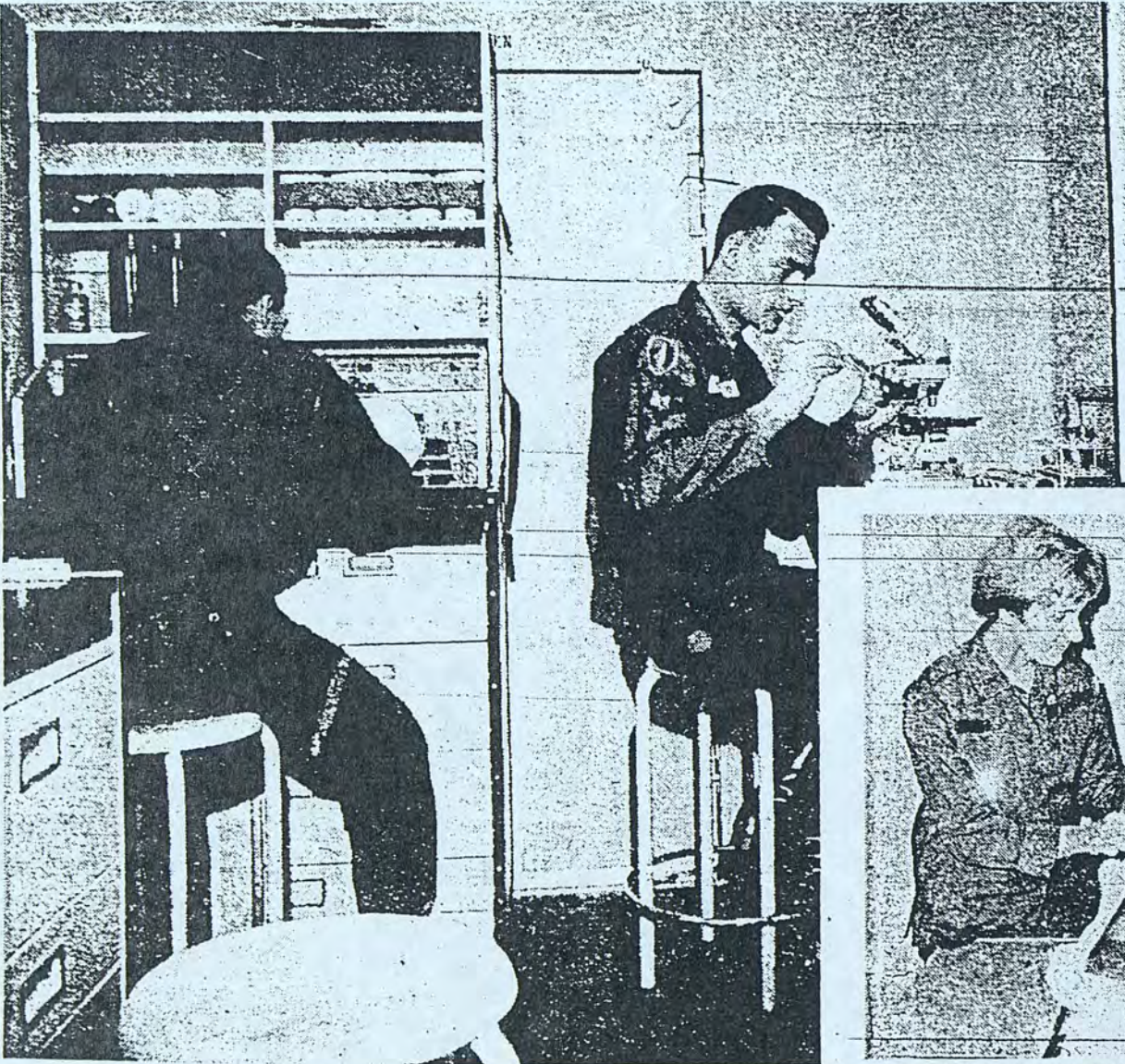


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45th Surgical Hospital Serv



EASILY TRANSPORTABLE—by air, the MUST unit is airlifted off the back of a truck by a CH-47 Chinook. (Photo by Garrett Co.)



LABORATORY TECHNICIAN—uses the MUST unit too. Equipment in the unit enables technicians to do various types of on-the-spot medical research. (Photo by Armed Forces Institute of Pathology)

Story by 1st Log-10

Forty-five miles northwest of Saigon, on the fringe of the hotly contested War Zone C, an unusual sight greets wounded soldiers being brought to medical care at the base camp of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

Resembling a series of long balloon like quonsets lying on the ground, the 1st Logistical Command's 45th Surgical Hospital stands ready to provide combat soldiers with the latest and most efficient surgical care available in the Army.

Commanded by Doctor (Maj.) Charles M. Lyon, the 44th Medical Brigade facility is the first Army hospital to use the Medical Unit Self-contained Transportable (MUST) equipment. "There was an immediate need for a surgical hospital in the Tay Ninh area," said Major Lyon, "and the 45th, which became operational within 5 days after receiving its new MUST equipment, is the answer to that need."

The mobile MUST system has three basic components: expandable shelters housing completely-equipped operating rooms, centralized material service, and laboratory; inflatable shelters that are used as wards for patients; and utility packs to provide electrical power, air-conditioning and heating, water heating and pumping, and air pressure.

Captain David R. Barton stated that the air-conditioned environment not only makes the patients more comfortable, but also helps the medical personnel work longer hours and stay "more alert, refreshed, and efficient."

The 45th, one of more than a dozen hospitals controlled by the 44th Medical Brigade, presently has a 60-bed capacity and a 40-bed emergency expansion capacity. It has the same organization and mission as any other mobile surgical hospital.

"In Vietnam," claimed Col. Ray L. Miller, commanding officer of the 44th Medical Brigade, "where minutes often mean lives, the availability of such a sophisticated medical treatment facility this close to actual combat elements, will definitely aid the Medical Corps in the battle to keep the death rate among our wounded as low as humanly possible." Colonel Miller, a doctor himself, added, "the death rate among all the wounded we treat here in Vietnam is less than one percent, history's lowest mark."

Some of the extensive, modern medical equipment for the 45th, includes a surgical table that floats on air for movement within the operating room and double-stacked sterilizer that provides twice the capacity and speed of operation as previous equipment.

Major Sara N. Lundy, chief nurse, pointed out some of the hospital's other dis-



TREATING A PATIENT—in the MUST unit, a nurse offers him a sip of water. The inflatable units are air-conditioned, offering as much patient comfort as possible. (Photo by 7th PI Det.)



A FINAL CHECK—is chine before surgery. Marvin Roberts (left) 45th.