

452 AEROMEDICAL STAGING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

452 Aeromedical Staging Squadron constituted, 9 Sep 1994
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

March AFB (later, March ARB), CA, 1 Oct 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

452 Medical Group, 1 Oct 1994

COMMANDERS

Col Darrin D. Lambrigger, 22 Aug 2014

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Sep 1995-31 Aug 1996

1 Sep 1997-31 Aug 1999

1 Oct 2002-30 Sep 2004

1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2006

1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2010.

EMBLEM

On a disc Azure, a cross couped Gules, charged with a cardiac pulse of four in fess Argent, overall a caduceus Olive detailed Sable, all within a narrow border Black. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "452D AEROMEDICAL STAGING SQ" 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 alludes to the caring of the sick and wounded. The cardiac pulse signifies the support of life and the sustaining of the rhythm of life. The caduceus is a symbol of medical expertise. (Approved, 2 Feb 2004)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

3/30/2010 On Valentine's Day, freelance photographer Michael Yon joined a aeromedical evacuation flight from Kandahar to Bagram Air Base. On the flight, Yon captured a striking image of an Air Force Reserve nurse – Maj. Deborah "Lucy" Lehker -- caring for a young Canadian soldier who had been severely injured by an explosion. Yon's touching image quickly circulated on the Internet. "The photo shows the way Major Lehker works," said Master Sgt. Cynthia Villa of the 452nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron at March ARB. "She takes her job very seriously. She pours her heart into what she does. She puts 150 percent into her patient care."

For six months, Major Lehker served as part of a three person team of medical professionals caring for critically wounded service members during air transport missions out of Afghanistan. The photo showed the intensity of Major Lehker's care for her patient and touched thousands. Also, it reached the soldier's parents in Canada. They contacted Major Lehker and thanked her for helping their son. "We had hit turbulence and even though patients are sedated, sometimes [the turbulence] will jar them just enough to startle them," she said. "And it did. [He] started to raise his head up."

Major Lehker went to the soldier, touched his forehead and talked to him in his ear, reminding him who she was and that he was flying on a C-130. "I told him he'd had surgery and that he was going to Germany and that he was going home," she said. "He relaxed very well. He calmed right down." In recovery, the Canadian soldier is up and walking around now. "[He] is the first patient where I've had closure," she said. "You transport them with limbs missing and head injuries or even mutilation, and you don't ever know the outcome."

This was Major Lehker's first deployment as a member of a Critical Care Air Transport Team. The team includes a physician, nurse and respiratory therapist and assists the movement of patients with the most severe injuries. "Life, limb or eyesight -- that's what makes it an emergency priority and gets CCATT involved," she said. During her deployment, Major Lehker's team flew 49 missions, transporting 74 patients.

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.