



THE DUSTOFFER NEWSLETTER



DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION

FALL 1997



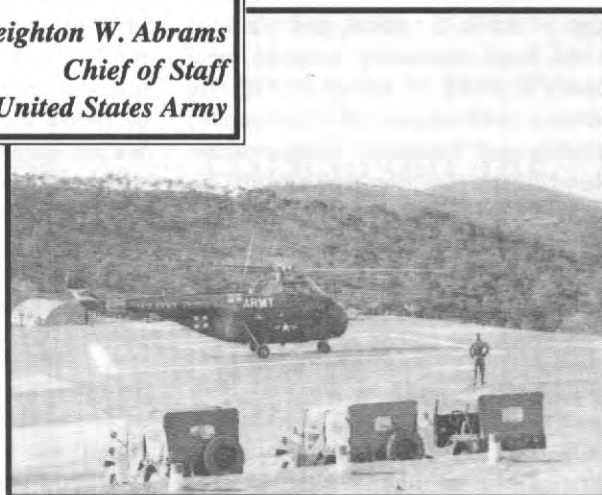
"a special word
about the 'DUSTOFFs'—
the medevacs...

COURAGE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY
WAS SORT OF ROUTINE TO THEM. IT WAS A DAILY
THING, PART OF THE WAY THEY LIVED. THAT'S
THE GREAT PART AND IT MEANT SO MUCH TO
EVERY LAST MAN WHO SERVED THERE.

WHETHER HE EVER GOT HURT OR NOT, HE KNEW
'DUSTOFF' WAS THERE.

IT WAS A GREAT THING FOR OUR PEOPLE."

*General Creighton W. Abrams
Chief of Staff
United States Army*



**Four generations of DUSTOFF aircraft have
provided continuous support for almost 50 years.**

Greetings from Alabama



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems like both a short and a long time since our last reunion. I have made two trips back to San Antonio for Council meetings, and stay busy with the affairs of the Association — which is what you expect your President and other Officers to do. Thanks for all the correspondence and calls with input for our business affairs — I'm even glad to get the complaints, and to work on resolving them.

Your Officers are working hard to make our 19th reunion a good one. Please register early so that we can plan effectively. We have a number of new members who expect to be at this

year's reunion; some of them who started flying "way back when." I hope that many of our "old timers" who have missed recent reunions are also back this year. We need to see each other again!! The flight plan was closed out this year on another long time member; we never know when we will attend our last reunion, so try not to miss any. Keep those cards and letters coming, and I'll see you in February.

DUSTOFF!
Charlie Webb

REUNION PLANNING

Some of the new members have asked questions about the various reunion plans and functions, and some old members who have been absent for a while may want a reminder, so here goes.

First, your hotel reservations should be made directly with the Holiday Inn Northwest, telephone (210)377-3900. We have a very favorable room rate of \$64.00 per night. Make sure the reservations person understands you are with DUSTOFF and verifies the rate.

Second, we need your reservation form (page 9) mailed to us early. Planning for a number of meals is critical, and we must give the hotel reasonably accurate meal numbers a week in advance. On-site registration (without prior mail reservation) on Friday and Saturday of the reunion weekend creates big-time problems for the Association Officers (all volunteers) and hotel staff, some of which are difficult to overcome (such as food quantities). So we urge you to register in advance, by mail.

The first event is the Chuck Mateer Golf Classic. Sign-in starts at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course at 1100, with tee time at 1200 (shotgun start). Again, advance registration by mail simplifies planning for those volunteers who organize and manage the golf tournament.

Final registration begins at noon on Friday, and those who have registered in advance will have a packet prepared and ready, complete with name tags, tickets, and an

up-to-date schedule of events. Other registration times are shown on the following page.

The hospitality suites will open at 1500 hours, and the margaritas and war stories flow freely. All hospitality suite times are shown on the schedule on the following page.

Friday night this year will feature a lavish Mexican buffet with a wide variety of popular Mexican foods and strolling musicians. We hope to arrange for the famous frozen margarita machines to be flowing in the dining room. This evening gives everyone a chance to meet in a room much larger than the hospitality suites, renew acquaintances, and relax and get "in the mood" for the remainder of the reunion. We are working to overcome the situations which created food shortages on Friday night at a couple of reunions, and believe we will have the problems solved. (Hint: mail your reservations well in advance so that we will have a good "head count" when ordering the food.)

Saturday morning at 0900 we will have a professional meeting with information on current and recent tactical deployments of DUSTOFF units, equipment modernization, current force problems, and some history, going back to the fifties. Following the professional meeting will be a business meeting, with a report on the Association's finances and other activities, reunion planning for the 20th in 1999,

election of officers, etc. We need good attendance at these meetings.

The spouses' luncheon group will meet at the main entrance of the hotel at 1130 on Saturday and go downtown for a nice luncheon, a riverboat tour if enough interest is shown, and perhaps some shopping at a great mall. Transportation will be arranged for those desiring to return to the Holiday Inn immediately after lunch, as well as those staying downtown for the boat tour and shopping. Please indicate on the reservation form (in the yes or no blocks under the spouses' luncheon sign-up area) whether you are interested in the riverboat tour. The cost will be \$4.00, to be paid at the luncheon.

Saturday night will feature our annual banquet. Cocktails (pay-as-you-go) will be available in the lobby bar prior to the 2000 start time for the banquet. Wine will be provided with the meal. We are planning a program which we think will be enjoyable to all, but do not have the particulars nailed down yet. Saturday night is always a good time and, of course, the hospitality suites await after the banquet.

Sunday morning is a special time, a memorial service when we remember those we served with and those who are now flying with the angels.

Your Association Officers look forward to seeing you soon!

19th Annual DUSTOFF Reunion

Holiday Inn Northwest – San Antonio

February 20 – 22, 1998

Schedule of Events

Friday, February 20

- 1100 - 1200 Registration, Chuck Mateer Golf Classic
Fort Sam Houston Golf Course
- 1200 - 1700 Tee time — Chuck Mateer Golf Classic
Fort Sam Houston Golf Course
- 1200 - 1900 Registration - DUSTOFF Reunion
Holiday Inn Northwest, Room 438
- 1500 - 1800 Hospitality Suites Open
(Reunion Nametags Required for Entry)
Smoking - Room 1003
Non-Smoking - Room 1109
- 1900 - 2200 Fiesta DUSTOFF
Lavish Mexican Buffet with Many Items
Dress — Texas Casual
(Reunion nametag required for entry)
- 2200 - 0200 Hospitality Suites Open

Saturday, February 21

- 0900 - 1230 Professional and Business Meeting
- 1130 Transportation Departs — Spouses' Luncheon
Holiday Inn Main Entrance
- 1200 - 1400 Spouses' Luncheon
Marriott River Walk
- 1500 - 1800 Late Registration
Holiday Inn Northwest, Room 438
- 1500 - 1800 Hospitality Suites Open
(Same rooms as Friday)
- 1830 - 2000 Cocktails — Lobby Bar
- 2000 - 2215 19th Annual Reunion Banquet — Ballroom
Menu: Prime Rib or Shrimp Fettuccine
with Marinara Sauce — "All the Trimmings"
Dress — Suit and tie
- 2215 - 0200 Hospitality Suites Open
(Same rooms as Friday)

Sunday, February 22

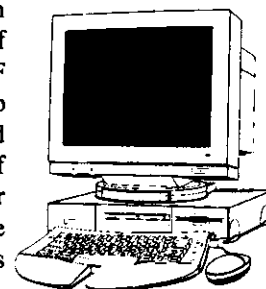
- 0900 - 1000 Memorial Service
Cypress & Willow Room

** Please turn to page 9 for registration information*

DUSTOFF ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

By: LTC Ronald Huether, USA, Ret.

Your DUSTOFF Association has a Web site on the Internet. Visit our site at <http://www.fbg.net/dustoff> and join the 500+ people per month that stop in to stay in touch with what is going on in the DUSTOFF Association and the Army air ambulance community. You will find an extensive list of aeromedically related Internet links, DUSTOFF Association merchandise, the story of our MIA DUSTOFF crew, a message board to help find old buddies, and much more. So get out of that helicopter, grab your surf board, and surf to the DUSTOFF Association's Web site.



NEW DUSTOFF OFFICERS NEEDED

Anyone interested in serving as an officer of the Association, please contact Herb Coley at 210-221-7269 or E-mail at: col_herbert_coley@smtplink.medcom.amedd.army.mil. New officers will be elected at the February 1998 reunion for Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

CLOSING OUT THE FLIGHT PLAN

Longtime DUSTOFFer, COL Dorris Goodman, USA, Ret., a great American, died Oct. 1, 1997, in Huntsville, AL. Dorris served his Army and his Country for more than 30 years. He is widely known as a fine aviator, a great DUSTOFF pilot, and a good man. He will be missed.

Barbara Lacey, wife of DUSTOFF life member LTC Tom Lacey, USA, Ret., died in late summer after an extended illness. We share Tom's (and their sons') grief in the loss of their wife and mother, who was known by many of us as a great supporter of DUSTOFF, and as a gracious lady.

HOLDING OUT ON A WAR HERO

The following article appeared in the Sunday November 23, 1997 issue of the San Antonio Express News. CW3 Hugh Thompson, USA, Ret. is currently a member of the Dustoff Association.

On the morning of Mar. 16, 1968, Warrant Officer Hugh C. Thompson, Jr., skipped his helicopter along the treeline in Vietnam's Quang Ngai province and saw a hellish scene below: a massacre at a village called My Lai.

Thompson set down his chopper, angrily confronted a fellow American soldier and saved more than a dozen villagers cowering in a bunker. He then plucked an injured child from a body-filled trench before heading back to headquarters. Throwing down his helmet, he told commanders what he saw. They ordered a cease-fire, and the killing ended.

Now, nearly 30 years later, an effort to finally recognize Thompson's heroics is being stalled by Army politics. Approved for the Soldier's Medal in Aug. 1996 — thanks largely to a nine-year effort by a Clemson University professor — Thompson has not yet received the decoration or even been officially notified by the Army that it has been granted.

In the midst of this unusually long delay, Army officials are debating whether to award the medal in a private or public setting. Some argue a public ceremony would rekindle interest in one of the Army's most sordid episodes, sources said. "It's really disappointing," said one Defense Dept. official involved in the effort to approve the decoration. "The whole intent was to present a medal to a guy who was truly a hero."

Said Lt. Col. Peter Dagnes, an aide to the Assistant Army Secretary Sara E. Lister, the top personnel official, "The award was approved and the Army is just trying to figure out how to make a presentation."

But Dagnes could not explain how nearly 15 months later Thompson has yet to be notified of the award.

Lt. Col. Bill Harkey, an Army spokesman, could not explain the delay either. But he dismissed the notion that it resulted from a dispute over whether Thompson should be given the award publicly or privately. "We're just trying to come up with a proper location," he said.

The setting doesn't matter, he said, since any ceremony would dredge up memories of the My Lai atrocities.

Thompson's efforts are not in dispute. W.R. Peers, three-star Army general who spearheaded the official inquiry at My Lai in 1969, later wrote of Thompson: "He was the only American who cared enough to take action to protect the Vietnamese noncombatants. If there was a hero at My Lai, he was it."

Those who have championed Thompson's cause are dumbfounded that the Army would not want to publicize his actions, accounts of which have been woven into cadet ethics courses at the U.S. Air Force Academy and in a mock My Lai trial at West Point.

"If the Army had any sense they'd call attention to it," said retired Army Col. Harry G. Summers Jr., a decorated Vietnam veteran and syndicated columnist who has written about Thompson. Thompson, now an official with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs in Louisiana, was traveling and could not be reached. But Larry Colburn, who was his 18-year-old door gunner that morning, vividly recalls that day.

Flying out for a reconnaissance mission on a clear-blue March morning, together with Thompson and Glenn Andreotta, another crew member from Chicago, Colburn suddenly saw the trench full of bodies.

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WHAT HAPPENED TO MY OLD UNIT?

We get lots of questions from Association members about the current status of a variety of air ambulance units; we talk at casual gatherings about the location and status of units we served in (and, usually, units we have fond memories of), and the consultant, proponent office, and other active duty staffers receive some of the same inquiries. Most of the active duty folks are reasonably up to date on locations, etc., at least for assignment preference statement reasons. However, many of the younger active duty troops have never even heard of some of the units the "old timers" served in — so here is an attempt to bring everyone up to date.

After the end of the Korean War, we stayed reasonably stable in the force structure, with most of our units being the five aircraft detachments. The 25 aircraft companies were added during the post Korea era, a sixth aircraft was added to the detachment TO&E, and with a few variations (Flatiron, the BAMC detachment, and the short-lived crash rescue detachments, etc.), we stayed with those two primary type units through Vietnam and for many more years.

A major study conducted by the Army in the mid-seventies, called the Aviation Requirements for Combat Support of the Army III, or ARCSA III, included recommendations for change in the air ambulance unit structure to all company size units with 16 aircraft each. This proposal hung around for many years but was never acted on. Then, in 1984, a major study of every aspect of the Army Medical Department's role of combat support was conducted. This study, called the Medical Systems Program Review, made some recommendations for major changes in the organization and methodology of medical evacuation on the battlefield, to include the conversion of all existing TO&E helicopter ambulance units to companies with 15 aircraft each. Out of this study also came medical battalions composed entirely of air and ground ambulance units, a change welcomed by most DUSTOFFERS. So, your old unit, if it was still out there somewhere in 1984, started getting ready for a change.

The conversions started in 1987 with the designation of the first of the new evac battalions, and a gradual conversion to the 15 aircraft companies is ongoing. The list which follows is a partial one, listing the battalion, companies, and detachments which are currently in the active duty force. Thanks to LTC Mike Deets for helping with this listing. I hope to have a list of those units (like the 15th and 63rd) which are no longer on the active list, and their disposition, to publish in the Spring 1998, newsletter. Drop me a note with a list of your old units which are no longer active, to help me avoid missing any. I also will have a list of National Guard units for the next newsletter.

Please turn to page 6 for a list of units.

Holding out on a War Hero

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"I think we were all shocked to see that many kids and women and old men," said Colburn, now a manager for a medical supply company in Atlanta, "and not see any (arms) fire, no captured weapons."

Thompson set down his chopper and approached the more senior LT William L. Calley, and got into a bitter argument with him about what was occurring according to "Four Hours In My Lai," a 1992 book by Michael Bilton and Kevin Sim. Calley would become the only soldier convicted at My Lai.

Taking off once again, the crew soon saw other soldiers running toward a bunker where villagers had fled. "I remember he (Thompson) said, 'This is not right what's going on here,'" recalled Colburn. Thompson set down the helicopter.

"He said, 'If they fire on those people, shoot them,'" Colburn remembered. "He wanted me to cover him." After telling another officer not to fire at the civilians, the muscular 25-year-old Georgia native walked to the bunker, as a dozen U.S. soldiers stood by.

"I remember thinking to myself, 'He's crazy. He could die right here. Then (the villagers) all came out of there like he's their cousin,'" Colburn said.

Climbing back into his chopper, Thompson hovered above the irrigation ditch, dropping down once more to pick up a toddler, who was covered in blood and slime but not seriously hurt. By now, Thompson was overcome. "He was in tears," Colburn said.

Colburn is not surprised that the Army seems reluctant to publicly celebrate Thompson for his actions. Both men testified in courts martials against the soldiers charged with complicity in My Lai and at the Pentagon and congressional investigations. "We're not popular," said Colburn. "The Army doesn't admit mistakes."

"For the past 30 years no one has wanted to admit that actually happened," Colburn continued. "A lot of Europeans have done documentaries. They've

shown more interest than the United States.

It was while watching a My Lai documentary produced by the BBC on the 20th anniversary in 1988, that David Egan, a professor emeritus of architecture at Clemson, heard the story of Hugh Thompson and his crew.

Egan remembers thinking: "Wow, this guy really did something extraordinarily brave. When he came home did he get a pat on the back?" He found that Thompson had been awarded a lesser decoration, the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions. That medal recognizes "heroism or extraordinary achievement in aerial flight," but fails to reflect the risks Thompson took that day.

Although he never spoke with Thompson until years later, Egan wrote more than a hundred letters to officials pressing for a higher award for him.

Egan is also pushing for a Meritorious Service Medal for Colburn, along with a posthumous one for Andreotta, who was killed in Vietnam a month later. "I don't know anything about those," said Harkey, the Army spokesman.

NEW ENTRIES ON THE FLIGHT MANIFEST

Dan G. Bonnicksen* - Clarksville, TN

Matthew E. Mattner* - APO AE

Gary Calhoun* - Ann Arbor, MI

Randy L. Millican - Cedar Hill, TX

Dustin K. Elder* - Fort Rucker, AL

Glen Mylne* - Australia

Rob Ellin - Issaquah, WA

John S. Pearson - APO AP

John B. Givhan - Andalusia, AL

Nicholas F. Ridgeway* - Enola, PA

David L. Hunt* - APO AE

Ronald Salmon - Winchester, VA

Mark O. Jensen* - Fargo, ND

James D. Wengenroth - Sacramento, CA

Glenn O. Knight - Kirkland, WA

Richard E. Wilken - Clarksville, TN

George F. Kuba, Jr. - Hellertown, PA

Terry M. Zinger* - Leona Valley, CA

* Life Member

DUSTOFF APPLICATION NEW MEMBERSHIP AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

☐ I wish to join the Association
as a Member

\$15.00 (Annual Fee)
\$10.00 (Initial Fee)
\$25.00 (TOTAL)

☐ I wish to join as a Life Member.

\$100.00 (One-time fee)

☐ Change of Address

RANK _____
LAST NAME _____
FIRST NAME _____ M.I. _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____
E-mail _____
SPOUSE'S NAME _____

TYPE MEMBER _____ Lifetime Home Phone () _____

_____ Regular Work Phone — DSN _____



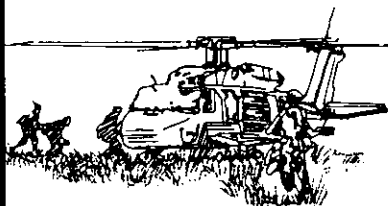
DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 8091 — Wainwright Station
San Antonio, Texas 78208
Email to: dustoff23@aol.com



What Happened to My Old Unit?

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UNIT	PREVIOUS DESIGNATION	CURRENT DESIGNATION	LOCATION
36th	Detachment	Detachment	Ft. Polk
50th	Detachment	Company (12acft)	Ft. Campbell
54th	Detachment	Company	Ft. Lewis
57th	Detachment	Company	Ft. Bragg
68th	Detachment	Detachment	Hawaii
82nd	Detachment	Company	Ft. Riley
214th	Detachment	Detachment	Panama
229th	Detachment	Detachment	Ft. Drum
247th	Detachment	Detachment	Ft. Irwin
283rd	Detachment	Detachment	Alaska
498th	Company (25acft)	Company	Ft. Benning
507th	Company (25acft)	Company	Ft. Hood
571st	Detachment	Company	Ft. Carson
Flatiron	TDA	TDA	Ft. Rucker
45th	Company (25acft)	Company	Germany
159th	Detachment	Company	Germany
236th	Detachment	Company	Germany
377th	Company (25acft)	Company	Korea
542nd	Detachment	Company	Korea
421st	Company (25acft)	Evac Battalion	Germany
36th	Battalion	Evac Battalion	Ft. Hood
52nd	Battalion	Evac Battalion	Korea
56th	Battalion	Evac Battalion	Ft. Bragg
85th	Battalion	Evac Battalion	Ft. Lewis



Note: This article was submitted by DUSTOFF President COL Charlie Webb, USA, Ret., who worked on both the ARCSA III study and the Medical Systems Program Review.

* Companies are 15 aircraft unless otherwise noted.

DUSTOFF AWARDS

Submitted By: COL Bill Carroll, USA, Ret.

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION. By direction of the Secretary of the Army, under the provisions of paragraph 203, AR 672-5-1, the Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to the following named units of the United States Army for exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service during the periods indicated:

The citation reads as follows:

25. THE 498TH MEDICAL COMPANY (AIR AMBULANCE)

For exceptionally meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding service: The 498th MEDICAL COMPANY (AIR AMBULANCE) distinguished itself in the support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 20 September 1965 to 31 August 1967. Exhibiting consummate technical expertise and uncommon perseverance, the unit provided quick and comprehensive aeromedical evacuation support to all elements located within the I and II Corps Tactical Zones. Throughout this period, the unit was situated at three locations, Nha Trank, Pleiku and Qui Nhon, and from these bases, it deployed up to 11 field standby aircraft at key field sites, thereby providing twenty-four hour support to all tactical units. Because the field standby aircraft lived and moved with the supported units, an extremely high degree of responsiveness to urgent medical evacuation requests was established, allowing the 498th MEDICAL COMPANY (AIR AMBULANCE) to play an indispensable role in the Army Medical Service's reduction of deaths from wounds to the lowest recorded level in the history of warfare. Despite the difficulties inherent in the unconventional warfare environment, the company flew nearly twenty-seven thousand missions, recorded more than twenty-four thousand hours of combat flying and evacuated over sixty-two thousand sick and wounded patients. In addition to these tangible accomplishments, the unit has provided a tremendous morale boost to the individual soldier by demonstrating on innumerable occasions that "DUSTOFF" will brave any hazard in an attempt to rescue wounded personnel. By its singular determination, exemplary courage and intense devotion to duty, the company has contributed immeasurably to the counterinsurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam. The remarkable proficiency and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 498th MEDICAL COMPANY (AIR AMBULANCE) are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect distinct credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States.

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:
W. C. WESTMORELAND
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

Greetings from the Wiregrass:

AVIATION CONSULTANT

By: COL Randy Sexton

In the last newsletter I mentioned there would be some personnel changes in the MEDEVAC Propensity office so that is where I will begin. LTC Al Rogers departed in June and is currently assigned to Ft. Campbell in the Garrison Commander's office as a strategic planner. MSG Herb Yeager retired (retirement date is 31 January 1998) and is currently working as a hypobaric chamber technician at the Eisenhower Medical Center, Ft. Gordon, GA. And I moved to the Aeromedical Research Laboratory in July as the Deputy Commander for Administration. Pretty much cleaned house at the Propensity office.

LTC Mike Deets is now the Director, MEDEVAC Propensity. Mike's previous duty assignment was in the Utility Helicopter PM office, ATCOM, St. Louis, MO. The new Deputy Director, MAJ(P) Ron Wilson, comes to Ft. Rucker from Europe where he last served as the Executive Officer, 421st Medical Battalion (Evacuation). SFC Loren Newingham is the new NCOIC, Operations, USASAM, Ft. Rucker, AL. LTC Gene Pfeiffer moved to AMCOM (formerly known as ATCOM), Huntsville, AL and replaced LTC Deets.

Congratulations to the following on their selection for promotion: LTC Johnnie West, LTC Rick Agosta and MAJ Bryant Aldstadt. Congratulations also go out to LTCs Tom Bailey, Garry Atkins, Pauline Knapp, Charles Keller and Fred Gargiulo on their selection for Evacuation Battalion command. Tom took command of the 56th (Ft. Bragg) this summer and the rest will assume command in the summer of 1998. Garry will go to Europe (421st), Pauline to Ft. Lewis (85th), Charles to Korea (52nd), and Fred to Ft. Hood (36th). Congratulations also go out to COL Bill Thresher who was selected for 06 command.

I need to correct some information contained in my Fall 1996 newsletter column. In that issue I stated if a 67J who attended the AMEDD Advance Course between 1 January 1991 and 1 July 1996 needed the 5 months that he/she was in the Advance Course to meet a "gate," a request for TOFDC waiver could be submitted. That is incorrect. In a letter from DCSPER dated 4

August 1997, I am told that "Attending the AMEDD Advance Course does not meet eligibility requirements for a TOFDC waiver established in AR 600-105, para 3-8a. For an AMEDD officer to receive TOFDC credit for attending the AMEDD officer Advance Course, the officer must also attend the five week AIRNET/SIMNET portion of the Aviation Officer Advance Course IAW AR 600-105, para 3-7d". I apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Now for some news on the UH-60Q. The UH-60Q is progressing rapidly through its development cycle. Four UH-60A helicopters are being modified into UH-60Qs during this, the engineering and manufacturing phase of the program at the Sikorsky plant. Aircraft number one had its first flight in May of this year. Developmental testing was conducted on this first aircraft and is substantially complete now. That aircraft is now at the Naval Warfare Systems Center, Dahlgren, VA, undergoing electromagnetic vulnerability (EMV) testing. That aircraft will join the number two aircraft at Ft. Campbell in January for the operation test (OT).

Aircraft two, three and four are in the process of modification. Aircraft number two will be used in training the pilots from the 50th Medical Company and the Tennessee National Guard who will fly the aircraft during OT. This aircraft will also be used over the next two months to train maintainers, and to verify the accuracy and completeness of the maintenance manuals. The third aircraft is scheduled for delivery around the end of December. It will be used in a logistics demonstration in early January and then serve as a backup for OT. Aircraft number four will be ready for delivery to the government about the end of February.

The UH-60Q will be operated under an air worthiness release which specifically allows its participation in OT. A formal decision is anticipated in June 1998 to type classify the aircraft as a standard item in the inventory. At that point the aircraft will be available for unrestricted use as a MEDEVAC aircraft.

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MEDEVAC
PROPENSITY



From the Wiregrass

continued from page 7

The first four UH-60Qs will be operated by the Tennessee National Guard. The National Guard was instrumental in making the program a success, both in providing the aircraft and the lion's share of the funding. Four additional UH-60Qs were provided for in the 1997 appropriations. The Army DCSOPS has tentatively slated these aircraft for the 50th Medical Company at Ft. Campbell. Production beyond those aircraft remains uncertain. Funding for continuous production of about one company per year is currently projected beginning in FY02. While we are a long way from having a modern fleet of MEDEVAC aircraft in the field, our chances for eventually reaching that goal have never been brighter.

Now from the Proponency office. FM 8-10-XX, "Tactics Techniques and Procedures for the Air Ambulance Company" is scheduled to be published after the first of the year. A major incorporation into this manual is the TTP for Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR). A tremendous amount of work has been accomplished with the Army Aviation Center to make this doctrine an agreed upon method for conducting CSAR throughout the Army. The CSAR TTP as written in the manual will be incorporated into future Aviation manuals.

The Army Safety Center has a web site (<http://www.safety.army.mil>) that has an abundance of good information for commanders and safety personnel. All are encouraged to use it.

The latest issue of the AAAA magazine has the suspense dates for this year's AAAA awards. Many of our units qualify for these awards. Please take the time to nominate your unit. If you don't tell the world what you unit is or has done, nobody else will. Other aviation publications (Rotor & Wing) periodically announce awards for aviation organizations. The cover of the August-September 1997 issue of the AAAA magazine is great. A MEDEVAC UH-60A from the 54th Medical Company (AA), 85th Medical Battalion (Evacuation), Ft. Lewis, WA, is pictured conducting a live hoist training exercise. Good stuff!

Many thanks to LTC Gene Pfeiffer for providing the UH-60Q information and to LTC Mike Deets for the Proponency contribution to this newsletter.

50th MEDICAL COMPANY

By: MAJ Glenn Iacovetta



Members of the 50th Medical Company (AA) enjoy some down time during a recent FTX.

Salutations Fellow DUSTOFFers!!

On behalf of the entire DUSTOFF community, I'd like to extend a warm greeting and hearty hello to all who have shared a part in our organization. This year has been an extremely busy one for all MEDEVAC units I'm sure. I would like to share with you some of the events that have kept the 50th Medical Company (AA) turning and burning.

This past year, the unit has participated in three Joint Readiness Training Center rotations, each supported by a plussed up FSMT with 3 UH60s, crew, and support personnel. Each rotation exercised deployment techniques, combat operations, and sustainment operations against an uncooperative opposing force. In addition to supporting our division at the JRTC, our Forward Support Medevac Teams remain constantly deployed with their respective brigades during their Gold Cycle training. Our medical coverage at Ft. Knox continues by keeping two UH-60s and crew there essentially around the clock.

The Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois Mobile Assistance to Safety and Traffic (TIKI MAST) program continues to play a large part of our everyday business. The quad state support has enabled our unit to support communities across several state lines and has enhanced the military/civilian working relationship greatly.

Our latest initiative lies largely in the train-up and execution of the UH-60Q test program. As I'm sure many of you know, the 50th Air Ambulance Company has been chosen as the initial test unit to integrate the Quebec model into mission training and support of the division. Currently, we're conducting air crew training in conjunction with the Tennessee National Guard to prepare all of the air crew members to begin flying and training with two UH-60Q's that will arrive sometime in January 1998. The test is to last until mid-March, give or take a few weeks. Those who have been at Ft. Campbell in the winter know it can be real cold and few good flying days.

In addition to all of that, we are participating in the upcoming National Training Center (NTC) rotation in October/November. We are sending an FSMT (+) with three UH-60s, crews, and support personnel to support one of the largest troop density rotations in recent NTC history. This too will prove to be an invaluable training event for the unit.

In closing, I'd like to take the opportunity to send our best to you all, and encourage all of you to make future input to our great newsletter. Remember, in the words of past and current DUSTOFFers, "keep your wings level and your sight on the job to be done."

19th Annual DUSTOFF Association Reunion

February 20 - 22, 1998 – REGISTRATION FORM

Member's Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Military Address: _____

A New Database Entry — Favorite DUSTOFF Unit/Year: _____

DUES:

PRICE

New Member Dues - \$15 + \$10 Initial Fee		\$ _____
Annual Dues - \$15		\$ _____
Past Dues (Catch-Up) - \$15		\$ _____
Life Member Dues - \$100 (One-time Payment)		\$ _____

REUNION REGISTRATION:

Member/Spouse - \$15 per person	_____ persons	\$ _____
Non-Member/Guest - \$20 per person	_____ persons	\$ _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Holiday Inn Northwest at 210-377-3900 to reserve your room @ \$64.00/night

CHUCK MATEER GOLF CLASSIC:

Ft. Sam Houston Club Member - \$18 per person	_____ persons	\$ _____
Non-Member Military - \$25 per person	_____ persons	\$ _____
Non-Member Civilian - \$31 per person	_____ persons	\$ _____

FRIDAY NIGHT

Fiesta DUSTOFF - Mexican Buffet - \$19 per person	_____ persons	\$ _____
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SPOUSES' LUNCHEON - \$16 per person

Are you interested in a Riverboat tour?	_____ yes _____ no	\$ _____
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SATURDAY NIGHT REUNION

Prime Rib - \$24 per person	_____ persons	\$ _____
Shrimp Fettuccine - \$21 per person	_____ persons	\$ _____

DUSTOFF STORE:

Maroon Ballcap - \$10	_____ Caps	\$ _____
Maroon Golf Shirt - \$20	_____ Shirts	\$ _____

size: __sm__med__lg__XL__XXL

To mail caps and shirts, add \$5.00 per order		\$ _____
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DUSTOFF Coin - \$5	_____ Coins	\$ _____
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Koozie - \$2	_____ Koozie	\$ _____
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Pocket Knife - \$4	_____ Knives	\$ _____
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To mail coin, koozie, knife, add \$3.00 per order (up to 4 lbs)		\$ _____
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(Each additional pound add \$1.00 per lb)

(Please allow 4-6 weeks per order)

TOTAL REUNION CHARGES		\$ _____
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DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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Financial Statement — September 6, 1997

By: CPT Jon Fristoe

Opening Balance as of 5/1/97	\$14,871.11
Income:	
Dues	\$935.00
Interest	\$101.23
Sales for Memorabilia	\$586.63
Total Income	\$1,622.86
Expenses:	
Newsletter	\$1,158.00
Operating	\$619.83
Sales Charges	\$66.29
Sales	\$2,580.00
Taxes	\$72.31
Total expenses	(\$4,496.43)
Unencumbered Balance	\$11,997.54
CD	\$10,499.08
TOTAL LEDGER BALANCE	\$22,496.62