

For Col. Gagge

ARCTIC AEROMEDICAL LABORATORY
 LADD AIR FORCE BASE, ALASKA
 APO 731, c/o POSTMASTER
 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

RCC4.960516.001

5 December 1950

Colonel A. P. Gagge, USAF (MSC)
 Medical Research Division, Rm. 5E-1019
 Office of the Surgeon General
 Headquarters USAF
 Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Colonel Gagge:

I arrived at Ladd Air Force Base on 9 November 1950 and have been very busy getting acquainted with the laboratory and all the problems that have been facing us here. The Colonel and Mrs. Bollerud left for Seattle, Washington 4 December 1950 on the first leg of their itinerary, so I now have the laboratory in my charge. Colonel Bollerud has thirty (30) days' leave and twenty-five (25) days' delay en route at Headquarters, Air Materiel Command, before going to Washington.

I have your letter of 22 November 1950 and shall specifically answer the questions proposed. With regard to money for the Cornell and Minnesota projects, several days before receiving your letter we received the indorsement written by Dr. Heim stating only \$16,000 of our funds remain available at Wright Field. Consequently, we immediately transferred \$6,000 for the Cornell project plus some additional funds to cover current and future requests for equipment purchases, and instructed the Aero Medical Laboratory to apply the \$16,000 to the Minnesota contract. Upon receipt of your letter, it would appear that more funds were available at Wright Field than indicated in Dr. Heim's indorsement. This leaves us with some excess funds at the Aero Medical Laboratory. However, I will see that those funds are applied to our contracts as soon as possible.

Future university contracts can probably be negotiated from here without concerning the Aero Medical Laboratory at Wright Field. I have been looking into that matter and anticipate no trouble. The Budget and Fiscal Section of the Finance Office here is entirely cooperative.

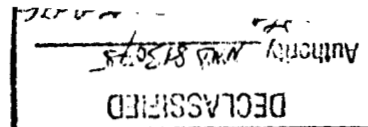
On checking both here and with Headquarters, Alaskan Air Command, I learned that no one in the Alaskan Air Command has authority to write invitational orders; such orders when requested by the Alaskan Air Command are written by Headquarters, USAF or by such secondary headquarters as USAF may direct. Therefore, it would appear that if I

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tried to request invitational orders for our university contractors through the Alaskan Air Command, I would only be adding to the chain of people handling the request for orders, and would be increasing the chance for difficulty and delay. Therefore, for the present at least, I shall stick to the present system.

It will be possible of course for Headquarters, USAF to delegate authority in such a way that these invitational orders for our civilian university contractors could be written right here by Base Headquarters at Ladd, but I doubt whether Headquarters, USAF would go along with that. The advantage would be that we could supervise the whole matter from the Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory and avoid any possible confusion and delay.

We shall utilize professional advice from all sources to the best possible advantage. At present, we hope to have Dr. Dubois visit us. Dr. Campbell of the California Institute of Technology has indicated that he would visit us on funds available to him from other sources, and Colonel Sollerud has accepted his offer.

On the proposed survival ration study for this winter at Ladd, Dr. Dyme left here just before I arrived so I did not get to sit in on the general conference on that subject. Dr. Dyme proposed a research program with an obviously impossible laboratory work load, with absolutely no details or analysis of the exact number of laboratory procedures and time required to carry them out. Any such analysis would have shown the impossibility to the program. Colonel Sollerud had no alternative but to point this out and lead in the construction of a much modified plan, since an entire summer had been spent without coming to any sort of concrete decision in spite of repeated urging. While it is true that a number of things have stood in the way of drawing up a final program during the last six months, it is certainly high time that a concrete feasible and justified program for the winter of 1951 be agreed on and the details for executing the program be worked out. If Dr. Heim or Dr. Dyme had changes to suggest within the limits of our facilities, we certainly would want to cooperate fully. I can certainly assure you that we will cooperate and support them and the Aero Medical Laboratory in general to the best of our ability. We have not heard from the Aero Medical Laboratory since Dr. Dyme's return but hope to soon. I certainly hope that Dr. Heim will concur in the plan so that we can go ahead with details without further delays. I will let you know of any developments as they look from here. I shall write you a separate letter concerning some of our purchasing and supply problems.

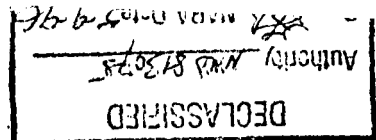
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The Redahls are very busy engaged in an active research program,
and at present are at the Native Service Hospital in Kotzebue doing
metabolism and nutritional studies. I shall give you a more complete
outline of their entire program soon.

Give my best regards to Mrs. Gagge and the children, and I hope
you have an enjoyable Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

ANDRES I. KARSTENS
Major, USAF (MC)

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