



Vietnam War: Medical Facilities on U.S. Military Installations Historic Context Subtheme

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Background:

As with other conflicts, the Vietnam War brought advances in medical care, some of which remain standard practice in civilian medical care today.



Navy Field Medical Service Training

Source: <https://www.operationmilitarykids.org/navy-hospital-corpsman/>

Medical needs during the Vietnam War led to medical practice advancements in the areas of trauma care, blood supply, repair of blood vessels to save limbs, treatment of burns, and a better understanding the effects of a range of weapons. Some treatments and techniques for the care of burns and other wounds were available for the first time in the Vietnam-theater of operations. The combination of rapid evacuation of the casualty, availability of whole blood, well-established forward hospitals, advanced surgical techniques, and improved medical management resulted in excellent care for the wounded in Vietnam.

Objective:

Many construction projects associated with Vietnam-era medical treatment, research, and training are or are approaching 50-years old. This will require evaluation of their historical significance under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). This project provides a historic context and building typology for facilities on DoD installations that specifically supported medical treatment, research, and training during the Vietnam War, 1962-1975.

Summary of Approach:

The process to develop this context included a literature review, investigation of primary and secondary sources for context, site visits to select installations, and report development. Researchers

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accessed primary and secondary sources at the National Archives and Records Administration, military libraries and museums, university libraries, and other sources. DoD installation staff provided additional information and documentation.

Benefit:

The report provides cultural resource managers and professionals with a standardized approach to identify this property types, determine historical significance of associated properties, and assess integrity, thereby greatly increasing efficiency and cost-savings in compliance with the NHPA and management.

Accomplishments:

The report provides context and typology for Vietnam War (1962–1975) medical treatment, research, and training-related resources on DoD installations in the U.S. The report also includes specific example of U.S.-based installations where medical treatment, research, and training were conducted during the war.

The report can be used to develop installation-specific contexts to support the identification and evaluation of Vietnam War medical treatment, research, and training facilities on those installations.



Camp Bullis Medical Unit Self-Contained Transportable (MUST) Testing

Source: Fort Sam Houston

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