



APR 22 1996

THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY

19 April 1996

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

Being aware of your interest in Southeast Asia, I am forwarding a report from CDR Glenn Bacon, MC, USN, who is on the staff of the Naval Hospital, Newport. Commander Bacon recently had the opportunity to perform medical procedures and lecture to the Vietnamese people as part of OPERATION SMILE. He found this experience to be most rewarding and beneficial.

I just wanted to share his positive remarks.

Very respectfully,

*Harold M. Koenig*

HAROLD M. KOENIG  
Vice Admiral, Medical Corps  
United States Navy

ENCL

Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN, Ret.  
President  
Admiral Zumwalt and Consultants, Inc.  
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 3105  
Arlington, VA 22209-3901

*Dear Harold  
you are  
very thoughtful!  
Bud*

*→ original note  
Returned to Adm Koenig*

*cc of all to Jim Reckner*

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FY1

Naval Hospital  
Newport, Rhode Island 02841

MEMORANDUM

From: Head, Anesthesiology Department  
To: Commanding Officer  
Via: (1) Director of Clinical Services  
(2) Executive Officer

*Dr. Bacon - Thanks for the great feedback and I am sure you will be a great clinical experience*  
JLB 1 APR 96  
3/28/96

Subj: OPERATION SMILE MISSION, VIETNAM

1. This trip was extremely worthwhile professionally and personally. My time was spent at the "Center for Traumatology and Orthopaedics" in Ho Chi Minh City. Our small team of eight performed complex plastic reconstructive surgery utilizing micro-surgical techniques on pediatric and adult patients. Significant professional experiences include:

a. **Use of the Ohmeda drawover vaporizer** exclusively for a four hour case. This compact anesthesia machine has just recently been added to some of the US military medical AMAL's for wartime use. Similar devices have been used extensively by England, Australia and other nations during medical support of armed conflicts. Familiarization with equipment is an important aspect of preparation for medical support of military engagements. Yet, very few anesthesia staff have even seen this unit. It is not available for use on humans in the United States (it does not fulfill present standards for anesthesia machines). The unit is quite safe, and has the key characteristic of not requiring an oxygen source (piped oxygen or tank supply). Actual use of the unit for anesthetics is valuable experience.

b. **"Austere anesthesia"**: Safely administering anesthetics to pediatric and adult patients undergoing extensive surgical procedures in a foreign, stark environment is excellent experience and valuable training for wartime scenarios. The emphasis shifts from technology to clinical monitoring.

c. **Interaction with Vietnamese national medical staff**: Providing lectures and working side-by-side with host medical staff

is tremendous experience and very rewarding. One quickly understands the "homecourt advantages" when working in another country's facility. Dealing with their professors, medical director, medical and nursing staff provides numerous opportunities to exercise tact and flexibility. My limited experience these last two weeks has left me with an admiration for the ingenuity, tenacity, noble work-ethic, and cheerful demeanor clearly demonstrated by the host medical staff. On a daily basis the staff of this hospital provided a tremendous amount of good for a large number of patients with very limited resources. Living and working amidst another culture helps restore a more global perspective on life, values, goals.

d. **Personal satisfaction** in the successful performance of a variety of anesthetic techniques (general anesthetics, epidural anesthetics, continuous caudal anesthetics, axillary blocks, leg blocks) in a very different environment with non-standard supplies. These were done for the patients' comfort and to teach host anesthesia staff. It would be difficult for me to overstate how personally rewarding it is to practice my specialty for the benefit of needy patients.

2. While it would be inappropriate to send Navy anesthesia providers on non-military surgical missions overseas at frequent intervals, it is quite appropriate and wise of the Navy to allow us to practice/train in these environments on an annual basis. Justification is found in the experiences listed above.

3. I will be happy to present my experiences with the command and/or community after my slides are developed.

  
G. S. BACON

# Certificate of Appreciation

**CENTER FOR TRAUMATOLOGY AND ORTHOPAEDICS**

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HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

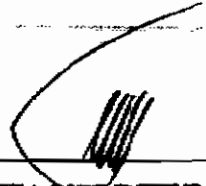
*Expresses Its Appreciation To*

**GLENN SHERWOOD BACON, M.D.**

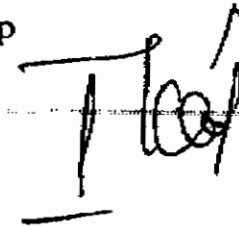
**Anesthesiologist , Operation Smile International , USA**

For His Academic Lectures, Operations and Friendship

From March 13, 1996 to March 23, 1996



**VO THANH PHUNG, M.D.**  
Clinical Professor and Chairman  
Hospital Director



**TRAN THANH MY, M.D.**  
Board of Directors