

# National Museum of Health and Medicine

---

## Otis Historical Archives

2500 Linden Lane  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301-319-3300  
medicalmuseum.health.mil

### OHA 140.5 Cottingham Collection

**Accession Number:** 2020.0007

**Date of Records:** 1966

**Size:** 1 box, 0.5 linear ft. (one folder in multi-collection box)

**Finding aid by:** Trenton Streck-Havill (2024)

**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 issues.

**Historical Note:** [Note adapted from narrative by Cottingham] In 1966, U.S. Army Colonel Andrew Cottingham was assigned to the U.S. Army Special Forces Walter Reed Army Institute of Research Field Epidemiologic Survey Team (ABN) [FEST] and attached to the 5th Special forces Group in Vietnam. His position at the time was to determine where the recently detected Chloroquine insensitive *P. falciparum* malaria was originating, who were the reservoirs, and what medicine could be used to prevent soldiers from acquiring this strain of malaria. This type of malaria poses a major health risk, as it is caused by a parasite that has developed a resistance to the traditional antimalarial drug, chloroquine, known generally as quinine. The reservoir was the NVA (North Vietnamese) soldiers coming down the Ho Chi Minh trail. They acquired it in Northern Laos. It was a malaria mutation that occurred there at that time (and may have occurred about the same time in Colombia, South America).

The soldiers attached to the 5th Special Forces Group at the time were supposed to be taking Chloroquine or Chloroquine/Primaquine as prophylaxis, but it did not prevent acquisition of this new strain. Cottingham carried out an investigative study using the MIKE (Mobile Strike) Force Montagnards (indigenous Vietnamese) fighters as subjects during this combat mission. It turned out that oral Chloroquine weekly plus Dapsone daily helped to prevent acquisition of this Chloroquine insensitive strain of *falciparum* malaria. Cottingham tried Dapsone because prior to going to Vietnam he had done

some investigational studies at the Walter Reed Institute of Research, and believed that Dapsone would work.

**Series/Scope and Content Note:** Collection is a single folder including medical patch, map of Vietnam and neighboring southeast Asian countries, as well as letter written in Vietnamese. Letter also includes a musical score with accompanying lyrics in Vietnamese.

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

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

**00001:** Cottingham Collection