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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
AIR UNIVERSITY
HEADQUARTERS
USAF SCHOOL OF AVIATION MEDICINE
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE
RANDOLPH FIELD, TEXAS

SAMPREV

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Coccidioidomycosis Study, Webb Air Force Base

TO: Commandant
USAF School of Aviation Medicine
Randolph AFB, Texas

1. This progress report for the coccidioidomycosis study established at Webb Air Force Base under the provisions of AFR 80-22, is submitted from the Department of Preventive Medicine, USAF School of Aviation Medicine, as we are committed to maintaining the records of the study.

2. Captain F. E. Hesse, USAF (MC), the original responsible officer and principal investigator, was transferred to Harlingen Air Force Base in April 1953. Major Guy W. Dean, Jr., USAF (MC), is now the responsible investigator, and 1st Lt. James A. Wood, USAF (MC), is now the principal investigator.

3. Captain Hesse left Webb AFB during the first week of April 1953. His proposal for research had been approved by the SAM Research Council on 19 December 1952, and it was anticipated that his study would begin during the latter part of February 1953. However, prior to his departure, he had not started any work on the project reportedly because skin testing antigens were not available to him. After his departure, the antigens were found in a refrigerator in the Webb AFB dispensary. The materials were forwarded to him on 9 February 1953, but no record exists as to when they were received.

4. Personnel at Webb and a representative from the Department of Preventive Medicine, USAF SAM, discussed the study in May 1953, and it was agreed that accomplishment of that portion of Captain Hesse's original proposal relating to the inclusion of tuberculin testing and correlation of skin test results with routine chest X-ray findings was not feasible at this time. Captain Hesse had a special interest in this aspect of the study and had had previous experience with such studies. As there is now no radiologist at Webb AFB, it was felt that the work load which this portion of the study would impose could not be handled. Therefore, the study as it is now planned will be carried out according to the procedures suggested in the Outline of Studies on Coccidioidomycosis, prepared by the Department of Preventive Medicine, USAF School of Aviation Medicine.

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5. Actual skin testing began in May 1953, and records have not yet been received for tabulation. In May-June 1953, approximately 1,000 permanent party personnel and one class of 100-120 cadets were scheduled to receive initial coccidioidin and histoplasmin tests.

6. It is anticipated that coccidioidin and histoplasmin retests will be performed on the permanent party personnel in November-December 1953, and on the cadet classes near the end of their four of duty (an interval of 5-6 months after the initial test). Succeeding cadet classes will receive initial skin tests on arrival at Webb AFB (classes arrive about every 6 weeks) and will be retested as noted above.

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