

# History of the 85<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control)

*By MAJ Sharon, Newton, 85<sup>th</sup> CSC*

One thing that is important in the control of combat/operational stress is to maintain a high level of esprit-de-corps, and one way to do this is to ensure soldiers are aware of the history of their unit. Knowing the past honors of the unit in which you currently serve can instill a sense of pride and a desire to continue the tradition of exemplary service. What follows is a brief synopsis of one unit in which the SP corps is represented.

Although Combat Stress Control (CSC) units were officially activated in the Army shortly after Desert Storm, the 85<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment (CSC) has a history that dates back to World War II. The 85<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment is one of four CSC units currently on active duty. (The Army also has CSC medical detachments and companies in the Reserves). Its mission is to support combat readiness and deployment to the over 40,000 soldiers on Fort Hood, Texas. As part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Medical Brigade, it is credited with numerous deployments worldwide during its short combat/operational stress control history. These include participation in task forces in Bosnia, as well as contingencies in Haiti, Cuba, Hungary, Somalia, Kuwait, and CONUS. Currently, members of the 85<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment continue to provide preventive services to the Joint Task Force at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and are preparing to provide services in the CENTCOM area of responsibility.

The 85<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment's history and numerous battle streamers date back to World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The unit was first constituted in the Army on 4 December 1943 and reorganized as the 85<sup>th</sup> Composite Unit on 30 August 1944. It provided services as a Composite Unit in the Pacific Theater until it was inactivated on 2 November 1945. The unit was then re-designated on 15 November 1950 as the 85<sup>th</sup> Shock Detachment and saw service in the Korean War until 5 August 1952.

On 1 October 1962, the unit was again re-designated as the 85<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment. It served with distinction during numerous campaigns in the Republic of Vietnam until its deactivation there on 15 August 1972. It was reactivated on 1 October 1993 at Fort Hood, Texas as a Combat Stress Control Detachment. The most recent change occurred on 15 October 2001 when it was the first active duty CSC unit to be reconfigured under the Medical Re-Engineering Initiative.

I am very proud to be a part of this highly decorated unit. In these times of high operational tempo and uncertainty, the Guidon of the 85<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment (CSC) with all of its streamers, reminds me of the men and women who preceded me. I am motivated and encouraged to continue the tradition of the unit.

Do you know the history of your unit?

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