

AFCSCG-11

Report of TDY

19 November 1959

AFCSCG-10

1. PURPOSE OF VISIT - Attendance at "International Symposium on Cardiology in Aviation" and the dedication of the Aerospace Medical Center, School of Aviation Medicine.

2. DATES AND PLACES VISITED - The Symposium and Dedication took place at the School of Aviation Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas--the Symposium on 12-13 November 1959 and the Dedication on 14 November 1959. Travel both ways was via military aircraft.

3. KEY INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED - The attached program lists many of the individuals contacted. Representatives of the U. S. Air Force, civil airlines, U. S. Navy, and various universities and clinics attended. There were large numbers of key USAF personnel attending and it was a real "old home week" atmosphere. A great deal of USAF business was thus carried on informally. I was particularly grateful for the opportunity to talk with Generals Reinartz and David N. W. Grant.

4. CONCLUSIONS -

a. The Cardiology Symposium was well-attended, well-organized, and ran quite smoothly, including details such as transportation. The first day's discussions started with the general effects of aerospace flight on the cardiovascular system, and then covered the various cardiovascular examination techniques and finally some specific problems, such as the autopsy findings (cardiovascular) in pilots, hypertension, and unexplained loss of consciousness. The majority of this material was not new, but gave a background for the present status of our opinions regarding cardiovascular findings in aircrew. A lively panel discussion followed and little agreement was obtained on such controversial questions as the disposition of flying personnel with congenital heart defects (postsurgical), arteriosclerotic and rheumatic heart disease, and hypertension. In general it seems to me that the physicians involved forget there are two viewpoints dictated by the level of decision: (1) the individual case sort of decision (waivers useful here) and (2) the physical standards or mass type decision.

b. Dr. Leroy Burney (USPHS Surgeon General) was the banquet speaker, and he outlined the agency involvement in cardiovascular research, stressing both NIH and contractual progress.

c. The second day's program was largely concerned with a series of reports of the findings in the USAF ECG repository survey of 67,375 flying



personnel. The Symposium concluded with another spirited panel discussion involving several of the speakers.

d. The proceedings were taped and will be published by the School of Aviation Medicine this summer. The results of the USAF ECG survey will appear as a series of papers in the American Journal of Cardiology prior to that time.

e. The dedication was held indoors due to inclement weather. Senator Johnson promised his support in obtaining the additional funds requested for the School of Aviation Medicine.

f. In my short time in the Office of the Surgeon General I have been impressed by the wealth of extraneous business and problems on which one is approached because you represent the Surgeon General. I feel such inquiries, discussions, etc., are a very important part of our job for we are here to support the operational units. Many times some advice or inquiry and reply may make the difference in the retention of a valuable officer. Within reason I feel we are here to serve and thus spent a great deal of time in this activity on this trip.

CHARLES A. BERRY  
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