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REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON  
MEDICAL MATERIEL DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RELATIVE TO PRESENT MEDICAL MATERIEL  
DEVELOPMENTAL FACILITIES OF THE ARMED SERVICES

2 May 1948

I. FINDINGS:

This subcommittee visited and studied the following medical materiel developmental facilities, finding them as described briefly below.

A. ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, ARMY-NAVY MEDICAL PROCUREMENT OFFICE.

This division is established within the Army-Navy Medical Procurement Office to function under the command of and as a component of this office. It is set up for staffing with a Chief and a Deputy Chief, one from the Army and one from the Navy, and such other Army and Navy military and civilian personnel as may be assigned. Its duties are defined as follows:

1. To plan and execute physical developments of projects as directed by the Army Medical Research Board and/or Research and Materiel Divisions, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and the Naval Medical Materiel Board, singly or jointly, through the Army-Navy Medical Materiel and Specifications Board.
2. To plan and execute investigation of failures in existing materiel and institute measures for correction.
3. To coordinate industrial development of medical materiel with that of the Army and Navy medical departments.

Current arrangements provide for equal fiscal support from two services, the Army and the Navy.

The organization of the engineering development division consists of four branches, namely:

1. Chemical Engineering
2. Electrical Engineering
3. Mechanical Engineering
4. Engineering Laboratory and Shop

Whereas the first three of these branches have been functioning principally in the office and laboratory facilities provided by ANMPO at their Pearl and Sands Streets location, the fourth branch

is currently being installed in its new building site at Fort Totten, Long Island, New York. The shop installation is scheduled for completion on or about 15 May 1948. At this same site, additional buildings, for which budgetary allowances have been made, will be converted for use as offices, testing laboratories, and warehouses of the division. The date of completion of this latter phase of the development is as yet uncertain pending approval of budgets and the availability of building materials.

Currently, the laboratory is functioning without military personnel as Chief or Deputy Chief; has a markedly reduced staff, particularly in the Engineering Laboratory and Shop branch; and is, for the time being, unable to proceed with the development program, excepting on a very limited scale. The principal retarding factor, now that the installation of the shops is essentially complete, is the lack of a Division Chief, or equal, capable of responsibly coordinating and supervising the organization. Another factor is the lack of most of the necessary technologists, artisans, and technicians.

It is of particular note that the equipment facilities and the physical layout of this activity is sufficiently extensive and on such a scale as to permit, with proper staffing, the production of, in sufficient quantities for field testing, almost any desired items of field medical equipment.

**B. AIRBORNE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DEPARTMENT, SCHOOL OF AVIATION MEDICINE, AIR UNIVERSITY, RANDOLPH FIELD, TEXAS.**

This department is established as a part of the School of Aviation Medicine. It is nominally directed by a Department Chief, currently an Army dental officer, responsible, via the School of Aviation Medicine, to the Office of the Air Surgeon, U. S. Air Force. This department includes metal-, wood-, and fabric-working machines; is staffed adequately for the equipment available and is capable of producing a limited number of prototype or pilot models of developmental equipment, but is not sufficiently large to produce many of these models in their finished form and in quantities necessary for adequate field testing. Funds are being made available through local channels for the support of this activity and moderately extensive contractual development projects are being controlled by it. This facility is also in a position to field test items of equipment and to make reasonable adjustments and corrections of deficiencies in equipment furnished it for such testing.

**C. EQUIPMENT TESTING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, NAVAL MEDICAL FIELD RESEARCH LABORATORY, CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA.**

This department, with a Naval officer as its nominal head, deals principally with prototype pilot model development and field and laboratory testing of medical equipment. It, as one department of the Naval Medical Field Research Laboratory, is under the managerial and technical control of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, cognizance of the Research and Materiel Divisions. It

includes metal-, wood-, and fabric-working machines and utilizes drafting, photographing, and supply facilities of its parent institution. In addition, it is equipped with limited testing equipment, particularly in the field of fabrics and plastics. This facility is capable of producing a limited number of prototype or pilot models of proposed equipment, but is not sufficiently equipped or staffed to produce most of the models desired in their finished form or any in quantities necessary for adequate field testing. This facility is also in a position to perform field tests on items of medical materiel and, where necessary, to make reasonable adjustments and corrections of deficiencies in equipment furnished it for field testing.

**II. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A. That the present Engineering Development Division, Army-Navy Medical Procurement Office, be reorganized and appropriately staffed in the immediate future for use by the armed forces as a central and joint engineering development laboratory capable of developing and testing all common items of medical material, producing pilot models thereof in their finished form where indicated, and in such quantities as are necessary for field testing. It is further recommended that each of the developmental laboratories currently existing at the School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, Texas, and at the Naval Medical Field Research Laboratory, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, continue to function with its present facilities uncurtailed insofar as the following operations are concerned:
1. The production of preliminary prototype models of medical equipment for testing ideas and then forwarding to the central joint laboratory for further engineering and fabrication of finished models.
  2. Field testing pilot models made within its own facility or submitted to it by other facilities.
  3. Perform modifications and alterations, as currently within its scope, to pilot models which it is testing.

The main developmental facility at Fort Totten should be capable of performing laboratory tests of medical materiel. For field testing, the Randolph Field and Camp Lejeune laboratories, plus the Army Ground Force boards for this purpose, should be utilized.

- B. That the central joint laboratory located at Fort Totten be named the Armed Services Medical Materiel Engineering and Development Laboratory.
- C. That this central joint laboratory be fiscally supported by the three services on an equal basis and independently of any other agency.

- D. That, since research or development, to be of the most value, must be conducted independently of other agencies which, by their very existence, might influence according to their basic interest the course of the research or development, the Armed Services Medical Materiel Engineering and Development Laboratory be independently established with its own command personnel and, for managerial and technical control, under the three Surgeons General and the Research and Development Board via the medium of a governing board of tripartite service membership. Further, that this membership, appointed by the three Surgeons General, include persons cognizant of the needs of their branches of the service and properly qualified in work closely allied to the development of medical materiel; further, that these key persons be selected for these requisites primarily with only secondary consideration being given to their convenience to a central meeting point. As seen fit by proper high authority, the duties of this board might well be incorporated with those of some other proposed or existent board, provided persons with the above-listed prerequisites are included in reasonable strength in its membership.

The existent Army-Navy Medical Materiel and Specifications Board, currently the governing factor over the Army-Navy Medical Procurement Office and its subordinate Engineering Development Division, could well serve in this proposed capacity after modification for tripartite designation. Thus, it would continue to govern the activities of both the ANMPO and the reorganized version of the present Engineering Development Division. With this arrangement (See Appendix A) of two separate commands for purposes of managerial and technical control under the board, certain administrative functions of a routine housekeeping nature, such as personnel administration, fiscal accounting, contractual negotiations and legal advisement, could be handled by one command for both, thereby effecting an economical saving. The handling facility, however, should exercise only functional control over these common denominators insofar as use by the other command is concerned. Thus, although handled in a common office, the fiscal accounts, personnel accountability and contractual work will be kept separately, their destiny to be the decision of the separate commanding officers in accordance with budgets, personnel complements, etc., as allocated through the common governing board. Although certainly not in the best interests of an impartial development program, but in view of economy and the very real need of engineering consultation and assistance in testing of materiel and drafting of plans and specifications by the ANMPO, it will likely be considered advisable to use the facilities of the Armed Services Medical Materiel Engineering and Development Laboratory for this purpose. If this is to be done, it is recommended that ANMPO submit requests to the laboratory, just as any other agency would, the laboratory in turn performing the projects in exact accordance with the request on a project priority basis as established by the governing board.

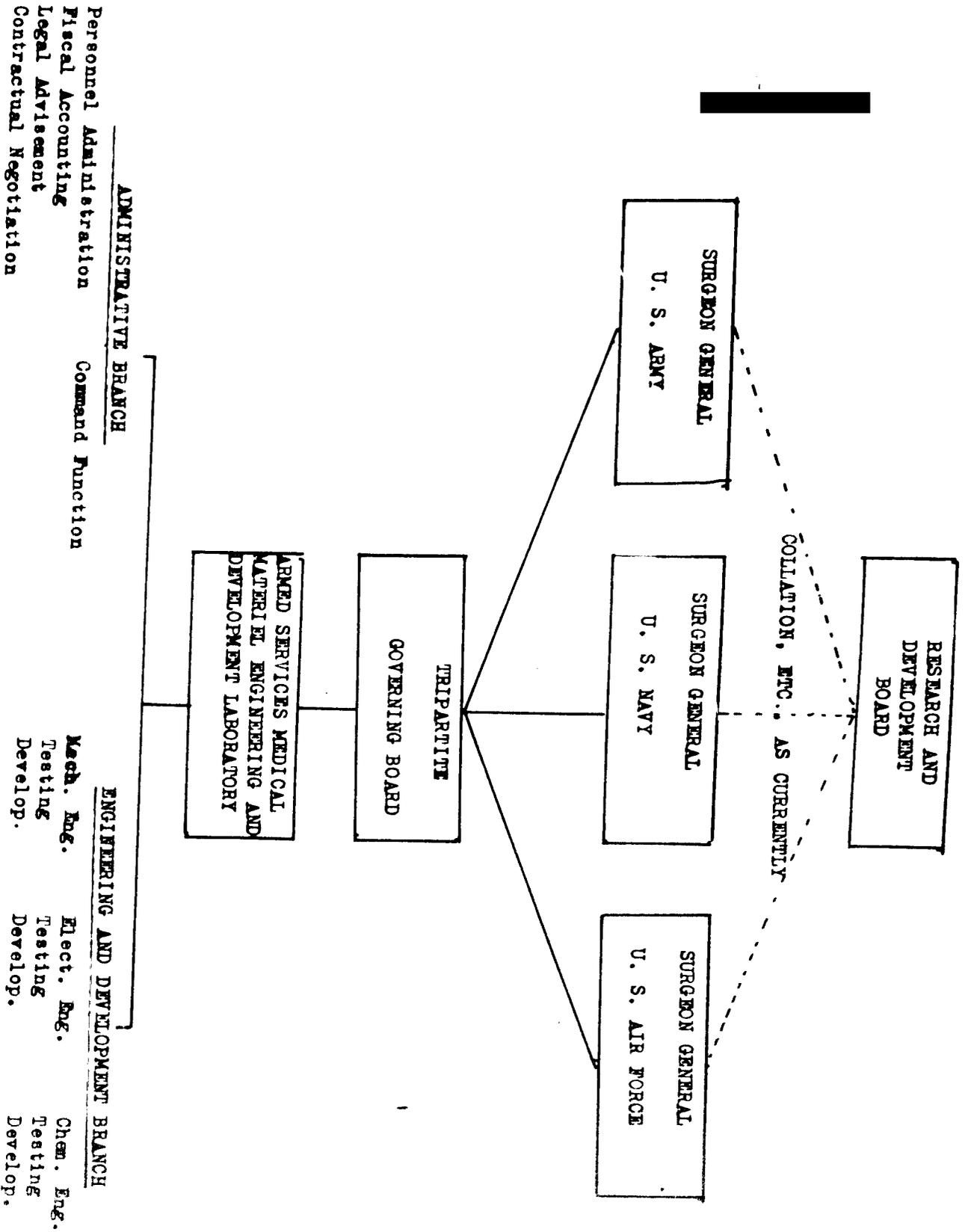
E. That each service contribute one officer of the rank of lieutenant colonel or commander, or above, to the organic personnel of the Armed Services Medical Materiel Engineering and Development Laboratory, the senior one of the three to be designated as the commanding officer. In addition, it is recommended that each service contribute at least two other officers, each of which is qualified, either by experience or technical training, for the developmental work at hand. That wherever feasible, military officers who have been carefully selected for interest and technical and administrative ability to head up their departments be selected for the Mechanical Engineering branch, the Electrical Engineering branch, and the Chemical Engineering branch, or that where this is not feasible, P-7 Civil Service grades be authorized in order to procure qualified civilians for these positions.

That in order to improve and coordinate effort, engineering design and contractual development should be accomplished as a sole responsibility of the Armed Services Medical Materiel Engineering and Development Laboratory insofar as they deal with items used by more than one service. In this regard, it is further recommended that even a single service project be developed, actually or contractually, by this joint facility providing the Surgeon General of the using service so desires.

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GENERAL PLAN

