433 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1994

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Thomas E. Morrill
Col Deborah S. Deia

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

A gules cross is centered on an ultramarine azure disc. Argent wings are surmounted over the cross. An argent "alamo" is positioned over all. Or lightning bolts are placed at dexter and sinister chief and dexter and sinister base. The disc is bordered with or. Vert scrolls are attached above and below the disc. The scrolls are bordered also with or. The scroll above is blank. The one below is lettered with or and bears the unit's motto "service with pride."

SIGNIFICANCE: ultramarine blue and air force yellow are used in the design. Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of air force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of air force personnel. The red cross symbolizes the aeromedical evacuation mission of the unit. The yellow lightning bolts signify the unit's communications capabilities and the ability of the unit's four major components working together to support the overall mission. The white "alamo" represents the relationship of the unit to its parent organization. Wings and the horizontal show the flying mission of the unit's aeromedical personnel. The green scrolls depict the field operations conducted by the unit. All elements of the design reflect the unit's motto: "service with pride." (Approved, 26 Mar 1996)

MOTTO

SERVICE WITH PRIDE

TRUSTED CARE IN THE AIR

OPERATIONS

Over 250 members from the Alamo Wing joined 2000 active duty, reserve and guard airman soldiers and sailors in Patriot Star 97. The exercise was a massive joint medical training exercise staged at several sites in the Northeast during June. Reservists assigned to the 433d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and the 433d Aeromedical Staging Squadron tested their abilities to deploy to a contingency location, sustain operations and deploy home. Patriot MedStar '97 was a joint service, Total Force exercise sponsored by Headquarters, Air Force Reserve Command. It was the first time since the Persian Gulf War in more than six years that reserve and active components exercised the complete medical evacuation system for movement of patients both within a small theater area and over long distances. In addition to their medical and medically related duties, participants trained in deployment procedures, ground and flight operations, chemical warfare protection, and perimeter defense training.

The vision of the 433d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron remained "Become a World Class Aeromedical Evacuation Unit." On 27 October, the AES received tasking from the Global Patient Movement Requirement Center. The 433 AES sent thirty-five volunteer members to peacekeeping activities in the Balkans as part of Joint Endeavor. The thirty-five members left on 22 December, for a six-month tour. In addition, the AES sent three members performing alert duty in Panama during November. The three worked with the 24th Medical Group, participating in Southern Spirit. The AES participated in Team Medic sponsored by the 34 Medical Battalion Army Reserve and the 807th Medical Brigade, Army Reserve in July at Fort

Chafe, Arkansas. The AES also participated in two National Disasters Medical System Exercises. Another exercise took place in August, involved with the local San Antonio community. In November, the "Longhorn 96" took place testing the AES deployment and operation capabilities in a theater with short notice. During December, the AES participated in the Shared Resources High Frequency Radio program. This exercise used radio service of the Red Cross, military and ham radio operations.

1997 From January through March, the 433 AES continued their involvement in Operations Joint Endeavor/joint Guard. Members volunteered for rotation in Bosnia, Hungary and Germany. The AES simulated an Exercise Wild Turkey in November. The deployment took on a battlefield contingency with a Korean scenario.

1999 The Alamo Wing's C-5A Galaxies and aircrews joined other Air Force Reserve Command and active Air Force units in March and April, providing airlift support for military action against Serbia's ethnic cleansing campaign in neighboring Kosovo. All told, the 68 AS and 433 AES have spent a total of more than 150 days supporting Kosovo operations. The involvement of the wing is part of the NATO-led peacekeeping agreement with Serbia in the aftermath of its military action against Serbia's ethnic cleansing campaign in neighboring Kosovo.

Crews from the 68th Airlift Squadron of the Alamo Wings volunteered for four missions to European locations. Thus far, the missions carried nearly 62 tons of cargo and 25 duty passengers, logging 11 sorties in 53 flying hours. This is, but the latest effort in which the Alamo Wing and other AFRC units having been involved in the Balkans. In late 1995, the wing became a major participant in Operation Joint Endeavor, a NATO peacekeeping mission, after the former Yugoslavia broke up into separate nations and provinces with the fall of European communism. Since then, the Alamo Wing flew numerous humanitarian relief missions to the region, ferrying lifesaving cargo to Bosnia and the other Balkan states, deploying wing members, most from the 433d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, to help alleviate medical crises incurred by civil war, severe winters and epidemics.

More than 200 members of the Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, the active Air Force and the U.S. Army participated in a joint medical training exercise hosted by the Alamo Wing, 1-2 May. Dubbed Operation SPRING GAMES '99, the exercise provided contingency training to personnel involved in a mass casualty scenario. The 433d Aeromedical Staging Squadron and 433d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron set up the exercise and conducted training for their own members and those of the other components. The beneficiaries of the training were active-duty ASTS units from Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, and Lackland AFB, Texas. The Air Force Reserve's 459th ASTS at Andrews AFB, Maryland, also provided exercise support, as well as the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, March ARB, California, which contributed a C-141 Starlifter to the exercise on which patients were evacuated.

Meanwhile, the 433d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron deployed a nine-member contingent to the Balkans region. All told, the 68 AS and 433 AES spent 150 combined days supporting

Kosovo operations. The wing's involvement was part of the NATO-led peacekeeping agreement with Serbia in the aftermath of its military action against Serbia's ethnic cleansing campaign in neighboring Kosovo.

Since then, the Wing flew numerous humanitarian relief missions to the region. The flying squadron ferried lifesaving cargo to Bosnia and other Balkan states, and deployed wing members, most from the 433d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, helping to alleviate medical crises incurred by civil war, severe winters and epidemics.

With the focus in Kosovo now on peacekeeping, the Alamo Wing continued to assist the Air Force Reserve Command and active Air Force units with airlift and medical support mission. The wing C-5A Galaxies and aircrews assigned to the 68th Airlift Squadron conducted more than 90 sorties in 500 flying hours and the 433d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron deployed a nine-person contingent to the Balkans regions once again.

Led by the United States, NATO conducted a massive 78-day air assault against the Serbian military infrastructure in response to the Serbs' attempt to remove ethnic Albanians from Kosovo. The Alamo Wing was part of NATO's effort to resettle ethnic Albanians into a secure environment in accordance with the peace agreement reached with Serbia.

The Alamo Wing flew numerous humanitarian relief missions to the Balkans, ferrying life saving cargo to Bosnia and other Balkan states.

A special team from the 433d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron assisted in transporting a critically ill 5-day old baby girl from a hospital at Yokota AB in Japan to Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB, Texas. The 15-member team specially trained in Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) proved to be a milestone for the aeromedical squadron. The team was totally responsible for using the ECMO technique while flying from Yokota to Kelly, which was the furthest distance that an aeromedical team has taken primary responsibility for an ECMO.

The 433d Aeromedical Staging Squadron added new faces to its ongoing mission readiness requirements. Three new areas were given the green light to establish better manning in an effort to continually deliver superior medical services so that ASTS could better prepare patients for aeromedical evacuation.

First, four critical care aeromedical transport teams, with each team consisting of a physician, a critical care registered nurse and a cardio-pulmonary technician, would work in conjunction with the 433d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. The Critical Care Augmentation Team (CCAT) team augmented care for ill, critically injured and burn patients requiring advanced care during aeromedical transport. The team was to be a rapid deployable resource available to support a forward-deployed medical unit that needed added medical assistance. In addition, CCAT was to assist the ASF when specialized medical equipment requirements needed to support patients expected to exceed the unit's medical inventory in flight. Along

with the new CCAT teams, ASTS started manning a new 50-bed, 27-member addition to its already 24-hour, 1,100-bed ASF, providing medical support augmentation with emergency medical care for patients transiting to the aeromedical evacuation squadron.

2001 Another history making event for the 433 AES occurred when the Air Evacuation Liaison Team (AELT) accomplished a "Sling Load." The AELT was co-located on the forward battle line with the user service, when the "Bug Out" order was given. The strategic air move included loading all AELT personnel and equipment in addition to "sling loading" rolling stock under the helicopter during a dangerous hovering operation for the 15-mile ride to the new location.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 19 Nov 2010
Updated: 13 Aug 2021

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit history. *Kelly AFB, TX, Heritage of Service, Seventy-Five Years of Military Aviation at Kelly Air Force Base, 1916-1991*. Office of History, San Antonio Air Logistics Center. Kelly AFB, TX. 1991.