

## 442 MEDICAL SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

442 Medical Group constituted, 10 May 1949  
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949  
Ordered to Active Service, 10 Mar 1951  
Inactivated, 12 Mar 1951  
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 442 Tactical Hospital, 18 May 1954  
Ordered to Active Service, 1 Oct 1961  
Relieved from Active Duty, 27 Aug 1962  
Discontinued, and inactivated, 17 Jan 1963  
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1976  
Redesignated 442 Medical Squadron, 1 Nov 1990

#### STATIONS

Fairfax Fld, KS, 27 Jun 1949  
NAS Olathe, KS, 27 May 1950-12 Mar 1951  
NAS Olathe, KS, 15 Jun 1952  
Grandview (later, Richards-Gebaur) AFB, MO, 3 Apr 1955-17 Jan 1963  
Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO, 1 Jul 1976  
Whiteman AFB, MO, 1 Apr 1994

#### ASSIGNMENTS

442 Troop Carrier Wing, 27 Jun 1949-12 Mar 1951  
442 Troop Carrier Wing, 15 Jun 1952-17 Jan 1963  
442 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1976  
442 Tactical Fighter Group, 1 Oct 1982

442 Tactical Fighter (later, 442 Fighter) Wing, 1 Feb 1984

## COMMANDERS

Col Jerry Fenwick  
Lt Col Paul E. Smith  
Col Samuel A. Morse

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1987-31 Jul 1988  
1 Nov 1989-31 Oct 1991  
1 Oct 1997-31 Aug 1999  
1 Mar 2003-28 Feb 2005  
1 Mar 2005-28 Feb 2007

## EMBLEM



On a disc of blue stands an eagle with open wings facing right wearing a shield on its breast. The top one-third of the breast shield is blue with three points and within the blue showing three white stars. The bottom two-thirds show 5 red and 4 white vertical stripes. To the lower left is a red cross on a round white background with two thin black rings. Above and below the emblem a white scroll bordered in yellow. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The ultramarine blue background represents "the sky, the primary theater of Air Force Operations," the Red Cross (international symbol of mercy) represents "courage, strength and

valor" with the white background representing "innocence, truth, and wisdom." The Air Force yellow represents "the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel." The eagle and breast shield represents "the symbol of our country and the colors of our flag (red, white, and blue) to remind us to never lose sight of our reason for existence to safeguard our military members and family."

Azure, a stylized eagle Sable, head Argent and garnished of the last, charged on its breast with an escutcheon blazoned: Gules, three pallets fesswise Argent, on a chief Azure three mullets fesswise, overall in sinister base a plate charged with a cross couped Red: all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached above the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and Inscribed " READY, ABLE. CARING " in Yellow letters. **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 red cross on the white disc reflects the medical functions of the unit. The eagle and shield represent a strong defense force and the unit's support to personnel who safeguard the nation. (Approved, 24 Aug 1995)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

442 Tactical Hospital mission is to provide immediate first aid and triage treatment, transportation of casualties, and coordination of private ambulance service.

2006 "Ready, able and caring" is more than a slogan for the 442<sup>nd</sup> Medical Squadron, it's a mission philosophy. "We're ready to meet to the mission ... and we're able to provide the best medical care around," said Senior Master Sgt. Billy Day, superintendent of aerospace medicine. "Caring ... well, that's our job. We're here to take care of the wing." During a unit training assembly, the medical squadron averages more than 100 physicals, as well as numerous hearing examinations, immunizations, dental exams and gas-mask fit tests.

In addition, these dedicated reservists must maintain stringent job training requirements, as well as the ancillary training required by all reservists. Being flexible is an important aspect of the squadron's success, according to Senior Airman Lisa Oheim, medical technician. "We have to float from position to position," she said. "If they don't have people to fill a spot, we might have to work with a dentist, ophthalmologist or in immunizations."

"Yesterday alone, we did 47 physicals," Oheim continued. "... that makes us really proud we have the cohesion to complete that." The medical squadron's breadth and depth of civilian experience also contributes to their success. "Everyone is highly educated," said Capt. Jill Blake-Musick, hospital administrator. "Some people see weekend warriors, ... but we really are professional physicians, nurses and med. techs."

Sergeant Day is proud of the squadron's accomplishments and sees the medical unit's role as critical to the fighter wing's ability to complete its wartime and peacetime missions. "If you look over the past four years, no one has returned from a contingency or deployment for a medical condition not identified before they left," he said. "We're here to ensure people don't get into a situation where they are in need of medical care and can't get it."

“We’re here to take care of the wing,” Sergeant Day continued. “If they have a problem, we’re going to find a way to fix it” Airman Oheim has a similar philosophy. “Every single patient – we care about getting them ready (to deploy),” she said. With the staggering workload and the many facets of the medical squadron, one might ask why they continue to serve. “People don’t go into medicine or nursing without some kind of altruistic intent,” said Col. Jim Fishback, 442nd Medical Squadron deputy commander.

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USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 30 Nov 2010  
Updated: 13 Jan 2023

#### Sources

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