



# ARMY MEDICINE'S LEGACY OF CARE

## COMBAT READY CARE ... THIS WE'LL DEFEND!

YESTERDAY, TODAY, ALWAYS - SAVING LIVES SINCE 1775!



APRIL 28 – MAY 4, 2025

93 DAYS  
APR 25 - JUL 27



**May 1, 1909**

Walter Reed General Hospital opened its doors as an 80-bed hospital. MAJ William C. Borden, Commander of the Army General Hospital, lobbied for several years for a new hospital and was instrumental in naming it in his legendary friend's honor.

### FEATURE



**May 2, 2003**

The 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) ends its operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom after the company evacuated 740 patients in 314 missions during 1,687 flight hours. The 498th was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Medal for its service.



**May 4, 1891**

Merritte Weber Ireland is promoted to 1LT in the Medical Corps. Ireland would go on to become The Surgeon General in 1918.

### WEEK IN REVIEW

**April 28, 1898**

During the Spanish-American War, Surgeon General George M. Sternberg requests permission from the Secretary of War to hire an unlimited number of nurses, under contract but without military status, and to provide them \$30 a month and one daily ration.

**April 29, 1956**

Three Army nurses, Majors Jane Becker, Francis Smith, and Helen Smith, were sent to Saigon, Vietnam, on a temporary duty assignment. Their mission was to instruct South Vietnamese nurses in modern nursing practices as part of the United States Military Assistance Advisory Group's Medical Training Team. This marked the beginning of American nursing involvement in Vietnam.

**April 30, 1965**

U.S. forces were sent to the Dominican Republic to participate in the Inter-American Peace Force's restoration efforts. In support of the 82nd Airborne Division, planners from the Office of the Surgeon General, the Continental Army Command, and the XVIII Airborne Corps deployed the following units: the 15th Field Hospital; the 584th Ambulance Company; the 545th Medical Detachment (Supply); the 69th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Food Inspection); the 714th Preventive Medicine Detachment; the 54th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance); the 53d Medical Detachment (General Surgical); the 139th Medical Detachment (Orthopedic Surgical); and the 232d Medical Detachment (General Surgical).

**May 3, 1944**

1LT H. L. Marsh, VC, begins the voyage to India, accompanying a shipment of the 97th Field Artillery Battalion's animals, totaling 763, from Guadalcanal on the SS Peter Silvester.

### 250<sup>TH</sup> U.S. ARMY EVENTS

- May 2 ICoE & Fort Huachuca - Festival of the Southwest (250th Army Ceremony)
- May 3 - 4 Revolutionary War Weekend at George Washington's Mount Vernon
- May 11 Capture of Fort Ticonderoga
- May 16 - 18 JBMDL "Power in the Pines" Open House & Air Show
- May 29 America at 250: Toward an Inclusive Commemoration
- May 30 "Revolutionary War 250: The Early Years" 2025 NMUSA Symposium
- June 4 The Army 250th Special American Revolution Lecture by Rick Atkinson
- June 5 Call to Arms: The Soldier and the Revolutionary War
- June 6 FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 1/9)
- June 7 FCoE Army 250th Birthday Celebration (Day 2/9)
- AVCoE Army Birthday Week Festivities (Day 1/8)
- NMUSA Rev War Exhibit Opens
- Redstone Arsenal 250th Army Birthday Celebration

Learn more about U.S. Army 250th events at: [www.army.mil/1775/index.html#todaysarmy](http://www.army.mil/1775/index.html#todaysarmy)



### FEATURE - THE EVOLUTION OF MEDICAL EVACUATION (MEDEVAC)

A wounded Soldier who receives medical attention within six hours of injury has their chances of survival increased by six times. However, it wasn't until the invention of the helicopter that air evacuation—the fastest method of personnel rescue— could be fully realized. A daring rescue in Burma during World War II was the first instance of evacuation by helicopter and set the stage for techniques that would be refined in future conflicts.

MEDEVAC technology advanced substantially by the beginning of the Korean War and helicopter evacuation became standard procedure. Some 17,000 Soldiers were MEDEVAC'ed from harm's way during the Korean war, most in cots attached to the side of the aircraft. The Korean War wounded survived their injuries in far greater numbers than in World War II.

During the Vietnam War, MEDEVAC teams relied on the Bell UH-1 helicopter, nicknamed the "Huey." Spacious enough to transport medical personnel, equipment, and the wounded, Hueys dramatically reduced the delay between injury and treatment. Medics could triage Soldiers the moment they were loaded onto the aircraft, in many cases long before they arrived at a field hospital. This marked enhancement in battlefield medical care resulted in a reduction of the mortality rate to one death per 100 casualties.

Helicopters continued to play a vital role in MEDEVAC. UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters have been used extensively throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. Both countries feature harsh desert environments that take a toll on aircraft, and Afghanistan's mountain peaks top out at 18,000 feet, further complicating rescue missions. Air evacuations across such vast and rugged terrain typically extend beyond the so-called "golden hour," the crucial 60-minute window a severely injured person has to reach a hospital before their survival chances plummet. Black Hawks are large enough to accommodate several medical personnel and advanced field equipment—enabling trauma care to begin the moment the helicopter is in the air, a technique that has saved countless lives.

Today, Army Medicine is transforming evacuation for the realities of large-scale combat operations. We are transforming to enhance survivability whether it's the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft MEDEVAC variant, which provides significant capability advantages over the Black Hawk, or autonomous vehicles such as the Squad Multipurpose Transport. Army Medicine is committed to innovating with intention and transforming at the speed of relevance, to bring the best medical care in support of our warriors, in support of lethality and in support of protecting our freedoms.

Learn more at: [www.thenmusa.org/armyinnovations/innovationsmedevac](http://www.thenmusa.org/armyinnovations/innovationsmedevac)



FOLLOW ARMY MEDICINE AS WE HIGHLIGHT OUR 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

