



2010 DUSTOFF Association Hall of Fame Nominee



LTC (R) James C. Wingate

Jim Wingate effectively changed the face of modern day MEDEVAC operations through his efforts while on active duty and since his retirement from the Army. Jim led the 1991 after-action review and lessons learned process for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm for the Army Medical Department Center and School. He identified the need for advanced medical skills for flight medics and the need for a modernized medical evacuation aircraft. Wingate wrote the requirements for the HH60 medical evacuation aircraft and led the development of it. Both advances are standards today, with 68W being the basic flight medic requirement and the HH60M Black Hawk fielding in progress.

LTC James C. Wingate entered military service as a warrant officer candidate in 1968. He graduated from flight school and attended the Essential Medical Training for AMEDD Aviators. While deployed to Vietnam as a warrant officer with an assignment to the 54th Medical Detachment (HA) from 1968 to 1969, he received a commission to 2LT Air Defense Artillery and later transferred to the Medical Service Corps. He continued to fly DUSTOFF and finished his Vietnam tour with just over 1,100 combat flight hours on 805 lifesaving MEDEVAC missions, while earning 34 Air Medals, three of which earned a Valor Device. Exemplifying the DUSTOFF heritage, 1LT Wingate distinguished himself with extreme heroism under intense enemy fire, while commanding a helicopter ambulance during rescue operations west of Chu Lai and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for his lifesaving efforts on July 12, 1970. By retirement, LTC Wingate had amassed over 3,100 total flight hours as a Pilot-In-Command, Instructor Pilot, and Standardization Instructor Pilot, while earning his Master Aviator Wings.

LTC Wingate served in positions of increasing responsibilities throughout his 25 years in the Army, compiling 72 months of command time at the detachment, company, and battalion levels. Key staff positions included Adjutant General at William Beaumont Army Medical Center; Chief, Plans, Operations, Training and Security, Augsburg MEDDAC; Executive Officer, 326th Medical Battalion, 101st Air Assault Division; Medical Service Corps representative for Combined Arms Center Combat and Doctrine Developments Activity; and Aviation Staff Officer, Combat Developments at AMEDDC&S.

LTC Wingate served as Commander of the 85th Medical Battalion at Fort Meade and Saudi Arabia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm from 1989 to 1991. His battalion provided area medical support during Operation Desert Shield to soldiers of the 18th Airborne Corps. One initiative while in command was to redesign battalion and hospital personnel into rapid action Task Forces that could respond quickly to the changing battlefield needs in preparation for Operation Desert Storm. Implementation of this design enabled reallocation of personnel quickly, based upon the need during the attack phase.

While serving as Project Officer and Executive Officer to the Director, Combat Developments, at the Combined Arms Combat Development Activity (CACDA) at Fort Leavenworth, KS, LTC Wingate managed the redesign efforts of 12 functional area project officers and was a member of the team responsible for redesigning the Army to the Army of Excellence at CACDA. Operation Desert Storm success validated the Army of Excellence structure and designs.

For his final Active-Duty assignment, LTC Wingate was tasked with modernizing Army aeromedical evacuation. He took on this initiative personally. While assigned to the AMEDDC&S, he initiated and sustained development of the advanced proof-of-principle Army medical evacuation helicopter, the UH60Q. He brought a team of experts together from the military and civilian communities to identify requirements and equipment for the aircraft. He wrote the requirements document and staffed the document through the senior Army staff. Additionally, LTC Wingate convinced suppliers to consign equipment to the effort for little or no cost to the Army. He coordinated the efforts of seven military agencies and a number of civilian corporations to build the proof of principle aircraft.

The UH60Qs were the first U.S. Army medical evacuation aircraft to have a medical interior developed specifically for en-route patient care and with communications and navigation equipment integrated via a 1553 data bus. The first aircraft were modified UH-60A aircraft and designated the UH-60Q. A total of four UH60Qs were produced, setting the foundation for the HH-60L and HH-60M, the most advanced MEDEVAC helicopter in the world.

After retirement, Wingate directed the initial congressional marketing effort for the suppliers, which resulted in \$29 million in funding for the UH60Q/HH60L/M medical aircraft. He brought together CMC, Air Methods, Sikorsky Aircraft, Litton Life Support, Breeze Eastern, Canadian Marconi, FLIR, Inc. (The Q Team), and a multitude of other equipment suppliers to form a coalition to convince Congress and eventually the Army that this was the solution needed to support our wounded and injured personnel. His leadership unified these major corporations with the purpose of obtaining funds to modernize the Army Medical Department's helicopter fleet.

Wingate coordinated the efforts of the Q Team to keep the program alive through Congressional plus-ups by obtaining funds for 31 HH60Ls since 2003, prior to the Army placing the HH60 into the POM. Ninety-six HH60Ms are programmed for fielding through FY2012 for Active, Army Reserve, and National Guard units.

Wingate continues to work for the modernization effort today by working the medical mission support system for legacy UH60 medical aircraft and the improved medical interior for the HH60M.

Jim has been a key driver for a long time in changing the face of DUSTOFF. He continues to provide the continuity to the program as the military faces change. Through his efforts, these aircraft are now involved daily in saving U.S. and Coalition Soldier and civilian lives in the U.S., Iraq, Afghanistan, and conflicts worldwide.