Records of the United States Army Medical Research Team-Vietnam

Title: Records of the United States Army Medical Research Team-Vietnam, 1963-1983

Author/Creator: United States Army Medical Research Team-Vietnam

Collection number: 10

Size: 7 linear feet

Bulk dates: 1963-1971

Inclusive dates: 1963-1983

Repository: Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910.

Abstract: The records include correspondence, reports, AV materials, and ephemera.

Restrictions: There are some restrictions on these records. The records must be screened prior to allowing access. There are autopsy and medical records with identifying PII.

Preferred citation: Records of the US Army Medical Research Team-Vietnam, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library

Status: This collection is processed.

Historical note

In May of 1962 the Director of Defense, Research and Engineers sent a memo to the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding the establishment of a military medical research program to improve the capability of the Army Medical Service to support action in Southeast Asia. In response the Surgeon General established a survey group of 10 people to tour the Pacific area and Southeast Asia. Eight officers from the Army and two from the Air Force, including Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Deputy Director COL William D. Tigertt, were involved in the appraisal of problems in Vietnam. This survey was interrupted by an outbreak of plague around Saigon. A Laboratory Diagnostic Unit was created at 142 Hai Bai Trung to study plague and remained operational until the WRAIR medical research team arrived.

The survey group had recommended expansion of this existing medical research program to include the establishment of a medical research team in Saigon under the command of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR). The team was approved on 3 September 1963 and began in November 1963 with the arrival of the team's first Chief, LTC Paul Teschan. He quickly formed liaisons with U.S. and Vietnamese medical units, including the Public Health Division of the U.S. Operations Mission, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Minister of Health, the Pasteur Institute, and medical school faculties.

The mission of the team was to conduct military medical research studies in the following four areas: to study infectious diseases; to study combat surgery; to study methods and effectiveness of military medical advisors; and to field test medical equipment. The team moved into their permanent laboratory at 179 Cong Ly, Saigon in June 1964. The team became collocated with the Pasteur Institute of Vietnam, located conveniently across the street from 179 Cong Ly, and worked closely with it on essentially all infectious disease research efforts.

Later there were also several special projects supported by WRAIR and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC) including a FEST (Field Epidemiologic Survey Team) from 1966 to 1968, a Trauma Study Section (TSS) from 1966 to 1970, and a field photography team. The unit was disestablished on 30 April 1971.

Scope and content of the collection

The USAMRT-Vietnam records include correspondence, reports, unpublished reports, photocopies of agreements and Memorandums of Understanding, protocols and procedures, memorabilia, photographs, and slides. The bulk of the material is the correspondence.

Processing information

Processed by: Lara D'Agaro

Processing note: Original order was retained wherever possible. The correspondence files were originally arranged in reverse chronological order in the individual folders, but are now in chronological order. FEST correspondence was found in separate folders and it is maintained as a separate series, however, there is much reference to the FEST in the general correspondence. There were several folders that contained subject specific correspondence. These folders have been maintained and are found in their own series after the general correspondence series. Exact duplicates have been removed and discarded. Most metal staples, paper clips and metal binders were removed. All records have been rehoused in acid-free folders.

Most of the photographs were found in the correspondence and have been moved to photograph boxes with separation sheets left in the correspondence folders. A green cloth binder with photographs and textual records documenting the ribbon-cutting ceremony in 1964 and the closing ceremony in 1971 was dismantled to remove some of the acidic paper and plastic sleeves and has been recreated in photo box 1. The binder also included slides from different rolls of film. The slides appeared to have been somewhat randomly organized at some later date. Using some notes on the slides and the references in the correspondence, the slides were arranged more accurately; however the previous random order is obvious due to the numbers written on the slides in permanent ink. Many of the slides have captions, very few have dates.

A folder that contained 28 reprints, 26 of which concerned melioidosis, has been discarded. None of the reprints were annotated. A list of the reprints is available. Please contact the archivist for more information.

Updated 3 October 2013

Arrangement of collection: The collection is organized as 8 series.

Series I: Agreements and Memoranda

Series II: General Correspondence Files

Series III: Subject Specific Correspondence Files

Series IV: FEST Correspondence Files

Series V: Publications and Reports

Series VI: Protocols

Series VII: Ephemera

Series VIII: AV Materials

Detailed description of the collection

Series I: Agreements and Memoranda, 1964-1970 (2 folders)

This series includes photocopies of many of the agreements and Memoranda of Understanding that were exchanged between the De family and the US Army; and photocopies of the memoranda regarding the organization and personnel allowances for the USAMRT-Vietnam.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Agreements and Leases for 179 Cong Ly, Saigon, 1964-1970	
2	Memoranda and Personnel Forms, 1963-1970	

Series II: General Correspondence Files, 1963-1971 (52 folders)

The bulk of the correspondence is between Unit Directors Paul Teschan, Stefano Vivona, Robert J.T. Joy, Harry Dangerfield, Lee Roy Jones, Robert Cutting, and Charles Shields and the Commander of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research William D. Tigertt and Director of the Division of Neuropsychiatry David McK Rioch. There is some correspondence that references the Field Epidemiological Survey Team (FEST), however the bulk of that correspondence is found in series IV, FEST correspondence. There are some quarterly reports and newsletters mixed in with the correspondence when sent as enclosures. The general correspondence is arranged chronologically.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, January-June 1963	
2	Correspondence, July-December 1963	
3	Correspondence, January-March 1964	
4	Correspondence, April 1964	

5 Correspondence, May-June 1964
6 Correspondence, July-August 1964
7 Correspondence, September 1964
8 Correspondence, October 1964
9 Correspondence, November-December 1964
10 Correspondence, January-March 1965
11 Correspondence, April-June 1965
12 Correspondence, July-September 1965
13 Correspondence, October 1965
14 Correspondence, November 1965
15 Correspondence, December 1965
16 Correspondence, January-February 1966
17 Correspondence, March 1966
18 Correspondence, April 1966
19 Correspondence, May 1966
20 Correspondence, June 1966
21 Correspondence, July 1966
22 Correspondence, August 1-15, 1966
23 Correspondence, August 16-19, 1966
24 Correspondence, August 22-31, 1966
25 Correspondence, September 1966
26 Correspondence, October 1966
27 Correspondence, November 1966
28 Correspondence, December 1966
29 Correspondence, January-February 1967
30 Correspondence, March-April 1967
31 Correspondence, May 1967
32 Correspondence, June 1967
33 Correspondence, July-August 1967
34 Correspondence, September 1967
35 Correspondence, October 1967
36 Correspondence, November 1967
37 Correspondence, December 1967
38 Correspondence, January-February 1968
39 Correspondence, March 1968
40 Correspondence, April 1968
41 Correspondence, May 1968
42 Correspondence, June 1968
43 Correspondence, July-August 1968
44 Correspondence, September-October 1968
45 Correspondence, November-December 1968
46 Correspondence, January-June 1969

47	Correspondence, July-December 1969
48	Correspondence, January-March 1970
49	Correspondence, April-June 1970
50	Correspondence, July-September 1970
51	Correspondence, October-December 1970
52	Correspondence, 1971

Series III: Subject Specific Correspondence Files, 1962-1970 (11 folders)

This series contains correspondence files that deal with specific issues of relevance to the staff of USAMRT-Vietnam. The folders are arranged alphabetically.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Dermatology, 1967-1968	
2	Diarrheal Disease, 1963-1967	
3	Hemorrhagic Fever, 1963-1965	
4	Idiopathic Hemorrhagic Syndrome, 1969	
5	Insecticide, 1968-1969	
6	Leptospirosis, 1962-168	
7	Melioidosis, 1965	
8	Membrane Oxygenator, 1970	
9	Military Surgery Autopsy Study, 1967-1968	
10	Neuropsychiatry, 1968	
11	Plague Symposium, 1969-1970	

Series IV: Field Epidemiologic Survey Team (FEST) Files, 1965-1968, 1983 (7 folders)

This series contains the correspondence that relates to the Field Epidemiologic Survey Team (FEST). FEST was organized in May 1966 to study the epidemiology of tropical diseases in the environment in which they were transmitted. The team was composed of Special Forces officers and enlisted technicians trained at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and WRAIR in laboratory and field epidemiological skills. They were deployed to Vietnam on 26 September 1966. Scientific areas of focus included tropical sprue, febrile illness, Schistosomiasis, filariasis, dengue, and malaria. FEST was considered part of the Saigon team for administration and logistics and was constituted as an element of WRAIR, but it was attached to Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group. The bulk of the correspondence is by the FEST Chiefs LTC Llewellyn Legters and LTC Charles Webb. Studies continued through 1968.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, 1965	
2	Correspondence, January-June 1966	
3	Correspondence, July-December 1966	
4	Correspondence, January-June 1967	

5 Correspondence, July-December 1967
6 Correspondence, 1968
7 Crest, photocopy, 1983

Series V: Publications and Reports, 1963-1971 and undated (33 folders)

This series includes reports and publications. The reports were created mainly for internal use and the publications were made available to the general public. There is some reference material. The folders are arranged alphabetically.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Annual Progress Report, USAMRT (WRAIR) Vietnam and Institute Pasteur of Vietnam, 1 October 1964-31 August 1965, 1965	
2	Annual Progress Report, USAMRT (WRAIR) Vietnam and Institute Pasteur of Vietnam, 1 September 1965-31 August 1966, 1966	
3	Autopsy Protocols, 1966-RESTRICTED	
4	Clinical Records, 1967	
5	Command Health Reports, December 1970 and January 1971, 1970-1971	
6	Defoliants, 1970	
7	Dermatology, 1968-1969 and undated	
8	DFD (dyformyl dapson) Protocol, 1969	
9	Ectoparasites, 1966-1967 and undated	
10	Field Epidemiological Research Activities in the Republic of Vietnam 26 September 1966-31 August 1967, 1967	
11	Filariasis, undated	
12	Haemophilus vaginalis, undated	
13	Malaria, 1967, 1969	
14	Methemoglobinemia, 1969	
15	Military Medical Research Program Southeast Asia, 1970	
16	Military Medical Research Program Southeast Asia, Report of Survey Group 17 July 1962-11 January 1963, 1963	
17	Miscellaneous disease incidence rates, 1965, 1967, 1970	
18	Morning Reports, 1966	
19	Plague, 1968 and undated	
20	Preventive Medicine in Vietnam 1965-1966, 1966	
21	Preventive Medicine Seminar 27-28 June 1966, 1966	
22	Pulmonary Tuberculosis, undated	
23	Reference materials, 1958, 1960, 1966, 1967, 1970	
24	*Research papers from the United States Army Medical Research Team (Walter Reed Army Institute of Research) Vietnam, September 1965 to September 1966*, 1971	
25	Schistosomiasis, 1968	

26 Sickle cell anemia, undated
27 Status Reports of SEASIA Plan, 1963-1965
28 Studies of the U.S. Army Surgical Research Team WRAIR Vietnam, 17 June 1967-20 January 1968
29 USARV Medical bulletin, vol. 1, no. 7, Oct-Dec 1966, 1966
30 WRAIR Surgical Research Team, Vietnam Report: First six months' activities, 1966
31 LTC Yhap's In-Flight Studies, undated
32 Zoonosis 1, 1968
33 Zoonosis 2, 1968

Series VI: Protocols, 1968-1970 and undated (21 folders)

This series contains protocols of studies undertaken by USAMRT-Vietnam, FEST, or TSS. The folders are arranged alphabetically.

Box Title Date

1. Acute Febrile Illness, undated
2. Adenine-fortified Blood, undated
3. Causes of death in US military personnel hospitalized in the Republic of Vietnam, 1968
4. Dengue, undated
5. Diarrhea, 1970
6. Fever of Unknown Origin, 1968
7. Filariasis, undated
8. Griseofulvin, undated
9. Hepatitis, 1968, 1970
10. Leishmaniasis, undated
11. Leptospirosis, undated
12. Malaria, undated
13. Malaria Vector Control, 1968
14. Plague, undated
15. Pneumonia, 1970
16. Residual Disease, undated
17. Salmonella, undated
18. Schistosomiasis, undated
19. Tropical Sprue, undated
20. Vibrio Parahemolyticus, 1970
21. Wound Infections, undated

Series VII: Ephemera, 1963-1972 and undated (14 folders)

This series consists of an award, newspaper clippings, the guest book, various histories of the team written by Paul Teschan, Robert J.T. Joy, Kenneth R. Dirks, and unknown authors, a letter of commendation, and maps. The materials are arranged by type and then chronologically.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Award-Meritorious Unit Commendation, July 1967	
2	Clipping-"War Medicine in Vietnam," *Medical Tribune*, 21 March 1966-13 April 1966	
3	Clipping-"Medical Movie Team Captures Army's Vietnam Achievements," *U.S. Medicine*, 15 November 1967	
4	Guest book, 1964-1970	
5	History-Trauma Study Section, 1968-1969 and undated	
6	History-LTC Joy's Command of USAMRT-Vietnam, 1970-1971	
7	History-*Medical Support of the U.S. Army in Vietnam*, Chapter XV: "Medical Research in RVN," 1970-1971	
8	History-"The US Army Medical Research and Development Effort in the Southeast Asian Conflict," Kenneth R. Dirks, 1972	
9	History-"Medical Research in Southeast Asia: Initial experience in Viet-Nam," Paul Teschan, undated	
10	History-USAMRT-Vietnam, undated	
11	History-USARMT-Vietnam, brief, undated	
12	History-USAMRT-Vietnam, draft, incomplete, undated	
13	Letter of Commendation from GEN Creighton W. Abrams, April 1971	
14	Maps of Vietnam, 1967, 1968	

Series VIII: AV Materials, 1963-1971 and undated (3 boxes) (Drawer S16)

This series contains photographs and slides taken between 1963 and 1971 and an audiotape of the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Many of the photographs and slides are of field work by various TDY teams. In addition there are photographs of the ribbon cutting ceremony and stand-down ceremony. The AV materials are arranged by media and then chronologically. The audiotape has not been transcribed or converted.

Box	Title	Date
1.	Photographs	
	a. De Hospital, January 1964	
	b. Russian vascular stapling instrument, February 1964	
	c. 179 Cong Ly, April 1964	
	d. 179 Cong Ly, April 1964	

    e. Dedication ceremony, August 1964
    f. Visit of the Minister of Health, August 1964
    g. Site of new building at Institute Pasteur, November 1964
    h. NVA hospital captured in Phu Yen province, September 1966
    i. First Company Mike Force Operations, November 1966
    j. Award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation, July 1967
    k. USAMRTV green binder scrapbook, 1964, 1971
    l. 179 Cong Ly, also negatives, undated
2. Slides
    a. New MAAG compound, December 1963
    b. Test of Model 102, Portable Electronic Water Purifier, January 1964
    c. An Hoa, January 1964
    d. Plague outbreak in Nha Trang, March 1964
    e. Blount-Tigertt visit, May 1964
    f. Hausman-Marlowe visit, June 1964
    g. Buescher-Bourke visit, July 1964
    h. MacDonald-Barila visit, August 1964
    i. Dedication ceremony, August 1964
    j. Sharp visit, August 1964
    k. Construction of new Institute Pasteur building, November 1964
    l. Graphs and charts from Progress Report: Fourth quarterly and first annual summary of activities and findings 19 November 1963-1 November 1964
    m. Rat trapping and environment, July 1965
    n. Bien Hoa area, July 1965
    o. Malaria Research Team at Bien Hoa, July 1965
3. Magnetic audio tape
    a. LTG Westmoreland speaking at dedication ceremony on 7 August 1964

Related Material

For more information, see the Records of the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS), 1963-1972; the Records of SMRL-Thailand, 1958-1982; and the Records of USAMRU-Malaysia, 1952-1987 in the Gorgas Memorial Library; and the Photograph and Film collection from Vietnam at the National Archives and Records Administration.

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