

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
Washington 25, D. C.

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(Health and Medical)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH & MEDICAL)

SUBJECT: Progress Report for the month of January 1958

PERSONNEL

The Armed Forces Reserve Medical Officer Commissioning and Residency Consideration Program

The Committee on Procurement and Utilization of Medical Service Personnel has recommended continuation of this program for the 1958 medical school graduates. The current status of the program was reviewed by the group and several changes were recommended in the program for 1958 graduates. The most significant of these changes are: (1) clarification of Department of Defense policy concerning the number of years a resident may be deferred. The following statement will appear in the Information Bulletin for 1958 graduates: "It is the policy of the Department of Defense to recommend the deferment of all residents selected for deferment in this program until they have completed the number of years of residency training required by the Specialty Boards"; (2) individuals not selected for deferment may request active duty one year after completion of internship, thus being assured of one year of training prior to entering military service. It was the consensus of the Committee that this alternate might prove to be quite popular with the interns.

DEPENDENTS' MEDICAL CARE

Remote Areas for Dental Care

During January several applications were received from the military departments requesting that certain military installations be declared "remote" for the purpose of providing limited dental care to dependents of military personnel. After complete review, the following actions were taken:

APPROVED

Fort Eustis, Virginia  
Fort Jackson, So. Carolina  
Fort Knox, Kentucky  
Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho

DISAPPROVED

Fort Story, Virginia

*OSD Historical Office,  
Health and Medical Subject  
Files, HdM Reports 1958*

During its Annual Session in November 1957, the American Dental Association passed a resolution opposing the establishment of "Family Dental Clinics" by the Department of the Air Force at certain bases, utilizing welfare funds and local civilian dentists. The resolution was thoroughly discussed at a special meeting of the Department of Defense Dental Advisory Committee on 15 December 1957 and its recommendation on this subject was submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Medical) for consideration. The Department of Defense legal advisors are currently studying the legal implications of the "Family Plan Dental Clinic" and will advise the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health & Medical) upon completion of their study.

#### BIOMEDICAL WEAPONS TESTS

During January a number of conferences were held with representatives of the Surgeons General of the Army and Air Force, and the Division of Biology and Medicine, Atomic Energy Commission, on the preparation of staff studies in support of medically-directed biomedical weapons tests and the planning of future medical and biological studies of effects of nuclear weapons.

#### HANDICAPPED CHILDREN

Information has been received that the Council of State Governments is preparing a draft of an Interstate Compact on Welfare Services which specifies that "no person who has removed himself from one party state to another party state shall be ineligible for a welfare service in such other party state because of failure to meet that state's residence or settlement requirements for eligibility."

By implication, this includes military personnel who require certain services for relief of handicapped children. At present, the Interstate Compact is limited to Northeastern states but is opened to joinder by all states and the District of Columbia.

#### POLIOMYELITIS

The Surgeon for the Pacific Weapons Test during summer of 1958, has reported that the incidence of poliomyelitis in the Marshall Island residents is many times higher than normal for this group. He has recommended to the Surgeons General and the Director, Division of Biology and Medicine of the Atomic Energy Commission that all personnel to be assigned to this area be given poliomyelitis vaccination. The Surgeons General have been granted permission informally to waive the present policy of the Department of Defense that poliomyelitis vaccination be administered to military personnel on a voluntary basis.

#### HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Agreement was reached among the representatives of the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force that, in planning for a hospital in the Carlisle-Harrisburg, Pennsylvania area, the hospital should be constructed at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania in order to provide the necessary hospitalization for all military personnel and their dependents as well as all outpatient care for dependents of military personnel in the area. At the request of the Bureau of the Budget,

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## STATUS OF PROJECT

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The purpose of the survey is to assist Spain in assessing the nutritional status and health of its people, in defining the major nutrition problems and in establishing a nutrition service. This will be the seventh such survey conducted under the supervision of the Nutrition Committee in cooperation with nations of the free world as a part of the U. S. technical assistance program. Since January 1956, surveys have been completed in Pakistan, Iran, Korea, the Philippines, Turkey, and Libya.

The State Department has received a request from the government of Peru for assistance in conducting a nutrition survey of their Armed Forces. The Nutrition Committee (ICNND) approved the project for FY 1959.

### MEDICAL EDUCATION FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE (MEND) PROGRAM

On 1 January 1958 MEND affiliation became official for ten more medical colleges. Originally selected for participation in June 1957, these schools increase the total number of schools participating in this program to 45. The new schools are: Albert Einstein, Bowman Gray, Columbia, Howard, Iowa, Miami, Northwestern, Oklahoma, Rochester, and Virginia.

On 28 January the Federal MEND Committee convened in this office to discuss topics pertinent to a February meeting of the whole MEND Committee, as well as MEND activities for the remainder of the year.

### LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

DOD 85-250 - "Reserve Officer Personnel Act Omnibus Amendments". - - The purpose of this legislation is to bring up-to-date those provisions of law pertaining to the "promotion, precedence, constructive credit, distribution, retention, and elimination of officers of the Reserve components of the armed forces" which were originally enacted as the Reserve Officer Personnel Act of 1954, as amended by P.L. 115, 84th Congress. Legislation would, among other things, correct deficiencies and administrative problems which have been encountered in implementing the law, bring its provisions in line with recent changes to the law pertaining to the promotion of regular nurses and medical specialists, and for each armed force to make other required changes.

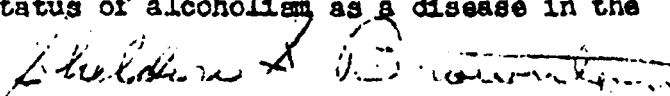
This Office concurred in this legislation.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### *ASSISTANT*

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health & Medical) and two Staff representatives from this office attended the Armed Forces Special Weapons Symposium given by the Field Command at Sandia Base, New Mexico on 6-10 January 1958.

Congressional inquiries continue to be directed to this office on various subjects such as, procurement and utilization of medical specialists; dental care under the Dependents' Medical Care Act; status of alcoholism as a disease in the armed services, etc.

  
SHELDON S. BROWN  
Brigadier General, USAF (MC)  
Director of the Staff

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