

Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Kenya

Title: Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Kenya, 1969-1999

Author/Creator: United States Army Medical Research Unit, Kenya

Collection number: 12

Size: 1 linear foot

Inclusive dates: 1969-1999

Bulk Dates: 1973-1980

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

Abstract: The records include correspondence from the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Kenya and one early report from the unit.

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on these records.

Preferred citation: Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Kenya, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library

Status: This collection is processed.

Historical note:

In October 1969, Dr. Ishmael E. Muriithi, Director of Veterinary Services of Kenya, proposed forming a joint Kenya/Walter Reed Army Institute of Research group to investigate trypanosomiasis. In January 1970, Dale E. Wykoff, soon followed by Ralph E. Duxbury and Bruce T. Wellde, began a series of temporary duty trips at the Nairobi, Kenya veterinary facility to conduct research on trypanosomiasis. After 2 ½ years of research, and encouraging results of the immunization against *Trypanosome rhodesiense* in rodents, cattle, and monkeys, Dr. Muriithi suggested the establishment of a permanent unit of 2-4 American investigators. The United States Army Medical Research Unit (USAMRU)-Kenya began as an association with the Veterinary Research Laboratory in Kabete, Kenya in 1973. It was an investigation into the immune mechanisms of animal trypanosomes. In 1979 WRAIR established a collaborative project in chemotherapy of visceral leishmaniasis with the Clinical Research Center. USAMRU-Kenya is still an active overseas laboratory overseen by WRAIR.

Scope and content of the collection:

The USAMRU-Kenya records include correspondence, photographs, and a report from 1973 through 1980.

Custodial History

The files are administrative and came from headquarters, date unknown. The correspondence prior to 1973 and after 1980 was received from headquarters in April 2012.

Processing information:

Processed by: Lara D'Agaro

Processing note: Original order was retained. The records were arranged in reverse chronological order in the correspondence folders. Ingoing and outgoing telegrams were in separate folders, they have been interfiled with the letter correspondence. All correspondence files are now in chronological order. Exact duplicates were removed and discarded. Most metal staples, paper clips and metal binders were removed. All records have been rehoused in acid-free folders.

Arrangement of collection: The collection is organized as 3 series.

Series I: Reports

Series II: Correspondence

Series III: Photographs

Detailed description of the collection:

Series I: Reports, 1973, 1986, 1993

This series consists of one report and a photocopy of the report and histories of the unit. The report was an historical review for the use of Bruce Wellde until his departure for Kenya in 1973. It was then turned over to the Executive Officer for retention in WRAIR Headquarters' files.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Memoranda of Record-Establishment of the US Army Medical Research Unit (Kenya) in Nairobi, Kenya, 1970-1973, 1973	
2	Memoranda of Record-Establishment of the US Army Medical Research Unit (Kenya) in Nairobi, Kenya, 1970-1973, photocopy, 1973	
3	A History and Bibliography of the US Army Medical Research Unit-Kenya, 1986? and 1993	

Series II: Correspondence, 1972-1999

The bulk of the correspondence is between Unit Chiefs Dale Wykoff, Robert Kovatch, and Wayne Hockmeyer and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Directors Edward Buescher, Robert J.T. Joy, and Garrison Rapmund. There are some reports and newsletters mixed in with the correspondence when sent as enclosures. There is a summary report dated 2 April 1973 that includes copies of earlier correspondence (1969-1972) outlining the formation of the laboratory. The materials are arranged chronologically.

Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Kenya

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, 1972	
2	Correspondence, 1973	
3	Correspondence, January-June 1974	
4	Correspondence, July-December 1974	
5	Correspondence, January-June 1975	
6	Correspondence, July-December 1975	
7	Correspondence, 1976	
8	Correspondence, 1977	
9	Correspondence, 1978	
10	Correspondence, January-March 1979	
11	Correspondence, April-June 1979	
12	Correspondence, July-December 1979	
13	Correspondence, January-June 1980	
14	Correspondence, July-December 1980	
15	Correspondence, 1981	
16	Correspondence, 1989	
17	Correspondence, 1993	
18	Correspondence, 1994	
19	Correspondence, 1995	
20	Correspondence, 1996	
21	Correspondence, 1997	
22	Correspondence, 1998	
23	Correspondence, 1999	

Series III: Photographs, 1979, 1985 and undated

This series consists of 20 photographs of the residential section of Nairobi, Kenya in April 1979. They were taken by MAJ Lyman Roberts and include an index of the numbered photographs. There is also a photograph of a building in Kenya and a photograph and slide of field work.

Box	Title	Date
1	Residential section of Nairobi, Kenya, 1979	
2	Field work, negatives, 1980?	
3	Field work, slides, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1995, 1996, and undated	
4	Building, undated	
5	Field work, undated	

Related Material

For additional information, see the Records of the USMRDP-Uganda, 1959-1969 and the Records of the WRAIR Overseas Laboratories, 1935-1998 in the Gorgas Memorial Library.