

MEDDA

9 July 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Thirteenth Meeting of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council, 1000 Hours, 30 June 1951

The thirteenth meeting of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council was attended by Dr. Mailing, Dr. I. S. Ravdin, Dr. W. R. Lovelace, Major General George E. Armstrong, Major General Dan Ogle, Rear Adm. C. J. Brown (absent were Dr. Hollers, Major General Harry G. Armstrong, Rear Admiral H. L. Pugh); Rear Admiral F. C. Greaves, Generals Standlee and Schwichtenberg, Colonel C. O. Bruce, Captains Rose and Tayloe and Lt. (JG) F. R. Colman all of the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council; Brigadier General P. I. Robinson, Acting Deputy Surgeon General, Department of the Army, Captain C. J. Simpson, MSC, USA and Lieut. (JG) B. F. Brofft, MSC, USN.

I. AGENDA MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL

1. Improvement of Medical Service to Combat Units. At the 12th meeting of the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council, following a report by Brigadier General Crawford Sams which was extremely critical of the medical service being rendered to combat units, the Chairman directed the three Surgeons General to submit to the Council their thoughts and/or anticipated action in the face of General Sams' statements.

Speaking for the Army, Major General George E. Armstrong initially briefed the Council on the conversations he had had with General Sams immediately following the latter's return to the USA from the Far East. At that time, having heard the problem and proposed solution, General Sams had expressed himself as satisfied and had told General Armstrong "You are doing all that you can do." In view of this, General Armstrong indicated that he was no little surprised to learn of General Sams' biased report to the Armed Forces Medical Policy Council. In view of the above, and because he is shortly going to Korea on an inspection trip, General Armstrong proposes to request that a commission be set up in MEC to investigate the allegations made by General Sams. If these allegations prove to be without basis, the Army Medical Service will feel that its current program is satisfactory -- if they prove to be factual, the Commission will be requested to make recommendations (which will be carried to the highest military authority by the SGO, D/A) as to methods of eliminating the inadequacies.

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Speaking for the Navy, Admiral Brown stated that BUMED intends to place greater stress on the indoctrination of Medical Corps officers in the accepted treatment of battle casualties (especially wounded) and on the training of MC's and EM in the techniques of field medical service.

The Air Force representative, Major General Ogle, presented a prepared statement (copy attached) which outlined actions which have already been initiated by SGO, D/A to overcome any known shortcomings among Air Force field medical personnel.

At this juncture, Dr. Meiling advised that on 29 June (the day before this meeting) he had met with Mr. Lovett, the Under Secretary of Defense and Mrs. Rosenberg, the Assistant Secretary of Defense to consider this problem. He advised that he had submitted a report to the Secretary of Defense (classified Secret, a copy of which Dr. Lovelace has on file) which made the following recommendations:

a. That field medical service of Army, Navy and Air Force be brought to the same level of efficiency as hospital medicine.

b. That a Board be appointed by the Secretaries of the three Services (to be composed of "Line" and Medical Officers) to devise a program which will achieve a above.

c. That the Army and Air Force be given given authority to create Hospital Corps (for enlisted men) similar to that of the Navy.

d. That all chains of evacuation be re-emphasized as command functions within the Military Service and that the Medical Services act only in an advisory capacity.

e. That the AFMPC have the responsibility of monitoring such recommendations as may be made by the Board proposed under a above.

Dr. Meiling gave as his reasons for placing such a Board on the secretarial level the fact that he believes "top echelon patronage" is needed in order to implement such a program and that it should be a combined effort. Dr. Meiling also took some issue with General Armstrong in that he does not think a "defensive attitude" is indicated and that any Board set up should not try to "prove or disprove" statements made by General Sams, etc, but should take a constructive approach to particular problems.

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General Armstrong agreed with the Chairman but also explained that the allegations made by General Sams were getting widespread publicity and that he felt it his duty to the Army and the Army Medical Service to get the full facts. He stated that it was imperative that he knew the precise situation -- good or bad -- this stand of General Armstrong's was given the wholehearted support of Dr. Ravdin and other members of the Council.

This subject was concluded on the note that perhaps two types of studies, one as recommended by Dr. Meiling, and one as proposed by General Armstrong, were indicated. (Personnel Division and Education and Training Division to note.)

2. Army Medical Library - National Research Council Report.
At the last meeting of the Council, Dr. Meiling had submitted to the Council his proposed memorandum to the Secretary of Defense on the National Research Council report concerning the Army Medical Library. Dr. Meiling proposed that the Library be transferred to the U. S. Public Health Service to function as one of the National Institute of Health. General Armstrong, at this meeting, submitted a counter proposal which states as follows:

a. The Armed Forces Medical Policy Council has reviewed the report of the National Research Council Committee on the Army Medical Library. The AFMPC believes that the recommendation of the Committee, numbered II (1) in the report, to the effect that "The Army Medical Library should continue to be operated as a National Medical Library under the administration of the Department of Defense," should be adopted as the official view of the Secretary of Defense.

b. The AFMPC recommends further, that steps be taken to convert the Army Medical Library into an Armed Forces Medical Library. The three armed services should participate equally in policy planning for the Library with administrative and budget control a function of one of the Surgeons General of the Armed Forces.

c. The AFMPC indorses, in addition, recommendation number III of the NRC Committee Report, which would "prescribe the creation of a small governing board including representatives from the medical and library professions, drawn from non-governmental as well as pertinent civil and military agencies. This board should be given detailed responsibility for directing the policy of the Library.

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Dr. Meiling's proposal and General Armstrong's counter recommendation were discussed at length by the Council. The positions, known and assumed, of the BOB and the Secretary of Defense Comptroller were considered. In conclusion the Council approved the recommendation of General Armstrong and the Chairman was directed to prepare a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense and the Management Committee based on the Army's draft. One change was agreed upon - the proposed name would be "Armed Forces National Medical Library. General Armstrong offered the services of Colonel Joseph McNinch to the Chairman to assist him in preparing the AFMPC statement. (Director, Army Medical Library to note.)

3. Relationships of Military Services to Certain Physical Conditions. Admiral Greaves advised that the above subject was studied by a Military Personnel Policy Subcommittee of the P.P.B., and submitted a memorandum of its recommendations. However, in view of the fact that the Marine Corps and Coast Guard are involved, he believes that perhaps a new panel should be formed to study this subject, and that said panel should include Marine and Coast Guard representatives. (Physical Standards Division to note - see attached copy of Subcommittee's study.)

4. Utilization of Enlisted Women in Medical Services of the Armed Forces. Colonel Bruce advised that the only suggestion made on the report submitted, subject as above, was that number of enlisted women needed not be used and that proportions be substituted for numbers. Colonel Bruce is attempting to obtain this information and will submit same to Mrs. Rosenberg. (Personnel Division to note.)

5. Department of Defense Policy on Nursing Service. A copy of the Department of Defense Directive on Nursing Service was distributed to the Council. This policy is an outgrowth of the recent study on Nursing Service within the three Services. (Nursing Division to note - copy of DOD statement attached.)

II. NON-AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED

1. Operating Beds. Dr. Meiling stated that the problem of number of operating beds had been resolved. He stated that the figure of the number of authorized beds of July-September will represent a 65% utilization (using 16 May occupied figures). (Medical Plans and Operations Division to note.)

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2. Progress Report on Blood. Captain Rose submitted a copy of the 26 June monthly report on blood and blood derivatives. He also stated that the NRC had recommended the continued purchase of Dextran. Dr. Meiling advised that Mr. Charles Wilson had given Dr. Howard Rusk the responsibility for making decisions concerning the overall nation-wide blood problem. Dr. Rusk is soon to set up appropriate committees and the Armed Services will undoubtedly be requested to name representatives. (Supply Division and Colonel D. B. Kendrick to note.)

3. Medical Service Personnel Requirements. Dr. Meiling advised that the MC, DC and ANC personnel requirement figures were due from the three Services by 1 July and had not yet been received. He also stated that Mrs. Rosenberg has given AFMPC the final responsibility insofar as determining the Service's personnel requirement demands is concerned. Therefore, in future, the AFMPC will not be in the position of advising the Health Resources Committee (Rusk Group) on requirements; as in the past, but will be making final recommendations to the Secretary of Defense. Dr. Meiling suggested that the AFMPC seek the advise of HRC before making final decision. (Personnel Division to note.)

4. Medical Service Reserve Affairs. Dr. Meiling advised that Secretary Rosenberg was preparing a directive for the three Services regarding Medical Service Reserve Affairs. Said directive incorporates most of the suggestions contained in the "Lovelace Report" and places Medical Reserve problems in the hands of the three Surgeons General. (Colonel James B. Mason to note.)

5. Recent European Meetings.

a. General Armstrong and Dr. Ravdin briefed the Council on the XIIIth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy held in Paris 17-23 June, the most important aspect being that progress is being made toward affiliation of International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy with World Health Organization; the current status of the French National Blood Program and conditions in Egypt and Lebanon and England.

b. Captain Rose reported on his trips to Belgium and Switzerland. In the former country he attended a large medical convention and in the latter he observed the blood program.

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Dr. Ravdin explained a problem being encountered by the Armed Services Epidemiological Board in its research on Hepatitis, etc. The problem is the difficulty of obtaining human volunteers. It is believed that State and Federal penitentiaries are the most logical sources. The best method of obtaining the cooperation of the States was discussed inconclusively. One thought expressed was that the Secretary of Defense should write the Governors of the several States. This, however, seemed to the Council to be too involved. The matter will be further discussed at the next Council Meeting. (Chairman, Medical Research and Development Board to note.)

7. MATS Flight to Europe. Dr. Melling announced that beginning 2 July at 1000 Hours, MATS will have a daily flight to Europe from National Airport. This will obviate the necessity of a Westover Field "lay-over" in the future. (Executive Officer to note.)

8. Attendance at Medical Editors of the World Meeting, Stockholm, 15-21 September 1951. General Armstrong advised that the SGO had selected Colonel Brandstadt to attend the above meeting and wondered if the Air Force and Navy desired to have him represent them as well. This was heartily agreed to by the Navy and Air Force representatives. (Executive Officer and Colonel Brandstadt to note.)

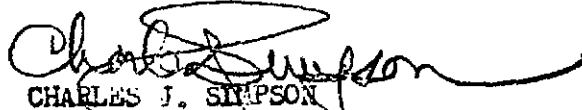
III. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Dr. Melling expressed his pleasure at having been Chairman of the Council during the recent trying period of two years, and thanked all concerned for their cooperation. He stated that he would willingly give assistance and advice in the future if called upon.

2. Dr. Ravdin went on record, for the Council, as thanking Dr. Melling for his efforts as Chairman, AFMPC, and wishing him well in the future.

3. Dr. Lovelace, the new Chairman, AFMPC, asked each Council member to submit to him, at the next meeting, the names of a potential deputy-chairman of the AFMPC.

4. The next meeting of the Council will be at 1330 Hours, 16 July 1951.


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