

M 0023

(Unclassified)

MEDICAL HISTORY

of the

Headquarters

1ST AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION GROUP

(Headquarters, Ninth Air Force)

Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina

for the period

1 January 1958 - 30 June 1958

Harriet E. Stephens
HARRIET E STEPHENS
CAPT USAF (MC)
Historian

P. C. Sheldon
P C SHELDON
COL USAF (MC)
Commander

CHAPTER IV

OPERATIONS

1ST AEROMEDEVACGRU, 21ST AND 22D AEROMEDEVACRON

Exercise "Big Blast VIII"

Personnel of the 1ST Aeromedical Evacuation Group were directed by Commander, Ninth Air Force to participate in the Fifth U S Army Command Post Exercise, "Big Blast VIII", conducted at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, 31 January through 2 February 1958.³³

Two officers and one airman established and operated a Tactical Aeromedical Evacuation System for the evacuation of simulated casualties as required during this exercise.³⁴

Exercise "Trapline II"

On 10 February 1958, two officers, Headquarters, 1ST Aeromedical Evacuation Group proceeded to Fort Meade, Maryland for the purpose of preplanning the tactical aeromedical evacuation phase of "Trapline II", a Second U S Army Command Post Exercise.^{35,36}

Ninth Air Force Disaster Assistance Team (Code Name "RITA NOW")

A major area of responsibility of the 1ST Aeromedical Evacuation Group (augmented by the 4459TH USAF Dispensary) is the Ninth Air Force Disaster Assistance Team (Code Name "RITA NOW" meaning "READY IN THE AIR NOW").^{37,38}

-
- 33. TWX, Commander, Ninth Air Force, 8 Jan 58
 - 34. LTR, this Hq, Subj: Narrative Mission Report Operation "Big Blast VIII", 4 Feb 58
 - 35. SO Nr A-122, Hq, 464TH TCE (M) (TAC), 6 Feb 58
 - 36. LTR, this Hq, Subj: Narrative Mission Report Operation "Trapline II", 10 Feb 58
 - 37. OPS ORD Nr 14-58, Hq, 464TH TCW (M) (TAC), 25 June 58
 - 38. SOP Nr 19, this Hq, 6 June 58

SUPPORTING
DOCUMENT 33
JAN 8 01 50 '53

06004107
RJSDD
06000 125
0701112
060009 NINTH AF
TO DIRECTOR 454TH TCWS

WILLIS FROM NAFOI-T 1-8264. SUBJECT: THE FIFTH US ARMY
AND POST EXERCISE BIG BLAST. REQUEST YOU PROVIDE THE
FOLLOWING PERSONNEL TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMAND POST EXERCISE
BIG BLAST AT FORT SHERIDAN, ILLINOIS, 31 JANUARY THROUGH
FEBRUARY 1953. LT COL JESSE U PRITCHETT, A0361200,
1ST MILWAUKEE S SCHROEDER, A0947497, 1/SGT LEONARD W JONES,
A01414705. TRANSPORTATION WILL BE FURNISHED ABOVE PERSONNEL
POPE AFB TO FORT SHERIDAN AND RETURN. PERSONNEL SHOULD
HAVE APPROPRIATE ORDERS THAT INCLUDE THE SECURITY CLEARANCE
REQUIREMENT AND BE READY FOR PICKUP AT POPE AFB APPROXIMATELY
0800 JANUARY 1953. THE TOTAL TDY PERIOD WILL BE
APPROXIMATELY SIX DAYS.

0701112 JAN RJSDD

4

01 08

SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 34

Exercise "Big Blast VIII"

Headquarters
1st Aeromedical Evacuation Group
Ft. Pope, A.C.

4 Feb 58

LTC J. W. ... / J. W. ...

I. Introduction.

a. The following personnel of the 1st Aeromedical Evacuation Group participated in Exercise "Big Blast VIII", Ft. Sheridan, Illinois, conducted during the period 31 January through 2 February 1958:

- (1) L/Col Jesse U Pritchett
- (2) Captain Wilmoth S Schroeder
- (3) T/Sgt Leonard W Jones Jr

b. During the course of play L/Col Pritchett functioned as Commander, 1st Aeromedical Group, Captain Schroeder as Aeromedical Evacuation Control Officer, and T/Sgt Jones as Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Officer, 5th Army Surgeon's Office.

II. Summary.

a. During the exercise a total of 1472 casualties were evacuated via troop carrier aircraft (C-123). This was more than twice the number of casualties originally programmed for aeromedical evacuation by troop carrier type aircraft. Of the 1472 casualties, 746 were ambulatory and 726 litter.

b. In all but three instances the full casualty carrying capacity of the aircraft was utilized which points up good utilization by the using agency. For the most part, Army medical player personnel were not familiar with tactical aeromedical evacuation procedures. As an example, Army medical personnel were not aware that the USAF was authorized to operate Casualty Staging Facilities in a forward combat area. This was clarified by referral to Section III, Chapter III, FM 160-27, Medical Service in Joint Operations. During the course of the exercise L/Col Pritchett briefed Army medical personnel and players in tactical aeromedical evacuation organization and procedures. Upon conclusion of Exercise "Big Blast VIII", participating Army medical personnel were generally well informed in tactical aeromedical evacuation procedures in a combat zone.

c. Exercise "Big Blast VIII" was of little benefit to personnel of the 1st Aeromedical Evacuation Group as a training vehicle. However, it provided them with an excellent opportunity to "educate" their Army counterparts in tactical aeromedical evacuation procedures. This opportunity was exploited to the fullest extent. This fact alone, more than justifies participation of USAF personnel well qualified in tactical aeromedical evacuation organization and procedures in exercises of this type.

Exercise "Air Blast VIII" (Cont'd)

d. No unusual problems were encountered during the exercise.

3. Recommendations. That personnel of the 1st Aeromedical Evacuation Group continue to participate in the planning and playing phases of exercises of this type.

JAMES D. MITCHELL, LTJG, USN (ASO)
Executive Officer