



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

18 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR (See Distribution)

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Twentieth Joint Medical Research Conference

The following were present at the twentieth conference in room 3-D-835, The Pentagon, 0900 - 1140 hours, 13 March 1963:

Dr. F. J. Frese, Jr., OAD(R), ODDR&E
R/Adm C. B. Galloway, BuMed, D/N, Acting Chairman
Dr. F. W. Hartman, AFCSG, D/AF
Col W. C. Marett, AFCSG, D/AF
R/Adm W. N. New, OASD/M, DASD(H&M)
Capt J. A. O'Donoghue, BuMed, D/N
Dr. C. E. Pruett, OAD(R), ODDR&E
Dr. M. B. Sulzberger, AMR&DC, D/A
Col C. F. Vorder Bruegge, AMR&DC, D/A

The minutes of the nineteenth conference were approved.

The initial item discussed was research in hospital design and in medical field equipment. This was a continuation of matters discussed at the last meeting. Colonel Vorder Bruegge reported that the Army currently has one contract in force on hospital design. However, the recent Industry-Army Conference held at Fort Meade has produced a number of interesting proposals from industry which are under active consideration. The follow-on efforts resulting from this conference will be coordinated with the other Services. Admiral New expressed doubt that any single, all-purpose, field hospital could be evolved which would meet the vastly differing requirements of such situations as jungle, desert, arctic, mountain, tropic, combat and natural disaster. Admiral Galloway pointed out that there is a continuing study carried on at the Medical Equipment Development Laboratory at Fort Totten for the development of all types of medical equipment, and that, as a result of this and other efforts, approximately 97% of all medical equipment is now standardized for all three Services. He emphasized that similar consideration should be given to all echelons of the medical supply train, so that such equipment would not become inoperable in the field due to a shortage of replacement parts. Colonel Vorder Bruegge stated that progress in this area had been enhanced during the past two years as a result of increased financial support of this laboratory by the Army. Dr. Sulzberger felt that positive measures should be adopted which would provide for a regular in-put to the process of such research and development from the actual field users of the equipment. At present, such input comes primarily from maneuvers, command post exercises and critiques. Admiral New suggested that it might be advisable to establish a tri-Service Board for the development of field medical equipment and hospitals.

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It was agreed that at the next conference the Army representatives would report on the progress of its research both in-house and by contract.

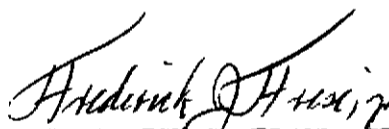
In response to a question from Admiral Galloway, the secretary reported that copies of the detailed analysis of IDA Task-20 Report and the responses of the Services thereto, had been distributed on the same basis as the original Report. Admiral Galloway reminded the conference members that each Service has a responsibility to monitor continuously their stated implementation of the recommendations of this Report.

A proposed DOD basis for requesting exemption from direct monitoring by the Food and Drug Administration of the drug research activities of the Services and their contractors has been drafted by Dr. Sulzberger and recently distributed to the offices of the respective Surgeons General. The Service representatives were asked to return their comments and suggestions to Dr. Sulzberger by 20 March 1963. Admiral Galloway appointed General Blount, Dr. Sulzberger and Dr. Frese as a subcommittee to reconcile these comments and to consult with appropriate OSD offices and with the FDA as to the possibility of securing an exemption on the basis of such an agreed position.

Admiral Galloway invited the attention of the conferees to a recent NIH publication: "Why Are Research Grants Disapproved," by Ernest M. Allen. He also quoted some recent statistics from a report from Great Lakes Naval Training Center on "Respiratory Disease in Recruit Populations." He suggested that these figures should encourage the Services to focus their research efforts in this field on the first four weeks of the recruit situation. He also outlined the continuing Navy investigations into respiratory disease problems.

The secretary reported on the progress to date of the efforts to convene a group of experts to re-evaluate the hazards of exposure to microwave radiation. Present safety standards are unofficial and at least five years old. Consultations will be held with the National Research Council this week to work out details of procedure for such a conference. The Services will be kept informed.

The next meeting will be held on 10 April 1963, 0900, in room 1-E-796, The Pentagon.


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