



THE DUSTOFFER

NEWSLETTER



DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 1997

1997 DUSTOFF Association Reunion



Distinguished guests for the Saturday evening banquet included:

MG (R) Pat Brady and his wife, Nancy

BG (R) Jerry Foust and his wife, Roz

Special Guests of Honor for the weekend:

Jessie Kelly Morris, wife of Maj. Charles L. Kelly

Her son, Charles Kelly, Jr.

Her daughter, Barbara Kelly Howerton

Her daughter and son-in-law, Carol Kelly Dorn, and Mike Dorn.

Mike Kelly and his wife, Carolyn

Above:
Barbara Kelly Howerton, Carol Kelly Dorn and Charles Kelly, Jr., stand with a portrait of their father, Major Charles Kelly

Right:

Major General Pat Brady and Nancy Brady received a beautiful portrait created by Carol Kelly Dorn



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Greetings from Alabama —



President's Message

Last year was a great year for our DUSTOFF Association, in terms of membership, activity throughout the year, and a great reunion. The Kelly family made some moving and heart-warming presentations, adding a very special perspective — and touch — to our gathering. Your Executive Council met on 3 May, and hopes are high for this year to be another good one. We continue to search for those members who have not been seen at a reunion or heard from in many years. Help your board with that search — send us the names and addresses of our "wayward friends" and we will contact them.

If you have comments, suggestions, or ideas which might enhance our Association and/or the Annual Reunion, please write me at my home address (301 Holly Hill Road; Enterprise, AL 36330) or E-mail (dustoff@hotmail.com). I assure you that your comments will be given consideration, that I will respond to you, and will discuss any issues at the next Executive Council meeting. I look forward to serving as your President, and to seeing you next February.

DUSTOFF!
Charlie Webb

Highlights from the 1997 Reunion Banquet

Colonel Dan Gower, DUSTOFF Association President, delivered perhaps the most eloquent keynote address in many years. It is included here in its entirety, along with the address by Charles Kelly, Jr.

Colonel Dan Gower :

One of our goals this year was to make the association more visible in the units, to generate new membership, and to return to the organization something in the manner of recognition. To that end, we instituted the first awards for the DUSTOFF Rescue of the Year and the DUSTOFF Crewmember of the Year. Nominations were solicited from the Unit Commanders, and the Executive Council met in November to select the recipients.

Our first award is sponsored by United Technologies/Sikorsky Aircraft. The DUSTOFF Rescue of the Year Award honors the crew or crews who displayed extraordinary skill, courage, and commitment to the DUSTOFF mission by the saving of a life or lives under extreme conditions. This year's winner is the 571st Medical Company from the 36th Evac Battalion stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado.

We also received nominations from several other organizations, one of which involved

a hoist mission into a mine field in Bosnia. The fact that the 571st won this award does not in anyway degrade the bravery and professionalism of any of the other crews nominated.

Two crews participated in this mission; Crew Number One was made up of CW2 Mike Hangge, CW2 Bryan Judson, SGT Peter Carroll, and SPC Robert M. Toussaint.

Crew Number Two consisted of CW2 Stuart May, CW2 Scott Henry, SGT Victor Stickles, and SPC David Scott.

In deteriorating weather, extreme cold, blowing snow, fog, impending darkness, and the harsh effects of altitude and temperature, these two crews rescued two members of the Gunnison County Ground Search and Rescue Team from Mount Baldy in Gunnison, Colorado. The mission involved use of the hoist as well.

Here to present the award is John Soehnlein, one of our own DUSTOFF Association members representing United Technology/Sikorsky Aircraft. Receiving the award on behalf of the two crews and their Commander, Major Bryan Harp, is CPT Tom Lewis representing the 571st Medical Company.

An equally challenging choice was the selection of the Outstanding Crewmember of the Year Award. This year's recipient is



CPT Tom Lewis receives the Rescue of the Year Award on behalf of the 571st

SFC Scott Spiva from the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion. Among his accomplishments is his service as a Standardization Instructor for the Rescue Hoist Operations. He has also received an award for Lifesaving Hoist Mission at Grafenwohner Training Center. He has devised and implemented training programs that others in Germany have copied for their own units. He performed the first hoist rescue in a minefield in Bosnia. His hoist training programs have certainly paid great dividends. He is a Distinguished Graduate at ANCOC, received the AAAA Distinguished Graduate Award, and holds a 3.6 GPA in his studies for his Bachelors Degree in Professional Aeronautics. He serves in the Rod and Gun club, the German/American Partnership Liaison Program, and the local DOD schools activities.

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David Orth Presents SPC Scott Spiva with the DUSTOFF Crewmember of the Year Award.

Sometime last summer, I got a call from Mike Kelly. Now those of you who have met and talked with Mike Kelly this weekend, know that it is entirely possible that it was a one-sided conversation. But from that phone call came one of the most exciting things to happen for me in my otherwise mediocre career. Mike was going on and on about Carol Kelly Dorn, Charles L. Kelly, and something about a portrait. Now, he had some ideas about what he thought he wanted, I had some ideas about what I thought Uncle Mike was talking about, and we both agreed that something was going to come of our ramblings.

Well, to make a long story short, I proposed to him what I thought he was trying to set up and I said "Hey, that isn't what I had in mind, but it's a damn good idea. But you better talk to Carol about it." And that is when I first met Carol Kelly Dorn, the daughter of Major Charles Kelly.

Tonight, this brings to completion the ideas that Mike and the family of Charles Kelly had in mind. I have only been honored to have facilitated tonight and this weekend happening.

Last night I told you that Carol, Barbara, and Charles, Jr., were going to make a presentation about memories of their dad to our professional meeting. Those of you who were there were truly blessed and honored to hear what his life, service, and death meant, from those who loved Charles Kelly more than anyone else. If you weren't there this morning, you truly missed a moving time of remembrance and love.

Charles Kelly, Jr.:

I am going to ask now that Charles Kelly, Jr., Barbara Kelly Howerton, and Carol Kelly Dorn come up to the podium for a special presentation.

Good evening, I'm Charles Kelly, Jr. and these are my sisters, Barbara and Carol. We are the children of Major Charles Kelly. This is our first DUSTOFF Reunion and we are very happy to be here. Since 1 July 1964, the Army, Army Aviation Association, and especially the DUSTOFF Association has been very good to our family. We have met a few of you here in the last couple of days, but I feel like we know all of you. I feel like we are here with family.

My father was a catalyst and an innovator in the development of Army Air Medical Evacuation. He devoted several years of training toward this mission, and he completely devoted the last six months of his life in this endeavor. Ultimately, he gave up his life for this mission. He knew the risks of this mission.

I talked with Bob Mack last night. He flew with my father daily and was the one who went to my father's room to collect his personal belongings when he was killed. He said he walked into the room and on a desk, in plain view, not hidden away in a drawer, but laid out very neatly, was a packet of information on what to do if he was killed. Bob said it was like he knew he would be killed.

My father was 39 and had three children and a wife at home when he volunteered to go to Vietnam. I am convinced that he took those risks because he understood the importance of what he was doing and what it might mean to thousands of people. Over the last two months, I have read literally hundreds of pages of letters and diaries from Korea and Vietnam that my father wrote. I think I have a pretty good idea of what he would say if he were here today. He would say, "Don't call me a hero, just a soldier who did my duty to the best of my ability to honor my country and family." He would give the credit to his men and those that came before him and those that came after him and carried on the tradition that he began.

The fact is, he could not have done this alone. He was the first medical evacuation casualty ever. He set many standards, was a proponent of night flying, and he fought the generals for the right to fly anytime and anywhere. At one point, General Stillwell wanted to have portable red crosses and just put them on general service aircraft when they were needed. My father was

vehemently opposed to this and eventually won this battle. If he had not, there would probably be no DUSTOFF today. But all of this would have been for nothing if others had not carried on after he was killed. I want to thank you for continuing and building upon the DUSTOFF tradition. I consider the people in this room to be true American heroes. I can think of no nobler cause than to risk one's life to save someone else. And that's what DUSTOFF pilots do for a living, day and night, anytime, anywhere. To you active duty pilots and medics (I know you know this or you would not be here, but I am going to say it anyway), when you are in the air and there is someone hurt or sick on the ground, whether they are soldier or civilian, you become life itself to them, the only thing that stands between life and death. You should be proud. Your families should be proud of you, and I can assure you of this, the Kelly family is very, very proud of you.

My family would like to take this opportunity to give something back to the Dustoff Association. My sister has put countless hours into this project, and we are very proud of what she has done. If you would unveil the portrait please (sisters Barbara and Carol unveil the portrait of Major Charles L Kelly). This is our father, Major Charles L Kelly.

Our family especially wants to thank General Patrick Brady. He carried on the tradition of my father and kept his memory alive. He has been a very good friend to our family over the past several years. It's been 33 years since Charles Kelly gave an order to Patrick Brady. So, General Brady... Front and Center! We have something special for you.

(General Brady was presented with a portrait of himself in uniform.)

Colonel Dan Gower:

Major Kelly's portrait will hang in the AMEDD Museum on the DUSTOFF wall in the foyer of the museum. On each side of his portrait will hang the memorial boards that honor those DUSTOFF crewmembers who died in the conduct of a MEDEVAC mission.

This morning, Charles and Barbara and Carol so eloquently reminded us that their

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greatest loss was in the end a great gain. Charles reminded us that in throwing his last ounce of measure into the mission, Charles L. Kelly ensured that those who went before him and those who came after him would not have died in vain...the



Mr. Michael Kelly and SFC Spiva enjoyed the Saturday Night Banquet

victory we share in our profession is the lives we touch when we risk life and limb to go where others dare not go, to do what others chose not to do, and to return to

health the sons and daughters of our nation...Charles Kelly was just another name to me until this year...I knew we had a heliport named after him...I flew from there hundreds of times. I knew he said, "When I have your wounded."

I lived the ethic that is DUSTOFF all the years of my active flying status. I preached much the same words to my unit members as did Charles Kelly. Like everyone else in this room, I understood in unspoken terms all that Charles Kelly stood for and died for.

Yet, this year as President of this great Association, this man became real to me. That realness first became rich as I listened to Pat Brady give a talk to the officers at Fort Hood shortly after we dedicated the DUSTOFF Plaza in his honor at Darnall Hospital. I listened as this man, a true hero, a man that knew no visible fear. A Medal of Honor recipient..... and who did he talk about more than anything else..... Charles L. Kelly.

And then when I had the privilege of meeting the Kelly family, the chapter was complete.

Everyone in this room has lived it, everyone in this room has experienced it in some way...the words, the life, the dedication, the legacy of Charles Kelly lives in each and every member of this organization ... be they a service member, or that service members spouse...Charles Kelly was a patriot, he was a loving father, he was a soldier... he is one of my heroes.

This organization is the legacy that Charles Kelly insured for all time...the legends in this room are the living breathing history of that hero...DUSTOFF lives, Charles Kelly lives on in us.

DUSTOFF!

The 1998 Reunion is scheduled for the Holiday Inn Northwest, San Antonio, Texas from 20 - 23 February 1998.

Heroes in Our Midst – DUSTOFF in Action

Response to our request for your awards citations for valorous actions has been noteworthy. As an ongoing feature, we'll publish extracts of the awards citations of DUSTOFF pilots, crew members, and others in the DUSTOFF family whose deeds and actions in support of our military deserve far more than a scrap of ribbon, a brief ceremony, and an entry in a dusty Military Personnel Record File

Robert B. Romines — Warrant Officer, W1, 45th Medical Company



Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in aerial flight in the Republic of Vietnam on 1 February 1969. WO Romines distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while providing support for the 2d Battalion, 60th Infantry, elements of which were encircled by a North Vietnamese company. Enemy fire from a bunker at the edge of a woodline raked the area so heavily that casualties could not be moved back for evacuation. Twice

WO Romines landed his helicopter within 75 meters of the hostile fortification. Despite several direct hits to his aircraft, he and his crew successfully evacuated the wounded personnel and flew them to the hospital for treatment. WO Romines' outstanding flying ability and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and the United States Army.

Merle J. Snyder — Chief Warrant Officer, CW2, 45th Medical Company

Awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on 11 May 1969 in the Republic of Vietnam. CWO Snyder, commanding a medical evacuation helicopter, received an urgent request for extraction of the crew of an observation helicopter downed by enemy fire near Long Binh. Arriving over the area, gunships strafing the jungle about the crashed helicopter were drawing heavy ground fire. It became apparent to CWO Snyder that the hostile resistance would not be quickly suppressed and that further delaying an extraction attempt would endanger the lives of the crash victims. With gunships providing covering fire, he then made a high speed approach at low altitude, dipping the evacuation helicopter down into a cramped jungle clearing near the wreckage. Enemy fire ripped through the emergency landing zone as CWO Snyder waited while the crew loaded the sole survivor. Upon lift-off, the hostile fire gained in intensity, hitting the evacuation helicopter, but he skillfully maneuvered the craft out of the fire-swept jungle clearing and delivered the wounded man to medical facilities. CWO Snyder's demonstration of gallantry in action reflects great credit on himself and his unit.



DUSTOFF Europe Performs First Hoist Missions in Long History

Extracts of several recent after action reports from the 236th Medical Company, 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion, confirm the impression that present day DUSTOFFers certainly possess the courage and skill made famous by those who have gone before. As this is written, our men and women of DUSTOFF Europe remain on duty in Bosnia and other distant locations prepared to go in harm's way without the slightest question.

LTC Johnny West, then commanding the 421st, forwarded these reports with a cover letter observing that —

"To the best of our accounts, there have been NO live hoist missions on the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion (Editor's Note: Prior to these records).

I believe in the summer months, we will see an increase in activity by the Former Warring Factions, thus we will be called upon to evacuate soldiers, civilians, and quite possibly casualties from numerous mine fields. These soldiers (DUSTOFFers) have all been recognized by their chain for outstanding meritorious service and heroism above and beyond their normal scope of duty. Specialist Blair was recommended by Major Genral Nash to receive the Soldier's Medal for his efforts during the three-day rescue of the Lithuanian soldier. Specialist Blair was lowered down on the hoist numerous times in the identified mine field to provide life-saving assistance to the wounded soldiers. This young man is what DUSTOFF stands for — "ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME..."

23 January 1996: Vicinity of Blazevci — Urgent Medical evacuation for one litter, three ambulatory Danish soldiers whose Leopard II tank had struck a land mine. Two DUSTOFF aircraft departed Tuzla, arriving over the site 18 minutes later. During the hoist operations, the medic was required to be lowered directly on the tank due to visible antitank mines surrounding the vehicle.

The injured crew was extracted from the disabled tank and then hoisted up to the aircraft. This mission was the first hoist recovery in the history of the 421st. The speed and precision of the operation was a direct reflection of prior intensive training and dedication to mission accomplishment. The tank was determined to be totally destroyed. Two of the patients were further evacuated to Denmark. The crews included: Lead — CW2s Mead and Dessinger, Pilots; SSG Spiva, Crew Chief; SGT Donnelly, Medic. Trail — CW4 White and CW2 Miller, Pilots; SPC Cybert, Crew Chief; SSG Zimmerman, Medic.

17 April 1996: Vicinity of Zavidovici — Responding to an urgent medical evacuation request for a number of injured IFOR soldiers whose vehicles had driven into an area filled with antitank mines, three DUSTOFF aircraft arrived over an area obviously unsafe for landing. The lead aircraft lowered SPC Blair to the ground where he determined one patient to be beyond treatment and discovered that other mines prevented his reaching the other patients. He was raised back to the aircraft, then down to another site where yet more critically injured Danish soldiers were lying. Encountering one more dead soldier, he moved onward to two more injured, whom he treated and prepared for hoisting to the waiting aircraft. Meanwhile, another DUSTOFF aircraft lowered a Norwegian doctor to the site where he was able to lend medical assistance. SPC Blair was then able to hoist first one, then another patient into two different aircraft, departing with the second. A third DUSTOFF aircraft arrived to hoist the remaining soldiers from the site. The crews included: DUSTOFF 90: MAJ Hartnett and CW2 Hurst, Pilots; SPCs Cybert and Blair, Medic and Crew Chief. DUSTOFF 74: CPT Day and CW3 Welsh, Pilots; SSG Clingan and SGT Fields, Medic and Crew Chief. DUSTOFF 24: CW2s Hunnicutt and Shirley, Pilots; SPCs Tuliszewski and Abieta, Crew Chief and Medic.

The President of the United States of America, Authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1996, has awarded the Soldier's Medal to

**Specialist Chad E. Blair
United States Army**

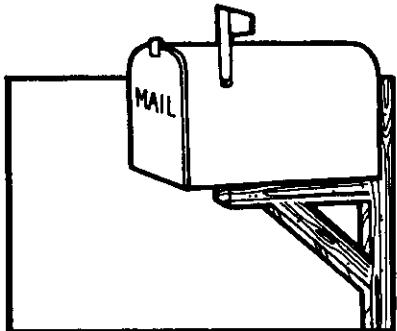
For Heroism:

above and beyond the call of duty during a MEDEVAC mission on 17 April 1996. Specialist Blair showed great personal bravery and a willingness for self-sacrifice to come to the aid of gravely wounded Implementation Force soldiers in a minefield. Demonstrating heroic courage, Specialist Blair was repeatedly

hoisted into the minefield to assess and treat the critically injured soldiers. Specialist Blair's dedication and selfless action resulted in the rescue of two injured soldiers and reflects great credit upon himself, the 30th Medical Brigade, Task Force Eagle, and the United States Army.

**DUSTOFFERS! KEEP THOSE CITATIONS COMING!
WE NEED TO TELL EVERYONE'S STORY.**

Letters to the Editor



In Search Of... Friends and Classmates of CWO2 Robert O. Hill

CWO2 Robert O. Hill was with the 237th Medical Detachment, 67th Medical Corps, which was based in Quang Tri, in 1969-70. The flight class info I have is: Class 68/23 Fort Wolters, Texas, Warrant Officer Rotary Wing Aviation Course (WORWAC). He may have also been in Class 68/25.

My oldest brother was killed in Vietnam, in September of 1970, and I was only 14 years old. I never got to know him, mostly because of our age difference and the fact that when he was in high school, he had after school jobs and didn't come home till later at night than I was allowed to stay up. After high school, he worked for Bell of Pennsylvania, as a lineman, and again had very late hours. Then he joined the Army. There was bootcamp, far away, and flight school even farther. Then he was off to Germany, then Vietnam and never came home. What did come home was a sealed casket that left me with no closure. In my child's mind, he was still out there — maybe a POW, maybe amnesiac, just not knowing where or who he was. I had dreams, both at night and daydreams, that he'd turn up somewhere — in a mall, at the shore, somewhere — and we'd find him alive and well. This stayed with me for the longest time. I just couldn't accept that he was dead...that he would never see me graduate, or get married, or meet my children, or be my adult friend.

I am now 40, with a GREAT need to speak to some of the people who knew him, knew who he was, what he was like, what he liked and didn't like about anything! I need to know why he was liked, what kind of a sense of humor he had, what his nicknames were. Did he drink or smoke? Was he a happy man, in general?

My sister, Cindy, has gone through much of the same emotional changes that I have, and more. She was 18 when Bob was killed. She wasn't home with us when we found out. She had graduated from high school while he was in Nam, and had just started Nursing School. Cindy has many more memories of Bob than I do, and misses him terribly!! She, too, would like to talk to people to try to learn what he was like. In her own words, "My desire has always been to be able to talk with the guys who knew Bobby in Quang Tri. I don't know why really, I guess just to hear about things he did, people he made laugh (I know there are a lot of them!!) would make me still feel connected to him."

My brother Bruce C. Hill was in Nam with Bobby. He was a Green Beret, with the 5th Special Forces - Command and Control North (CCN) and ran Recon patrols out of Quang Tri, Phu Bai, and NKP Thailand. Bob and Bruce got to see each other a few times while in Nam. Bruce and Bob were close in age, and emotionally. They had been through a lot together, growing up together, going to school together, and losing our mom. Our mother died of Schleroderma when I was just 5 years old, Cindy was 9, Bruce was 13, and Bob was 14. If that wasn't bad enough, then Bruce had to lose his best friend, his brother. Bruce is interested in speaking with those who knew Bob also. We, as a family, cannot let Bob just die. We need to keep memories alive — of Bob, and of the war, and of the disappointments, as well as the joys we have had with him. Bruce says, "It would be nice to hear almost anything about Bobby i.e., his comments about family, friends, thoughts about his return, etc." If you knew him, or know of someone who might, please contact one of us:

Bruce C. Hill:
e-mail: hill@erols.com
1172 Sterling Road
Herndon, VA 22070
Phone: 703-435-0457

Cindy Kelly:
e-mail: ckelly@aol.com
220 Parry Road
Warminster, PA 18974
Phone: 215-674-4852

Miriam Knight:
e-mail: MKnight@ptd.net
or HKnight@aol.com
121 West Pine Street Mahanoy City, PA
17948 Phone: 717-773-0450

DUSTOFF EMail : -)

DUSTOFF Received the Following Message:

I am doing research on Army Aviation Medical Companies.

I wish to contact anyone, officer or enlisted any grade, assigned to the 377th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) in Korea at any time during 1963. The more the better. Getting a lead on unit rosters, morning reports and/or unit history reports for that period also would be most helpful.

Hope DUSTOFF can help. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Gale Heaivilin
email: GHeaivilin@aol.com

If you don't have email; please send your letter to:

G.E. Heaivilin
175 Pauahilani Way
Kailua, HI 96734

Please Note:

The editor reserves the right to edit in terms of space, spelling and correctness.



From The Wiregrass

By Colonel Randy Sexton

The 1997 Army Medical Evacuation Conference (AMEC) was held in San Antonio, 24-28 February. Attendance was down just a bit from 1996 with 194 folks registering for the '97 conference. Again, LTC Al Rogers and MSG Herb Yeager did an excellent job in putting the conference together. Thanks also go out to USASAM and the AMEDDC&S for providing some outstanding administrative personnel support. Thanks also go out to those who made presentations and conducted workshops. Tentative dates for the 1998 AMEC are 23-27 February. Funding will be an issue for 1998. More on that in a later newsletter.

The modernization effort is continuing. Aging UH-1Vs are slowly but surely being replaced with UH-60As. Active component as well as National Guard units are being fielded with UH-60s. Right now, unless the fielding is accelerated, it will probably be FY00 before the fielding is completed. At the '97 AMEC, MAJ Steve Chowen of the 54th Medical Company at Ft Lewis, conducted an excellent workshop on fielding and discussed some problems they encountered in the process. For those units yet to be fielded, particularly those who did not have a rep at the AMEC, a phone call to the 54th may be in order to get some advice on the fielding process.

The UH-60Q program, Phase II (Integration and Qualification), is also continuing to roll along. Sikorsky Aircraft has the aircraft from the TNARNG and is in the process of applying the modifications to convert them to the approved Q model configuration. By the time this newsletter hits the streets, the first flight of the Q model (other than the proof-of-principle aircraft) will have taken place. Operational and user testing will occur later this year in a location yet to be determined. The UH-60Q program still remains an unfunded program in the Army POM. The Congress has appropriated \$6.8 million to convert four UH-60Ls to the Q configuration. Those four aircraft will most likely come off the line in the Summer of 1998.

I am sure that most all of you are aware that the AMEDD OAC has been reengineered and now consists of a resident and non-resident phase. The former 20-week resident OAC with two iterations per year is converted to four iterations of all-corps curriculum with maximized distributed training (correspondence) and nine weeks of resident training in a small group instruction (SGI) mode, followed by a one-week branch specific track.

The correspondence (Phase I) contains 17 sub-courses administered by the non-resident Instruction Branch, Academy of Health Sciences. One year is allotted for completion of both phases and two years for completion of both phases, at which time the diploma is awarded. A one-year waiver may be obtained, however, the waiver must be requested no later than 60 days prior to the resident phase. Upon completion of Phase I, a certificate of Eligibility for Phase II is issued and is valid for one year. The eligibility document and DA Form 3838 should arrive at PERSCOM NLT 90 days prior to course start date. To apply for Phase I, send a DA Form 145 (available at your local education center) to the Non-resident Instruction Branch, AMEDDC&S (MCCS-HSN), 2105 11th Street, Ft Sam Houston, Texas 78234-6199. Telephone numbers are: commercial (210) 221-5877, DSN 471-5877 or toll free 1-800-344-2380.

The resident phase consists of nine weeks of common core training followed by a one-week specialty track with course content tailored to the individual officer's potential utilization in the AMEDD. Soldiers must have four years commissioned time-in-service prior to starting Phase II. Exceptions will be coordinated through the officer's Career Activities Office. Remaining iterations of the resident phase for this year are 15 June to 26 August and 28 September to 11 December 1997. Approximately 125 students enrolled in the first class of the resident portion of the AMEDD OAC. The projected need is for 700 officers per year to complete the resident phase of the course and

**MEDEVAC
PROPONENCY**



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DUSTOFF Biography —

A NEW SERIES ON THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ASSOCIATION BY SERVING AS OFFICERS OR HAVE OTHERWISE PROVIDED IMPORTANT WORK IN OUR MISSION

Meet This Year's Association President

Colonel Charles L. Webb entered the Army in December of 1956 as a draftee, and served on continuous active duty for nearly 31 years, retiring on 31 August 1987. Commissioned through the Infantry Officer Candidate Program, he branch transferred to the Medical Service Corps in December of 1957.

Colonel Webb's military assignments included enlisted duty in a rifle company, staff assignments at the Army Medical Department Center and School, three medical centers, Office of The Surgeon General (where he served as the Aviation Staff Officer), and with the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Department of the Army (National Coordinator for the MAST program); command at detachment, platoon, company, and battalion levels; numerous assignments as an aeromedical evacuation pilot, and several years as an advisor to the Reserve Components. He completed five overseas assignments, including two in combat. He flew in air ambulance units in four countries, including being assigned to the 54th in both Korea and Vietnam.

Colonel Webb is a Master Army Aviator, rated in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft, and served as an instructor pilot and instrument flight examiner.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart, Air Medal with "V" and 27 Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Silver Star, Army Service Ribbon, three Overseas Service Ribbons, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Citation, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbons, Combat Medical Badge, Master Army Aviator Badge, and Order of Military Medical Merit.

Colonel Webb was inducted into the Infantry Officer Candidate Hall of Fame during ceremonies at Fort Benning, Georgia, in February of 1984. He has also been named a Distinguished Member of the Army Medical Department Regiment.

His final military assignment was at Fort Rucker, where he served concurrently as Chief of Staff of the Army Aeromedical Center and Deputy Commander for Administration of Lyster Army Community Hospital.

Colonel Webb retired in Enterprise, Alabama. After his retirement, he served on the administrative staff of Dothan's Southeast Alabama Medical Center through July of 1990, when he became the Director of the Coffee County Emergency Management Agency, the position which he currently holds.

Colonel Webb is a member of AUSA, AAAA, TROA, the DUSTOFF Association (Charter Member), the Enterprise Rotary Club, the Enterprise Chamber of Commerce, and the Elba Chamber of Commerce. He has served as a volunteer in many capacities since his military retirement, including: Red Cross volunteer, President, Board of Directors, Margaret Mary Hospice; member of the Coffee County advisory board to the United Way and a member of the Board of Directors of the Wiregrass United Way. He currently serves on Fort Rucker Health Care Consumer Committee, is a member of the Fort Rucker Commanders Advisory Council, and serves as Chairman of the Coffee County Alabama Enhanced 911 Communications Board. He has received a Presidential appointment to the Board of Directors of the National Emergency Broadcast/Emergency Alert System.

He is married to Gloria (Thornton), a native of Coffee Spring, Alabama. Gloria recently retired from federal civil service, with 16 years of her service being with the Army Medical Department. The Webbs have four children (one an Air Force Captain) and six grandchildren. Their major hobby and primary social activity is ballroom dancing.

From the Wiregrass

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if the trend continues, many officers will not be able to make the OAC and CASSS gates prior to their records going to the 04 board. It is very important that junior officers, with assistance from the chain-of-command, develop a career progression plan that will enable them to meet critical military schooling requirements.

There will be a personnel change this summer in the MEDEVAC Proprietary office. LTC Al Rogers will be PCSing after spending the last six years at Ft. Rucker serving in various positions. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to Al for his dedication hard work while filling the position of Deputy Director, MEDEVAC Proprietary. Good luck and best wishes to Al, Gail and their two sons. MAJ(P) Ron Wilson will be the new Deputy Director and has a reporting date of 1 August. Ron is currently serving as the Executive Officer, 421st Medical Battalion (Evacuation) and prior to that he was Commander, 45th Medical Company (AA).



DUSTOFF Soars

Ron "Huey" Huether has developed a site on the World Wide Web that displays the latest information about the DUSTOFF Association and features many pages of interest to our membership:

<http://www.fbg.net/dustoff/> (Internet Address)

DUSTOFF Homepage Developer:

Ronald Heuther

hueth@ktc.com

Organization: HUEY PRODUCTIONS

I came into the Army in 1969, went right to flight school and then right to Vietnam. While sitting in the inprocessing center a time came when we were told to put down a preference of units if we had one. Well I didn't know anything, but just then an air ambulance with MOUNTED M-60s came in. I thought that was neat, so I asked the Sarge what unit that was. He said, "Oh that's the cowboys up at the 1st Cav." So I signed up for them because they had some protection. Little did I know that it was an all male unit and I wouldn't have hot-and-cold running nurses like on MASH. Flew for 15th Med. of the 1st Cav. and had a ball. Learned to fly from Hank (Okie) Tuell, but that's another loooooooong story.

I came back to the States and decided to stay on the aviation side of the AMEDD. Flew for 20 of my 22 years in the Army. Commanded the 63 Med. Det. at Landstuhl, Germany, 236th Med. Det. at Augsburg, Germany, and the 82nd Med. Det. at Ft. Riley. Even commanded and Aviation Branch unit, the AVSCOM Flight Detachment (hey, I'd do anything to get a transition). Qualified in OH-13, OH-6, OH-58, UH-1, U-21, and C-12. I spent about 12 years in helicopters and the rest flying C-12s and U-21s. Instructed in OH-58, UH-1, and night vision goggles. Ended up with over 5500 hours of flight time when I pulled the plug and retired.

The DUSTOFF Store is Now Open!

- Check out the stories in our newsletter.
- Grab Bag for items that don't fit
- Stop by and sign our Guest Book
- Reunion '98 dates.
- Check out Membership.
- The DUSTOFF Association Officers

Ron Huether can be reached at rhueth@fbg.net

The following list of email address and unit information has been left on the "Guest Book" and other sites.

Dan Gower, Colonel: pres01.ibm.net
Fort Sam Houston, TX
Past President DUSTOFF Association

Bruce C. Zenk, 1LT: zenk0006@maroon.tc.umn.edu
57th & 82nd MDHA 1964-1965
Currently in Minneapolis.

Armond "Si" Simmons, LTC: ysim@voyageronline.net
57th MDHA 1964-65 82nd MDHA 1969

Doug Blake SP5: ake@mail.bright.net
498th AA 66-67 68-69.

Mike Curtis@aol.com
872nd Med Co., Lafayette, LA.

Bob Madore@dexis.net
"DUSTOFF 69",
498 Air Ambulance 1968-1969

Ray Burchett/Dustoff: heitt@bursar.purdue.edu
602 236th Med Det-67th Med Gp

Fat Albert: good@trib.con
498th, 70/71

Into Cyberspace

This is an example of the quality and scope of what is appearing on the World Wide Web about the DUSTOFF mission. The site also includes a "Guest Book" so that all who visit can leave messages.



542D MEDICAL COMPANY (AA) Updated: 10 June 1997



The 542d Medical Company was constituted on 3 April 1944 in the Army of the United States as the 542d Clearing Company. It was redesignated on 27 September 1951 as the 542d Medical Clearing Company (Separate) and allotted to the Regular Army where it was further activated on 15

November 1951 in the Republic of Korea. On 25 March 1953 it was reorganized and redesignated as the 542d Medical Company. The unit was then inactivated on 25 June 1970 in the Republic of Vietnam.

The 542d participated in the following campaigns during the Korean War: The UNB Summer-Fall Offensive, Second Korean Winter, Summer-Fall action 1952, Third Korean Winter, and the Summer Action 1953. During the Vietnam conflict the 542d took part in Counter-offensive Phases II through VI, the 1969 Tet Counter-offensive, the Summer-Fall Action 1969, the Winter-Spring Action 1970, and the Sanctuary Counter-offensive.

Unit decorations include the Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), with Streamer embroidered KOREA.

The 542nd Medical Company is a United States Army Aviation MEDEVAC Unit based at Camp Page. It is comprised of UH-60A (Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation) Blackhawk Helicopters that provide daily Urgent

MEDEVAC and Search And Rescue (SAR) Operations for the Northern half of the South Korean Peninsula. We provide nonwartime 24-hour service to the 2nd Infantry Division as well as wartime support. The company is comprised of aircraft support personnel, medics, pilots and of course, the nonaviation support personnel. We are a completely mobile and self-sufficient unit that is capable of deploying to the field (living in tents) and providing 24-hour MEDEVAC support with little outside assistance from our support units. We also have a sister unit, the 377th MEDEVAC Company, located at Camp Humphreys, that provides the same support to the southern half of the Korean Peninsula.

Historian's Note: The 542nd was not a DUSTOFF unit in Vietnam and served in Qui Nhon, An Khe and Pleiku; providing support for Surgical & Evacuation hospitals.

It is the second unit to be known as "DMZ DUSTOFF", the first being the 237th Medical Detachment (HA) in Vietnam.

Also on this Website is a variety of good aviation and U.S. Army links about Korea and the location of selected units. The "Guest Book" alone is worth the visit to this site!

"This web site is not sponsored or affiliated with the United States Government, United States Army, the Department of Defense or any of its offices. This website is solely an independent site."

NOTE: The above is the standard announcement for all nonofficial U.S. Army Websites.

<http://members.aol.com/the542nd/542nd.html>

A DUSTOFF HOMEPAGE ON THE INTERNET

CW3 Andrew Howard



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Newsletter Editor

To Be Announced

Assistant to the Editor / Historian

Joe "Doc" Krailch

Technology Provided By



The following items can be paid for now and picked up at the Reunion: (Embroidered Logo on Maroon colored caps and Shirt)

DUSTOFF Ballcaps

\$10.00 X _____ \$ _____

DUSTOFF Golf Shirts

\$20.00 X _____ \$ _____

Size: Small Medium Large Extra-Large

Total \$ _____

Mail Orders please add \$5.00 per order and send to
DUSTOFF Association Please allow 4-6 weeks for
delivery as these items are custom made.

Financial Statement — 01 May 96 - 30 April 97

Beginning Balance	\$18,967.93
Income:	
Corporate Donation	\$1,200.00
Dues	\$3,921.20
Fundraiser	\$168.00
Interest	\$247.59
Reunion '97	\$14,824.90
Sales for Ads	\$240.00
Sales for Memorabilia	\$3,062.00
Income - Unassigned	\$0.00
Total Income	\$23,663.89
Expenses:	
CD - Unassigned	\$10,000.00
Newsletter	\$2,901.71
Operating	\$671.55
Operating - Storage	\$885.00
Reunion	\$11,308.77
Sales Charges	\$1,730.56
Taxes	\$186.26
Total expenses	\$27,683.93