



2010 DUSTOFF Association Hall of Fame Nominee



COL (R) Frank H. Novier

No one has shaped and influenced the current state of ground and air medical evacuations more in recent history than COL (Ret.) Frank H. Novier. He retired in October 1999, with nearly 29 years of service, from his last assignment as Chief of Staff, AMEDD Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, TX. COL Novier received a Regular Army Commission in the Medical Service Corps in May 1971, upon his graduation as Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Texas. He is a graduate of the AMEDD Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the Army War College. Additionally, he has a Master of Science degree from the University of Utah.

During his career, COL Novier served in numerous aviation, staff, and command assignments. His key staff positions include: Senior Medical Advisor to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; S-3, 326th Medical Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY; Aviation Staff Officer, 7th Medical Command, Germany; Plans and Operations Officer, Office of the Surgeon General, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.; Director, Medical Evacuation Proponency Office, Fort Rucker, AL; and Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, TX.

COL Novier was a key contributor to the Medical Service Corps and Army aviation during his staff assignments. Serving as the Aviation Staff Officer for the 7th MEDCOM, MAJ Novier was the responsible staff officer tasked with coordinating the force structure actions of the 7th MEDCOM in converting the 421st Medical Company and its four subordinate detachments in the 421st Evacuation Battalion. The resulted actions formed the Army's first doctrinally correct evacuation battalion, which later supported multiple operations in support of EUCOM and USCENTCOM and garnered several "LTG Ellis D. Parker" awards, denoting recognition as the best Combat Service Support Aviation Battalions in the Army.

As the Medical Evacuation Proponent Director, his influence can be found on every successful ground and air evacuation issue involving doctrine, organization, training, manning, leadership, and facilities. He spearheaded the difficult and demanding final design/initial fielding plan for the UH-60Q air ambulance, the precursor to the most advanced aircraft (HH-60M) employed by our medical forces, which are now in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. His significant contributions in this effort have ultimately resulted in the "lowest died of wounds" rate in the history of modern warfare.

COL Novier commanded at all levels from second lieutenant to colonel. Commands include: B Company, 4th Battalion, United States Army Medical Training Center; D Company (Air Ambulance), 326th Medical Battalion; and the 63rd Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance).

COL Novier's contributions to medical evacuation and Army aviation while in command are significant. CPT Novier formed and commanded the first air ambulance company of the 101st Airborne Division from the original Air Ambulance Platoon, HSC 326th Medical Battalion. While in company command, his company served as the test company for the UH-60 prototype carousel. Successful testing led to accelerated fielding of the MEDEVAC version of the UH-60A to medevac units. As a battalion commander, LTC Novier commanded the largest Evacuation Battalion formed in support of combat operations during Operation Desert Storm. The 34th Medical Battalion provided air and ground evacuation support to the far forward deployed forces in the 18th Airborne Corps, to include the 24th Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 6th French Light Infantry Division, and Task Force 160. Historically, he holds the distinction of being the first and one of only seven MSC aviators ever to command an Evacuation Battalion in combat. While in command of the 1st Medical Group, Fort Hood, TX, Colonel Novier deployed to Bosnia and commanded all corps medical units in support of Operation Joint Endeavor/Guard.

COL Novier's honors include the Master Aviator Badge, the Expert Field Medical Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. His awards include the Legion of Merit (two oak leaf clusters), the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (silver and bronze oak leaf), the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (two), and the Army Achievement Medal (three). Additionally, Colonel Novier has been awarded the Order of Military Medical Merit and the Order of Saint Michael. In November 2000, he was appointed by the Secretary of the Army as the 4th Honorary Colonel of the Army Medical Department Regiment. He held the position for five years, supporting two Surgeon Generals of the Army.

More importantly, COL Novier has mentored countless Medical Service Corps aviators, now in command and staff of key AMEDD billets across our Army, who will influence and shape medical operations well into the 21st Century. COL Novier's outstanding contributions to the Army Medical Department and Army aviation, over nearly three decades of honorable and dedicated service, are most deserving of the DUSTOFF Hall of Fame.