

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR MEDICAL ADVISOR
US ARMC ADVISORY GROUP, IV CTZ
Advisory Team 96, APO 96215

MACV-IVC-4

SUBJECT: Medical News Letter

TO: Medical Advisor, 7th Div (ARVN)
Medical Advisor, 9th Div (ARVN)
Medical Advisor, 21st Div (ARVN)
Medical Advisor, 44th Special Zone

1. Assuming that my first newsletter met with at least limited acceptance I will continue passing on recent medical developments in the Corps to you in this manner.

2. During the past month I recieved the DA Circular on "Prevention Cold Injuries", not thinking it quite applicable to this area I didn't pass it on, even for a laugh, if you would like a copy please notify me.

3. The civilian war casualty hospital due to be built here in Can Tho now has a projected opening date of the 30th of June and it looks like this will be met. Of interest to us though is the fact that I have finally got higher headquarters to approve our using this facility for emergency care and hospitalization of U.S. casualties w/in the Corps Area.

4. We have been assured of increased helicopter ambulance support (US) by the 44th Med. Bde and 67th Med Group for IV Corps. We are already receiving this support in the form of extra aircraft and crews being sent TDY to support the Corps.

5. Our supporting "Dustoff Det" is doing an outstanding job throughout the Corps, it amazes me though how few of the advisory detachments w/in the Corps ever think of dropping them off a letter of thanks or when warranted a recommendation for appropriate award. The foregoing applies to both U.S & ARVN units.

6. Continuing w/the subject of evacuation, we have experienced a number of "bogus missions" w/in the last month. Please attempt when you request air evacuation to realistically classify your patients by priority, this will allow us to better utilize the limited assets in

the CTZ and provide better service for all.

7. VNAF medical evacuation continues to be ^a matter of command interest at this headquarters. Advisors here and at the helicopter squadron are working at streamlining the system, as this will require co-ordination through all levels from sector through JGS it may take time for it to be implemented, but rest assured it is being worked on. The Senior Advisor of each Division is now receiving a monthly report from the Air Force Advisors w/the VNAF helicopters. This report breaks down what they have done for the month, the problems they are having, and the actions they are taking to improve service. One of the major problems they encounter is that of arriving at a pick-up point to find the casualty gone. If you have evacuated a casualty by other than Dustoff or VNAF, insure that you notify your TOC that this has been done and ask them to cancel your original request. Also ask the aircraft commander to call into Paddy Control and inform them that they have made the pickup in lieu of the requested medevac ship.

8. The soccer field in Can Tho has been opened as a daylight receiving heliport for ARVN casualties. ARVN ambulances are available there from 0700-1900 each day. This cuts off a 20 minute ride to the hospital ARVN patients used to have to make from the Can Tho Airfield.

9. The ARVN medical supply system is becoming more and more responsive; look forward to the time in the near future when the A&SL Co's are taken out of the medical supply business and the job given instead to the major ARVN medical facility in the Province ie: 100 bed hospital station hospital, or medical company. This should improve supply support to RF/PF and District Dispensaries.

10. As a result of a recent MACV message the slot for the medic in the Regimental Advisory Team has been deleted. Personnel presently filling these positions will remain in them, they will phase out by normal attrition, unless further implementing instructions are received. This loss will be sorely felt and Division Advisors are urged to develop programs to provide advisory support to the Regiments and Battalions. This headquarters is developing a program to support the subordinate units of the 4th Ranger Group (ARVN).

11. The Corps Surgeon (ARVN) presented a clear, concise, and candid report on medical conditions in IV CTZ at his yearly report meeting w/the ARVN Surgeon General in December. Advisors coming to Can Tho are invited to stop into my office and read same, it is well worth while.

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12. As of 1 January 1968 the 44th Special Zone was formed in IV Corps. This Special Zone comprises Chau Doc, Kien Phong and Kien Tuong Province.

13. Briefing at the MACV Surgeons Office on the forth Saturday of each month concerning medical activities in the Corps; any accomplishments or problem areas you would like aired at the "Puzzle Palace" should be forwarded to me by any means informally or formally any time prior to the forth Thursday of each month.

14. Forty-one additional MATS teams are due to be deployed in the Corps area in the near future as requested previously please assist them in every way possible.

15. A new Medical Operations Advisor has been assigned to the IV ALC in Can Tho. Maj. Robert J Laxler replaces Capt Silverstein, who has returned to the land of the big PX.

16. Knowing what transportation is here in the Corps I can never be sure when I will be in a certain area, but when I get into your area, I'll be sure to head for the medical advisor. I expect you to drop into see me here in Can Tho when you get up here and just chew the fat. This invitation is ~~extended~~ *extended* to all our medical advisors Officer and Enlisted in the field.

17. Addresses are urged to pass information contained in this letter, as applicable, on to their enlisted advisors in the field.


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Sr Medical Advisor