

Eagle DUSTOFF

Written by: Eagle DUSTOFF Soldiers – Past and Present.

C/7-101st Aviation Regiment, “Eagle DUSTOFF”, cased its colors Thursday, 07 May 2015, as part of 159th Combat Aviation Brigade’s Inactivation Ceremony at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The company returned from its most recent deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in August 2014. The recent contributions of the Soldiers participating in the ceremony that day represent a very small portion of the tremendous lineage and heroic actions of countless crewmembers and support Soldiers who made up the unit over the past 70 years. We, Eagle DUSTOFF Soldiers past and present, are a family. Our story is one built out of necessity, the all-important requirement for dedicated aeromedical evacuation support to ground forces. The following account cannot adequately express our truest motivation, to save lives. It cannot detail the amount of tireless effort, training exercises, time away from family, successes or failures. Nonetheless, it is our story, and we are proud of it.



U.S. Army Photo by Sam Shore

The 50th Malaria Control Unit was first constituted on 01 September 43 and was first mobilized to Algeria in October to serve in the North Africa Theater of Operations throughout World War II. With the outbreak of the Korean War, the unit was redesignated the 50th Medical Detachment where it became one of the Army’s first Helicopter Ambulance Units. In 1967, the 50th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) was deployed from Fort Polk, Louisiana, to Vietnam in direct support of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). It was during this



Eagle DUSTOFF - Vietnam



Eagle DUSTOFF - Vietnam

deployment the unit quickly became known as “Eagle DUSTOFF”. After being reassigned to the 326th Medical Battalion, the 12-ship Air Ambulance Detachment transitioned to an Air Ambulance Platoon in Vietnam in 1971. At this time, the unit had already served in three wars and evacuated more patients than any other Air Ambulance unit.

On 15 September 1981, the Air Ambulance platoon was redesignated Delta Company, 326th Medical Battalion and was tasked to provide medical evacuation to the Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In January of 1982, the company was the first Air Ambulance Company to receive the UH-60 Blackhawk. The company was the first Aeromedical Evacuation asset deployed to Saudi Arabia in support



Eagle DUSTOFF – Desert Storm

of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Upon its return, it was redesignated as 50th Medical Company (Air Ambulance). Then, in February 2001, the 50th deployed to Kosovo in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

It was during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) that the 50th would continue to build upon its already remarkable legacy. It deployed a Forward Support

MEDEVAC Team (FSMT) to Kandahar, Afghanistan on 31 January 2002. This team was the first and only MEDEVAC asset in country supporting initial combat operations in OEF. In March 2003, the company deployed to Iraq and provided aeromedical evacuation support during initial combat operations in OIF . Following this deployment, the 50th Medical Company (Air



Eagle DUSTOFF – OIF

Ambulance) became integrated as part of the 7th Battalion, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade under Army Transformation. In the fall of 2004, the 50th deployed again in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where they



Eagle DUSTOFF – OIF

were tasked to support operations within Iraq's most volatile area – Baghdad, Iraq. In February, 2007 , the 50th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) was redesignated C/7-101st Aviation Regiment and in five short months deployed to Iraq for its third OIF tour, which lasted 15 months. In late 2009, Eagle DUSTOFF deployed for a fourth OIF tour and half way through this deployment, elements of the company were split and further deployed to Afghanistan in support of combat operations in

OEF. At this point, the company was serving in two theaters at seven separate MEDEVAC sites. Following its return in 2010, C/7-101st fielded the HH-60M helicopter and nine months later, in the fall of 2013, deployed for a third tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This deployment would mark the final deployment of C/7-101st. Without question, Eagle DUSTOFF served at the tip of the spear in support of combat operations from Korea/ Vietnam to OIF/OEF and undeniably saved countless thousands of lives.



Eagle DUSTOFF – OEF



Eagle DUSTOFF – OEF

We are the Soldiers of Eagle DUSTOFF. We have volunteered to perform one of the noblest missions on the battlefield, saving the lives of fellow Soldiers. To this end, we have repeatedly deployed to combat and in support of other actions across the globe over the last 70 years. We are thankful for the missions that we were able to accomplish successfully and remember, all too vividly, those that weren't. We will never forget. We have been lucky enough to be part of this storied unit, and a mission that has no equal. We hope, in some small, way we have carried on and contributed to the DUSTOFF tradition to which so many others have contributed, some of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice. Until the day comes where "Eagle DUSTOFF" might be resurrected, we proudly stand behind and support our fellow DUSTOFF units and warriors as they move forward and answer our nations call. Although our unit is now inactivated, the spirit of "Eagle DUSTOFF" will forever remain a part of us. To all our family, friends, and fellow DUSTOFFers: Thank you for your support and comradery - Eagle DUSTOFF! and Air Assault!



1963 – 1964



1967 – 1969



1969 – 1970



1969 – 1970



1969 – 1970



1969 – 1970

(Maintenance Personnel)



1970 – 1981



1970 – 1971

(Vietnamese Made)



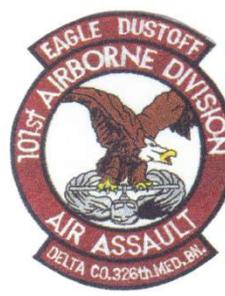
1981 – 1986



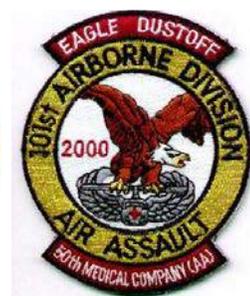
1981 – 1986



1986 – 1990



1990 – 1994



2000



1994 – 2007



2007 – 2015