

## Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Panama

**Title:** Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Panama, 1959-1976

**Author/Creator:** United States Army Medical Research Unit, Panama

**Collection number:** 7

**Size:** .5 linear feet

**Inclusive dates:** 1959-1976

**Bulk dates:** 1973-1976

**Repository:** Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910, Telephone: 301-319-9554, Fax: 301-319-9929, Email: [gorgasill@amedd.army.mil](mailto:gorgasill@amedd.army.mil)

**Abstract:** The records include correspondence from the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Panama and one early report from the unit.

**Restrictions:** There are no restrictions on these records.

**Preferred citation:** Records of the United States Army Medical Research Unit, Panama, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library

**Status:** This collection is processed.

### Historical note:

The United States Army Medical Research Unit-Panama (USAMRU-Panama) began as a joint effort between the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health and the US Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC), which together formed the Middle America Research Unit (MARU). Work began in 1958 at Balboa Heights, Canal Zone. They were studying infectious diseases in Central and South America. USAMRU-Panama was a Class II activity of the Army Medical Research and Development Command. General Order #90 issued 28 June 1973 by the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army, transferred control of the laboratory to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) effective 13 June 1973. The Army continued to work closely with the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine and the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory with the mission of Parasitology, biochemistry, and antileishmanial drug development. The Unit was disestablished on 1 July 1976 due to budget constraints.

**Scope and content of the collection:**

The USAMRU-Panama records include correspondence and reports from 1973, when control was transferred to WRAIR, until its closure in 1976. There is also one report from 1959.

**Processing information:**

Processed by: Lara D'Agaro

Processing note: Original order was retained. The records were arranged chronologically. Exact duplicates were removed and discarded. Most metal staples, paper clips and metal binders were removed. All records have been rehoused in acid-free folders.

Encoded by: N/A

**Arrangement of collection: The collection is organized as 2 series.**

Series I: Report

Series II: Correspondence

**Detailed description of the collection:**

**Series I: Report, 1959 (1 folder)**

This series consists of one report from the Middle America Research Unit.

| Folder | Title   | Date |
|--------|---|------|
| 1      | Middle America Research Unit, April 1958-March 1959, 1959 |      |

**Series II: Correspondence, 1973-1976 (7 folders)**

The bulk of the correspondence is between Unit Director Bryce Walton and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Directors Robert J.T. Joy and Garrison Rapmund. There are some quarterly reports and newsletters mixed in with the correspondence when sent as enclosures. The materials are arranged chronologically.

| Folder | Title                              | Date |
|--------|------------------------------------|------|
| 1      | Correspondence, 1970-1972          |      |
| 2      | Correspondence, 1973               |      |
| 3      | Correspondence, 1974               |      |
| 4      | Correspondence, January-June 1975  |      |
| 5      | Correspondence, July-December 1975 |      |

- 6 Correspondence, January-April 1976
- 7 Correspondence, May-August 1976

**Related Material**

For additional information, see the Records of the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine Records, 1899-1992 at the National Library of Medicine.