

# National Museum of Health and Medicine

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## Otis Historical Archives

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### OHA 135 Chemical Manual Manuscript

**Accession Number:** NA

**Date of Records:** 1969-1970

**Size:** 1 box, 0.25 linear feet

**Finding Aid by:** Hannah Vahle (2018)

**Access and Use:** The Otis Historical Archives is committed to providing open access to its collections as far as possible within the limits of privacy and confidentiality. Access to this collection is at the discretion of the Otis Historical Archives and material contained within the records may be subject to review before access is granted.

**Restrictions:** This collection is unrestricted.

**Condition:** No condition notes.

**Historical Note:** This manuscript was produced by the United States Army Medical Command, Japan, 406th Medical General Laboratory at Camp Zama, Department of Chemistry. The 406th Medical General Laboratory began operations in 1946 in Yokohama, Japan.

On January 15, 1958, the United States Army Medical Center was established at Camp Zama. In March 1959, the Center's name was revised to the U.S. Medical Command, Japan. Later, on January 10, 1966, the 406th General Medical Laboratory was attached to the U.S. Army Hospital at Camp Zama, where it remained. Under the leadership of U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel, MSC Roman B. Rutkowski, Chief of the Department of Chemistry, the *406th Medical Laboratory, Department of Chemistry: Manual of Ultramicro, Clinical, and Toxicological Chemical Procedures* was drafted. Work began on the manuscript in 1968, and revisions continued until 1970. The copy present in the Otis Historical Archives is dated September 1969, and is not the final version.

The 406th Medical General Laboratory was located in Tokyo. Prior to the outbreak of the Korean War, this laboratory conducted various studies throughout the general Pacific.

"The largest military medical laboratory in the Far East was the 406th Medical General Laboratory in Tokyo. Its mission was to "supplement the epidemiologic, sanitary, and diagnostic

services available in other medical department laboratories, and to investigate outbreaks of disease and conditions which affect, or may affect the health of persons . . . of the command." The research mission was further emphasized by activation and assignment to the 406th Medical General Laboratory on 10 March 1952 of the Far East Medical Research Unit (FEMRU) with the basic mission "to conduct, coordinate, supervise and direct such medical research within the Far East Command as is directed or approved by appropriate authority. To support, assist, and advise those special teams entering the Far East Command for the investigation of special medical problems beyond the capacity of units and personnel available in the command." (Steer)

The 406th was staffed with highly trained American and Japanese personnel and acted as a training headquarters for almost all laboratory staff prior to being assigned to their duty stations. Among the topics the general laboratory examined were: "body armor, battle exhaustion, hemorrhagic fever, dysentery, hepatitis, vascular surgery, shock and resuscitation, use of blood and blood substitutes, acute renal failure, the pathophysiology of battle trauma, wound infection, anesthesia and burns." (Steer)

#### **Works Consulted:**

Steer, A. (n.d.). Laboratory Service in Support of Surgery. Retrieved July 8, 2019, from <https://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/korea/recad2/ch1-5.html> Medical Science Publication No. 4 Recent Advances in Medicine and Surgery (19-30 APRIL 1954) Based on Professional Medical Experiences in Japan and Korea 1950-1953, volume II.

**Series/Scope and Content Note:** The manual outlines standard operating procedures for a wide variety of chemical tests and preparations for the 406th Medical Laboratory, Department of Chemistry. The methodology expressed in the manuscript comprises of best practices and general information for a wide variety of clinical, ultramicro, and toxicological analyses. Work began on the manuscript in 1968, and revisions continued until 1970. The copy present in the Otis Historical Archives is dated September 1969 and is not the final version.

#### **BOX AND CONTENT LIST**

##### **Box 001:**

**00001:** *406th Medical Laboratory, Department of Chemistry: Manual of Ultramicro, Clinical and Toxicological Chemical Procedures.* United States Army, Medical Laboratory, 406th General Medical, Department of Chemistry, September 1969.