
PROGRAM

PROGRESS

REPORT

3 RD QUARTER

FY 1959



OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Record Group: 319
Accession#: 83-0052
Box#: 1
File Name: Annual Reports Army Surgeon General

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16 AMEDS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Research

1. Traumatic Surgery and Shock

a. As a result of a study of the form and function of the foot, an "electrogoniometer" has been developed. This device is used to record, measure and calibrate tracings of the motions of certain joints of the foot and to distinguish normal and abnormal patterns. Several other types of "electrogoniometers" have been developed for measurement of the functional motions of other joints. These devices should prove to be of great value in prosthetic work.

b. Through the use of new techniques for treating renal failure and a new type of artificial kidney, personnel of the Surgical Research Unit, BAMC, have been able to reduce the mortality rate for acute renal failure (kidney shutdown) to zero. In the past, the mortality rate was at least 50 percent when treated by older methods.

2. Internal Medicine

Considerable progress has been made by the US Army Research and Nutrition Laboratory in developing techniques to measure accurately the total amount of water in the body at any one time and the amount of water absorbed from the air. This work has far reaching military logistic implications since humidity now has an important bearing on the amount of water needed by military personnel.

3. Biomedical Aspects of Missile Transport

The first successful launching of a primate into space was accomplished on 13 December 1958. The ballistic missile Jupiter was launched at Cape Canaveral with a one-pound monkey, Gordo, for flight 300 miles up and more than 1,500 miles down range. The monkey made the trip at approximately 10 g during take off and 40 g during re-entry at supersonic speed, including approximately 10 minutes of weightlessness, without undue physiological aftereffects.

Development

4. Development of Medical, Dental & Veterinary Equipment and Supplies

a. During the quarter, eight development subtasks and five subdivisions were terminated by actions taken by the Army Medical Service Technical Committee. Nine of the terminations represented completions while the remaining four were cancellations.

b. Seven development projects were formulated during the third quarter and submitted to the Armed Services Medical Materiel Coordination Committee for inclusion in the FY 1960 Development Program. The projects pertain to:

- (1) Litter Carrier, Rollagon-Type

Development

2 Chair

- (2) X-Ray Apparatus, Dental Clinic, Semitrailer Mounted,
- (3) X-Ray Apparatus, Field Portable
- (4) Examining Table, Portable, Folding, Field
- (5) Stand, Basin, Field Folding (9 Qt Basin)
- (6) Stand, Basin, Field Folding (7 Qt Basin)
- (7) Rack, Patient Chart Holder, Field

c. Preparations were made for OTSG participation in the test and evaluation of disposable paper medical items to be made available as the result of the Quartermaster Paper Products Program. It is planned to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the items within the Army Medical Service for a period of approximately six months.

d. Emphasis was directed toward the expedient development of an optical insert for the new gas mask recently developed by the Chemical Corps. The new insert will be similar to the one now in use but redesigned to make it compatible with the shape and angle of the eye piece in the new mask. It is anticipated that actions relating to the type classification of this insert will be initiated during the fourth quarter FY 1959.

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