

Records of the Overseas Laboratories of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

Title: Records of the Overseas Laboratories of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, 1935-1998

Author/Creator: Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

Collection number:

Size: linear feet

Bulk dates: 1965-1980

Inclusive dates: 1935-1998

Repository: Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910

Abstract: The records include correspondence, publications, memorabilia, and reports

Restrictions: There are no restrictions on these records

Preferred citation: Records of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Archives, Gorgas Memorial Library

Status: This collection is currently being processed

Historical note:

The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) traces its history back to 1893 when the Surgeon General of the Army, George Miller Sternberg, issued General Order #5 creating the Army Medical School. The idea for an Army Medical School had initially been proposed by Surgeon General Hammond during the Civil War, when civilian medical school training proved to be deficient in addressing military problems. Due to political differences it was not to be for another 30 years. In 1893, General Sternberg did not have the resources to create an undergraduate military medical school so he chose a post-graduate curriculum and made use of the existing staffs of the Office of the Surgeon General, the Army Medical Library, and the Army Medical Museum. Prominent examples include Walter Reed, Curator of the Army Medical Museum, who became the Professor of Clinical and Sanitary Microscopy; and John Shaw Billings, Librarian of the Surgeon General's Office, who became the Professor of Military Hygiene.

The institute underwent a series of name changes that reflected its evolving mission as a strictly teaching operation to its current predominately research mission. The name changes began with the Army Medical Department Professional Service School in 1923, the Army Medical Department Research and Graduate School in 1947, the Army Medical Service Graduate School in 1950, and finally to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in 1955.

Soon after WWII came an increase in the number of overseas laboratories, namely Puerto Rico (1950-1966), Malaysia (1953-1989), Panama (1958-1976), Uganda (1959-1969), Thailand (1961-present), Vietnam (1963-1971), Japan (1968-1972), Brasilia, Brazil (1972-1999), Belem, Brazil (1973-1979), Kenya (1973-present), Germany (1977-2015), and Korea (1988).

Scope and content of the collection:

This collection is mainly correspondence with some reports.

Processing information:

Processed by: Lara D'Agaro

Processing note: Original order was retained wherever possible. 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. Most of the AV materials had been stored separately from the paper records. See the Records of the WRAIR AV Materials for photographs, slides, and negatives.

Arrangement of collection: The collection is organized as 1 series.

Series I: Administrative files**Detailed description of the collection:****Series I: Administrative files, 1971-1996 and undated**

This series contains administrative records of temporary overseas assignments by WRAIR investigators, with the exception of the Army Medical Research Board in the Canal Zone. Overseas laboratories that were permanent will have their own record group and finding aid (see Related Material). Administrative records for all or groups of overseas laboratories will be found here since they do not naturally fall under a particular laboratory. The subseries are arranged by country.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, All OCONUS units,	1977
2	Correspondence, All OCONUS units,	1978
3	Correspondence, All OCONUS units,	1979
4	Correspondence, All OCONUS units,	1980
5	Correspondence, All OCONUS units,	1981
6	Defense of overseas laboratories, list of publications,	1980
7	Defense of overseas laboratories, supporting documents,	1980
8	Defense of overseas laboratories, WRAIR staff paper,	1980
9	The Defense Department's Enduring Contributions to Global Health,	2011
10	Department of Defense Overseas Medical Research Laboratories, Report of a Study,	1980
11	House Appropriations Committee, Data, AFRIMS, Thailand,	1977
12	House Appropriations Committee, Data, general,	1977
13	House Appropriations Committee, Data, general,	1980
14	House Appropriations Committee, Data, USAMRU-Belem,	1977
15	House Appropriations Committee, Data, USAMRU-Brasilia,	1977
16	House Appropriations Committee, Data, USAMRU-Kenya,	1977

- 17 House Appropriations Committee, Data, USAMRU-Malaysia, 1977
- 18 House Appropriations Committee, Report, Overseas Medical Research Programs of the Department of Defense, 1976-1977
- 19 House Appropriations Committee, Response material, 1975
- 20 Information, OCONUS units, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1996-1998, and undated
- 21 Overseas Infectious Diseases Research Program, review of, 1992
- 22 Overseas Medical Research Laboratories, MODE reduction evaluation, 1971-1979
- 23 Overseas Medical Research Laboratories, MODE reduction evaluation, 1980

Subseries I: Australia, 1986-1991 (1 folder)

This subseries consists of one folder of correspondence. WRAIR has collaborated with the Australia Malaria Research Unit (AMRU) to investigate malaria drug resistance. Most of the correspondence is with Dr. Karl H. Reickmann and there is also a trip report.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, 1986-1991	

Subseries II: Brazil, 1966-1968 (1 folder)

This subseries consists of one folder of correspondence. Captain Kenneth Mott was assigned to the Department of Tropical Medicine of the Hospital Edgard Santos in Salvador, Brazil. He studied Filariasis and Chagas Disease. CPT Mott was there from September 1966 to April 1968.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, 1966-1968	

Subseries III: Canal Zone, 1935 (1 folder)

This subseries includes two reports about the Army Medical Research Board, written by Major James S. Simmons. The Army Medical Research Board was a continuation of the US Army Medical Department Research Board and the Board for the Study of Tropical Diseases, which had been operating in the Philippines. The initial report includes historical background and 13 photographs of the laboratory. The reports are stapled together.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Report, Initial report of the Army Medical Research Board, Ancon, Canal Zone, photocopy, 12 April 1935	
	Report, Report of the Army Medical Research Board, Ancon, Canal Zone, photocopy, 13 July 1935	

Subseries IV: Disease Research, 1950-1962 (7 folders)

The Cholera Research records contains some correspondence, notes, memoranda, and reports regarding cholera vaccine testing and cholera epidemic assistance in India, Pakistan, Thailand, and the Philippines. This cholera work done in Thailand set the foundation for the SEATO Cholera Laboratory and its future configurations as the SEATO Medical Research Laboratory and the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences. The Dysentery Research records include correspondence about a possible clinical trial in Yugoslavia and photographs of *S. flexneri* infections. The Influenza Research is the evaluation of diagnostic materials. The Tetanus Research correspondence discusses tetanus in dental patients and tetanus vaccine comparisons.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, Cholera, 1950-1957	
2	Correspondence, Cholera, 1958	
3	Correspondence, Cholera, 1959	
4	Correspondence, Cholera, 1960-1962	
5	Correspondence, Dysentery, 1962-1967	
6	Correspondence and data, Influenza, 1950-1957	
7	Correspondence, Tetanus, 1954-1962	

Subseries V: USAMRU-Fort Bragg, 1986

This subseries consists of one report on the status of human use protocols at Fort Bragg.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Status of Human Use Protocols, 1986	

Subseries VI: India, 1986?-1997 (1 folder)

This subseries consists of one folder of reports. WRAIR collaborated with the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) to develop antimalarial drugs.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Central Drug Research Institute and WRAIR collaboration, 1986?-1997	

Subseries VII: Japan, 1918-1971 (7 folders)

This subseries contains reports and correspondence from various research endeavors in Japan. Japan housed surgical research teams during both the Korean War and the Vietnam War, when injured soldiers were evacuated to Japan. A permanent team was established in 1968 until 1972 (see the Records of the United States Army Surgical Research Team (WRAIR), Japan for more information); however temporary teams existed prior to 1968. This series includes 2 reports from temporary teams in 1950 and 1951. In addition there was a drug screening unit established at the 406th Medical Laboratory to test new composite drugs to treat and prevent Schistosomiasis. The results of these tests were then

field tested in Brazil with the establishment of the US Army Medical Research Unit-Brasilia in 1973 (see the Records of the US Army Medical Research Unit-Brasilia for more details). The records are arranged by type and then chronologically.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, WRAIR Composite Drug Screening Unit-Japan,	1968-1971
2	Correspondence, US Army Research and Development Group (Far East),	1970-1971
3	Personnel, US Army Medical Command, Japan,	1965-1966
4	Report, Japanese reports on Tsutsugamushi,	1918-1948
5	Report, Japanese Army research reports on Tsutsugamushi ,	1944-1945
6	Report, Surgical Research Team-Japan	1950, 1951
7	Report, Research team for medical investigation in the field, Japan,	1951

Subseries VIII: Korea, 1949-1953, 1965-1967, 1992, 1994-1996 (6 folders)

This subseries contains a report from the Surgical Research Team in Korea. This was a temporary duty assignment for Captain Paul E. Teschan from June 1952 to March 1953. CPT Teschan replaced CPT Lloyd H. Smith as the Chief of the Renal Insufficiency Center at the 111th Evacuation Hospital. In this subseries there is a correspondence folder concerning the Hepatitis Surveillance Team and a report folder concerning the Malaria Epidemiological Investigation. There are photocopies of the correspondence between the Medical Section of the Far East Command and the Office of the Surgeon General (OTSG). The correspondents include the Army Surgeon General MG Raymond Bliss; Chief Surgeons MG Edgar Hume and BG William Shambora; Chief of the Personnel Division of the OTSG COL Paul Robinson; and OTSG Executive Officers COL T.J. Hartford, COL R.G. Prentiss, Jr., and COL C.O. Bruce. The correspondence mainly took the form of a newsletter, copies of which were given to WRAIR Commanders for their information.

Folder	Title	Date
1	Correspondence, Far East Command,	1949-1950
2	Correspondence, Far East Command,	1951-1953
3	Correspondence, Hepatitis Surveillance Team, Korea,	1965-1967
4	Report, Surgical Research Team,	1953
5	Report, Trip, Safety Inspection,	1992
6	Reports, Malaria Epidemiological Investigation,	1994-1996

Subseries IX: Nepal, 1989, 1995-1997 (4 folders)

This series mainly contains correspondence between WRAIR and Dr. Robert McNair Scott regarding the Walter Reed-AFRIMS Research Unit, Nepal (WARUN). Dr. Scott established a field station in Nepal to investigate selected clinical and epidemiological aspects of Hepatitis E virus infections in the Kathmandu Valley. The initial 2 year activity was to examine the epidemiology of HEV and establish a test bed for phase II and III trials of future HEV vaccine candidates.

Folder	Title	Date
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- 1 Correspondence, 1995
- 2 Correspondence, 1996-1997
- 3 Trip Report, 1995

Subseries X: Nigeria, 1967-1968 (1 folder)

This series mostly contains correspondence from WRAIR to Dr. Lawrence S. Ritchie. Dr. Ritchie was to be the Visiting Professor of Schistosomiasis at the University of Ibadan, Lagos, Nigeria and perform in a teaching and research role. The Nigerian civil war put an end to the project.

Folder	Title	Date
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- 1 Correspondence, 1967-1968

Subseries XI: Panama, 1984-1992 (2 folders)

This subseries contains some correspondence and quarterly reports about malaria animal studies from the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine.

Folder	Title	Date
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- 1 Correspondence, 1984-1985, 1987-1992
- 2 Reports, 1990

Subseries XII: Southeast Asia, 1964-1973 and undated (5 folders)

This subseries contains correspondence and reports concerning activities in Southeast Asia that concerned more than one overseas laboratory. The overlapping laboratories were SMRL-Thailand, USAMRU- Malaysia, and USAMRT-Vietnam. Cooperative efforts included malaria prevention and treatment, and drug use detection during the Vietnam War.

Folder	Title	Date
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- 1 Correspondence, 1964-1965
- 2 Correspondence, 1967, 1969
- 3 Exhibit, Description of program, 1964
- 4 Medical research-drugs, 1973
- 5 Study, Drug abuse, 1971-1973 and undated

Subseries XIII: Uganda, 1998 and undated (1 folder)

This subseries contains correspondence that outlines the collaboration between WRAIR and Uganda to develop an HIV vaccine study site, also called the Rakai Project.

Folder	Title	Date
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1 Correspondence, 1998 and undated

Subseries XIV: Zaire, 1972 (1 folder)

This subseries contains the Medical Report of the Republic of Zaire, written by COL Robert J.T. Joy, Deputy Director of WRAIR; CPT Henry A. Sparks, Commanding Officer of NAMRU-3; and Dr. Daniel H. Connor, Chief, Geographic Pathology Division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. This report documents the feasibility of establishing a military medical research facility in Zaire (formerly the Belgian Congo, where a research unit had begun in 1959, but had been removed to Uganda during the political unrest in 1960, see the Records of USMRDP-Uganda).

Folder	Title	Date
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1	Report, Medical Survey of the Republic of Zaire, 1972	
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Related Material

For more information, see the Records of SMRL-Thailand, 1958-1982; the Records of USAMRU-Malaysia, 1952-1987; the Records of USAMRU-Belem, Brazil, 1973-1979; the Records of USAMRU-Brasilia, Brazil, 1972-1999; the Records of USAMRU-Europe, 1977-2015; the Records of USASRT-Japan, 1968-1969; the Records of USAMRU-Kenya, 1969-1999; the Records of USAMRU-Panama, 1959-1976; the Records of TRML-Puerto Rico, 1950-1966; the Records of USMRDP-Uganda, 1959-1969; the Records of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, 1941-1992; the Records of the Migratory Animal Pathological Survey (MAPS), 1963-1972; and the Records of USAMRT-Vietnam, 1963-1971 in the Gorgas Memorial Library.