

Dr Berry:

Thought you might
be interested in having
a copy of this info
prepared for Gen. Nims.

It may give you
some insight into
S. America and enable
you to delve deeper
into their problems.

Your comments on
the usefulness, following
your return will be
appreciated.

May Oelkelder

I N D E X

NOTES FOR THE SURGEON GENERAL'S TRIP

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TAB "A"

PERU

PERU

Lima - 24-26 January

SURGEON GENERAL: Major General H. Eduardo Souza Peixoto
Surgeon General
Ministry of Aeronautics
Arequipa 5103
Lima, Peru

General Souza has been Air Force Surgeon General since 1956. He attended the Aero Medical Association meeting in Denver, Colorado, in May 1957, when Dr. Hurtado gave the Bauer lecture. In September 1960, General Souza made a tour of U. S. medical installations.

Air Force Medical Service

Patterned on USAF medical organization. All Flight Surgeons work part-time and supplement low military pay by private practice.

The Army Central Hospital was opened in December 1957. It is modern, well-equipped, and staffed by well-trained doctors. Standards are high in comparison with hospitals in other parts of the country. The hospital was outfitted by the American Hospital Supply Company. It has 968 beds which can be increased to 1,200 beds in an emergency. Air Force personnel are accommodated by the Army Hospital. The Navy and Police Force have their own hospitals.

Peru's National Institute of Andean Biology (Institute Nacional de Biologia Andina) is undoubtedly doing the most outstanding aero-medical research in South America. The Institute has been working on USAF contracts from the School of Aviation Medicine. Dr. Alberto Hurtado, Director of the Institute, has a capable staff of researchers working on high altitude acclimatization. The three laboratories of the Institute are modern and well equipped: Huancayo (13,000 ft), Morococha (14,500 ft) and Lima Clinical Laboratory. Morococha had a Rockefeller grant of \$50,000 for laboratory equipment.

Dr. Hurtado, Director of the Institute, is a Harvard graduate (late 1920's). He delivered the Bauer lecture at the Denver meeting of the Aero Medical Association in May 1957, and reported a joint paper with Dr. Robert T. Clark, Jr. on high altitude studies at the Second International Symposium on Physics and Medicine of the Upper Atmosphere and Space in San Antonio 1958. Dr. Hurtado is the most outstanding aeromedical research scientist in South America.

USAF Research Contract

For many years the Institute of Andean Biology has worked on USAF contracts studying the "Mechanisms of Natural Acclimatization." One of the studies on Psychophysiology of Stress has established maximum parameters of human adaptation to stresses such as could apply in space flight.

TAB "B"

CHILE

CHILE

Santiago - 26-29 January

NEW SURGEON GENERAL: Colonel/Brig. General Marcial Baeza Martinez
Sr. Director of Health
Air Force of Chile
Santiago, Chile

General Yazigi has a heart condition and was scheduled to retire. Colonel Baeza is replacing General Yazigi and has probably been promoted to Brig. General. Dr. Baeza was formerly director of the Aviation Hospital in Santiago. He is a graduate of the USAF School of Aviation Medicine. Usually he attends the annual Aerospace Medical Association meetings. During the recent Chilean earthquake disasters, Dr. Baeza was in charge of medical operations.

Air Force Medical Service

Patterned on USAF medical organization. Flight Surgeons work part-time supplementing low military pay by private practice.

The Aviation Hospital is in an old monastery building in Los Condes, a suburb of Santiago. This 100-bed hospital was formally inaugurated in August 1958. It was equipped by USAF Reimbursable aid.

Medical Research

The University of Chile probably has the best medical research potential. The University Medical School has a Physiology Institute which has a dual function--instruction and research. Dr. Samuel Middleton, the Director, has done graduate study in the U. S. and speaks fluent English. The Institute has a staff of about 30 professionals, including two Hungarian refugees of considerable professional ability. Laboratory equipment is comparable to that of any U. S. laboratory. About sixty percent of the equipment is of U. S. origin.

The Catholic University, Institute of Physiology, has good laboratory equipment and all the standard facilities for a good research program. Dr. Luco, the Director, is doing fine research in neurophysiology. He trained under Dr. Cannon at Harvard. Dr. Luco is receiving some U. S. financial support.

TAB "C"

ARGENTINA

ARGENTINA

Buenos Aires - 29-31 January

NEW SURGEON GENERAL REPORTED: Commodore Ruben Edo Fio (Replaced General Olquin)
Director General Health Service
Headquarters, Argentine Air Force
Buenos Aires, Argentina

According to the Argentine Embassy, General Olquin has been replaced by Commodore Edo.

Air Force Medical Service

The Argentine Air Force has a relatively large medical corps in comparison with token forces in smaller countries. However, base medical officers practice civilian medicine to supplement small military incomes and many of the staff of the Institute of Aviation Medicine work part-time. Flight Surgeons wear special insignia.

Central Air Force Hospital, inaugurated in 1954, is inconvenient and badly located in a slum area in the Nueva Pompeya District. The hospital is a well equipped 450-bed hospital in a modern 12 story building which occupies an entire city block. Medical care is given to Air Force personnel and their dependents only.

The Air Force has a National Institute of Aviation Medicine on Callao 1306, Buenos Aires. Commodore Pablo Ruchelli is the Director of the Institute. Most of the staff members work part-time. Major Filipo Debarnot, trained at the Italian Aviation Medicine Center in Rome (1957), and Major Carlos Puga, trained at the USAF School of Aviation Medicine (1947) give an eight-month course in aviation medicine. Most of the work at the Institute is done by Commodore Debarnot and Commodore Ibeas who is also a graduate of the Institute of Aviation Medicine in Rome. Equipment is old and the laboratory is poorly equipped. They have pressure chamber and a baromy chair. No significant aeromedical research is being done.

Medical Research

There are two medical research institutes which have done some aeromedical research:

Experimental Institute of Biology and Medicine, Buenos Aires, is directed by Dr. Bernardo Houssay, a world renowned physiologist and former Nobel Prize Winner. Dr. Houssay is well over 75 years old. He is influential and is carrying on a vigorous scientific program. The Institute is poorly equipped. The laboratory has received some NIH grants and other U. S. aid.

Institute of Higher Biology, University of Tucuman, at Mina Aguilar, Argentina, has studied the effects of hypoxia. The Institute has two laboratories at 2000 ft and the other at 14,500 feet.

ARGENTINA (continued)

USAF Research Contracts

The University of Buenos Aires has a USAF contract to study stress tolerance -- "Ultra Structure and Function of the Retina" -- combined neurophysiological and morphological analysis of retina during its development and under stressful conditions.

TAB "D"

URUGUAY

URUGUAY

Montevideo - 31 January-2 February

SURGEON GENERAL: Colonel Francisco L. Sureda
Chief, Medical Service
Uruguayan Air Force
Uruguay 1242
Montevideo, Uruguay

Colonel Sureda is the only Flight Surgeon in the Air Force. He is assigned to the Army and detailed to the Air Force. Dr. Sureda is a graduate of the USAF School of Aviation Medicine (1943). Colonel Sureda has visited the U.S. again in 1948 for a short course. It is probably difficult for Colonel Sureda to visit the U. S. because his job is largely a one-man operation. He has been detailed to the Air Force since 1936.

Air Force Medicine

Since the Air Force became independent after separating from the Army in late 1953, it has tended toward stabilizing the assignments of medical personnel assigned to it in order to encourage service loyalty. This has only been partially successful.

The Air Force Medical Service is largely USAF base hospital type medical care. Serious illnesses and injuries are handled by the Central Military Hospital in Montevideo. A few medical officers work part-time for the Air Force. They probably also have some civilian doctors under contract. Medical support is believed to be weak.

The Central Military Hospital in Montevideo is equivalent to a U.S. Army General Hospital. It has a 278 bed capacity in antiquated stone buildings which have served the military for about 50 years.

Medical Research - USAF Contracts

Two Montevideo medical institutes are working on USAF research contracts:

The Institute of Biological Sciences is studying "Neurone Regeneration and the Neurophysiology of Wakefulness, Sleep and Hypnosis." Two basic aspects of neurophysiology are being studied: mechanisms by which neurones regenerate and processes accounting for different behavioral states on the animal.

The Institute of Neurology is studying "Attention, Habituation, and Conditioning as Related to Evoked Brain Waves." Techniques are being developed for use in evaluating Air Force personnel.

TAB "E"

PARAGUAY

PARAGUAY

Asuncion - 2-4 February

SURGEON GENERAL ARMED FORCES: Brig. General Cesar Gagliardone
Chief, Armed Forces Medical Services (Army and Air)
Asuncion
Paraguay

General Gagliardone has been Medical Director of the Armed Forces since January 1956. He is a dedicated and outstanding administrator.

Air Force Medical Service

There are no trained Flight Surgeons in the Air Force. A few medical officers are detailed from the Army to work part-time. Some civilian physicians probably work under contract to bolster up the weak medical support. The Air Force has a dispensary in Asuncion at the Air Base.

The new Military Hospital in Asuncion has a 500 bed capacity. This hospital was planned for many years and the nation is extremely proud of it.

Medical Research

The Medical School of the University of Asuncion received a grant of \$8,000 from a U. S. donor for laboratory equipment. No medical research capability has been reported.

TAB "F"

BRAZIL

BRAZIL

Sao Paulo - 4-5 February

There are two productive medical schools in Sao Paulo -- the Escola Paulista de Medicina and the Medical School of the University of Sao Paulo.

The Escola receives a large grant from the Rockefeller Foundation for medical education. Dr. Magid Iunes is one of the outstanding medical educators in Latin America. Recently he made a survey of educational procedures in U. S. medical schools and has developed many original and progressive ideas.

The School of Medicine, University of Sao Paulo, is in large, impressive, well-constructed buildings in the center of the City. The University has a new Institute of Tropical Medicine to study endemic diseases and the Institute Butantan (The Snake Institute) which is a unique research institute concerned with problems raised by various aspects of snake venoms.

Rio de Janeiro - 5-8 February

SURGEON GENERAL: Major General Edgard Correa de Mello
Director General of Aeronautical Medicine
Brazilian Air Force
Marechal Camara Avenue 233
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

General de Mello is a brother of the Chief of Staff of the Brazilian Air Force. He visited the States about two years ago.

Air Force Medical Service

The Air Force Medical Service was reorganized by decree in February 1960. In addition to being responsible for the health of the Air Force, the service is responsible for medical programs related to the selection and control of civil air personnel.

The Military Medical Service in Brazil furnishes medical support far superior to that found in other countries of South America. Many Flight Surgeons trained in U. S. hospitals and at the School of Aviation Medicine. Brazil usually sends delegates to the Military Surgeons and Aerospace Medical Association meetings. Probably the fact that General de Mello is a brother of the Chief of Staff puts the Air Force Medical Service in a strong political position.

The Central Air Force Hospital in Rio de Janeiro is well staffed. Equipment is modern. Medical care is furnished to Air Force personnel and their dependents.

Courses in Aviation Medicine have been given since 1935. The present course runs eight months.

BRAZIL (continued)

The Air Force Medical Service publishes its own Journal of Aero-medicine semiannually.

Medical Research

There are several Brazilian institutes in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo where good research is being done. A broader research potential in medicine is developing as a result of Rockefeller grants, etc., and staffing by U. S. trained personnel.

USAF Research Contract

The Institute of Biophysics, University of Brazil Medical School, is doing very fine work on the "Electrophysiology of Excitable Tissues." This study for the USAF is concerned with electric fish who apparently use an electric discharge as an orientational aid. Such studies may have ultimate utility in developing more sophisticated guidance systems.