

# *ANNUAL REPORT*

THE SURGEON GENERAL  
UNITED STATES ARMY

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examination process. For example, review of medical board proceedings which result in separation of a service member because of medical conditions existing before entering service indicates that, in more than 80 percent of such cases, diagnosis of the condition under the current examining procedure and scope of examination would have been extremely difficult.

It has been recognized that evaluation of all difficult to diagnose medical conditions depends heavily on medical history and a rigid application of medical fitness standards. A system which would include a major improvement in medical history-taking and evaluation, an evaluation of the consistency of questionnaire responses, and uniform recording of all pertinent examination findings for use by the medical examiner, would result in the best possible medical examination. The automated examination system is expected to fulfill these requirements.

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## AVIATION MEDICAL ACTIVITIES

AVIATION medicine's contribution to the Army's effectiveness remained significantly high. Approximately 300 Army physicians are actively engaged in the practice of aviation medicine. They provide commanders with staff advice, preventive medicine programs, clinical care, and education and training activities, as well as contributing to the research and development of matters related to aviation. Throughout fiscal year 1970, approximately 80 physicians were assigned aviation medicine duties in Vietnam where they served as aviation unit staff surgeons or commanders of medical detachments.

Twenty Army physicians are certified in Aerospace Medicine, an increase of three compared to fiscal year 1969. In addition, there are the board-eligible physicians, and nine are in residency training.

The Basic Aviation Medical Officer's Course at Fort Rucker, Ala., continued to serve the Army's needs by training aviation medical officers.

The publication of the first edition of the Army Flight Surgeons' Manual was a noteworthy contribution to the field of aviation medicine. The fire-resistant flight clothing which

was advocated by Army aviation medical personnel was provided to flight personnel on worldwide issue. Another significant event in Army aviation medicine was the type classification as standard A of the SPH-4 Aircrewman's Protective Helmet, which is a marked improvement in comfort, sound attenuation, and safety.

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## AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION

DURING fiscal year 1970, AMEDD air ambulance units in Vietnam evacuated more than 234,000 patients. The 140 aircraft and crews dedicated to this mission, plus aeromedical units in Japan, Korea, Europe, and CONUS, continued to set new records in this vital lifesaving role.

A joint project was initiated to determine the feasibility of utilizing military helicopters in evacuating seriously injured from highway traffic accidents. Designated "MAST" (Military Assistant to Safety in Traffic), the project includes participation by the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. A 6-month test of this project is scheduled for the first half of fiscal year 1971.

Intensive planning with other Department of the Army agencies led to the proposed development of a followon helicopter to improve present Army capabilities. Fund limitations are expected to limit the Utility Tactical Transport Aircraft System priorities to infantry assault, air cavalry, and aeromedical evacuation. All other missions will continue to utilize the present UH-1 types of helicopters. The Utility Tactical Transport Aircraft System will provide more speed, better lift capability, and improved navigation equipment.

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## RESERVE AFFAIRS

*General.*—Reduction of U.S. Forces in Vietnam and proposals for reduced active Army strength resulted in a greater