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SUMMARY OF MAJOR EVENTS AND PROBLEMS

1 July 1953 - 30 June 1954

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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Prepared by:

C. L. Kieffer
with the assistance of
J. H. McMinn
G. W. Moore

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Historical Unit, Office of The Surgeon General

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PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

1. Outstanding Developments.

(1) Cancer Education Program. A professional education program was initiated throughout the Army in the spring of 1954 for the purpose of keeping professional personnel aware of the latest developments in cancer diagnosis and treatment based on current cancer research and activities. In addition, a lay program was prepared. Both programs were developed by the Professional Division in cooperation with the American Cancer Society. Col. Dwight M. Kuhns, M. C., Assistant Chief of the Division, visited the various Army laboratories and many hospitals to assist key personnel in implementing the professional education program.

(2) Use of Radioisotopes. The Radiological Service of Army hospitals was reorganized during the year to incorporate the clinical use of isotopes. Isotope sections were established at Walter Reed and Brooke Army Hospitals. Isotope laboratories were approved for Fitzsimons and Letterman Army Hospitals (SGO Adm Ltr 10-2, dated 8 Sep 53).

(3) Treponema Immobilization Test. This test, which was being performed in the Hawaiian Laboratory by Navy personnel, was to be transferred in the near future to the Sixth Army Area Medical Laboratory at Fort Baker, Calif. A trained MSC officer was assigned to supervise this work and two trained enlisted technicians were recommended to assist him.

under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Employees Compensation are referred under regulations to other Government medical facilities or private practitioners for service that is beyond the capabilities of the medical facility of the installation. Non-occupational cases are referred to their private physicians.

b. Radiological Health Hazards. The OHB has devoted an increasing proportion of its time to planning, supervising, and extending advice and assistance concerning control of health hazards confronting Army personnel, civilian employees, and the general public from ionizing radiation. Health protection is necessary for individuals exposed in the course of their work to ionizing radiation in any of its many forms--x-ray, radium, and other radioactive materials--whether used for industrial, research, or therapeutic purposes. Radioactive material must be disposed of safely to protect not only the health of Army personnel but also the general public.

Revision of AR 52-10-10, dated 14 February 1949, subject: "Radiological, Chemical, and other Toxic Materials, Radioactive Isotopes and other Dangerous New Chemicals," was needed and consequently undertaken by the OHB. Moreover, a general survey of installations using or contemplating the use of ionizing radiation was made to insure the adequacy of health protection measures. Some of these surveys were undertaken in company with representatives of the Atomic Energy Commission. Monitoring of persons exposed to ionizing radiation and the analysis for radon on the breath of persons handling radium were

required as additional safeguards to insure against subjecting such personnel to ionizing radiation in excess of the accepted tolerances.

In this connection, with the concurrence of the OHB, a revision was made of SR 40-1025-66, subject: "Records of Exposure to Ionizing Radiation," and published 12 October 1953, to insure that when a person who had been exposed to ionizing radiation was transferred to another installation, necessary records accompany him to show the extent of the exposure. The OHB leaned heavily upon the AEHL for advice and assistance on all aspects of the problem of health protection against ionizing radiation.

c. Propellant Fuels and Oxidizers. After long processing by representatives of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, TB MED 242 on "Health Hazards from Propellant Fuels and Oxidizers" was printed by the Adjutant General, Department of the Army, as a tri-service publication. This bulletin discussed such subjects as the properties and toxicity of the principal propellant fuels and oxidizers being used in guided missiles, together with personal protective equipment to be used against them and first aid for personnel exposed to them.

In December 1953 the Chief of the Safety Section of the OHB attended a short course on the medical aspects of cleaning fuel storage tanks, sponsored by the Air Force and the Ethyl Corporation of America at the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine, Gunther Air Force Base, Ala. Instruction in this course was confined almost

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

1. Organization and Personnel. The Medical Research and Development Board was redesignated Research and Development Division by SGO Office Memorandum dated 16 October 1953. The Human Resources Research Branch was established as of 1 August 1953.

Col. John R. Wood completed his tour as Chief of the Division on 10 May 1954. Col. Frederick J. Knoblauch, Assistant Chief, was appointed Acting Chief on that date and served through the remainder of the fiscal year.

Army Medical Service research activities supported by funds allocated to the Division were conducted during the year at:

Army Medical Service Graduate School, Washington, D. C.
Medical Research Laboratory, Fort Knox, Ky.
Surgical Research Unit, Fort Sam Houston, Tex.
Army Prosthetics Research Laboratory, Forest Glen, Md.
Medical Nutrition Laboratory, Denver
Research and Development Branch, Fitzsimons Army
Hospital, Denver
Tropical Research Laboratory, San Juan, P. R.

In addition, a program of clinical research projects, inaugurated in fiscal year 1953 at William Beaumont and Madigan Army Hospitals and aimed at utilizing the scientific talent and the large amount of clinical material in the larger hospitals, was expanded during the past year to include Walter Reed, Letterman, and Brooke.

2. Allocation of Funds. Funds allocated to the Army Medical service for research and development in fiscal year 1954 amounted to

\$10,246,000, of which approximately 40 percent was used for support of intramural research and 60 percent for contracts with nonprofit institutions and for transfer to other Government agencies. Approved projects numbered 70 and 376 contracts were in force at the end of the year.

3. Proposed Research Institute at Forest Glen. Efforts continued to obtain approval for construction of the proposed Army Medical Research Institute at Forest Glen, Md. Major obstacles were (1) the policy of dispersal and (2) the inability to obtain permission to transfer to the Forest Glen project the \$2,000,000 Congress authorized and appropriated in fiscal year 1953 for the construction of new laboratory facilities for the Army Medical Research Laboratory at Ft. Knox.

4. Geiger-Mueller Survey Meters. The Special Projects Branch sponsored a project to purchase 98 commercial Geiger-Mueller survey meters for use in detecting radioactively contaminated personnel and distribute them to selected medical facilities. A technical bulletin was being prepared to cover the use of these and other instruments.

5. Research Progress.

(1) Accidental Trauma. The program of studies and investigations financed by the OTSG and carried on by the Commission on Accidental Trauma (of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board)