

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
USAF HOSPITAL, DOVER (MAC)
DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DELAWARE 19901

21 March 1979

SUBJECT: Medical Historical Report (AFR 210-3 & MAC/SGAA/Col Gray Ltr, 9 Feb 79)

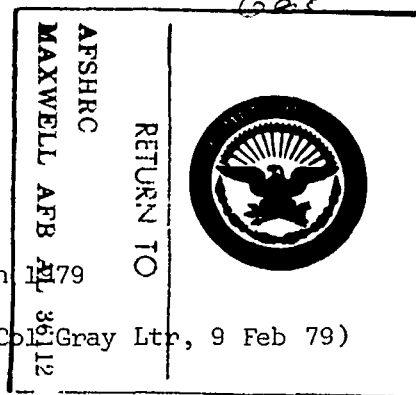
TO: MAC/SGAA

1. Following is a summary of the only significant medical historical event which occurred at this base involving members of our medical facility during CY 78:

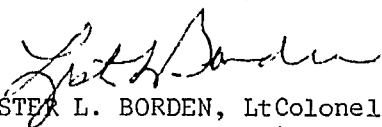
GUYANA CRISIS: On Tuesday, 21 November 1978, I was made aware that certain sections of our medical facility would be required to provide materiel, equipment and personnel to become a part of the task force being organized to receive, process, identify and transport the remains of the victims of the Jonestown, Guyana, tragedy. MAC/SG was notified, and our Resource Management Officer was briefed on the unknown supply, equipment, manhours, communications, vehicle gasoline expenditures that would be involved. Our people selected to be involved were notified. (Dentists: Colonel Green, LtColonel Brennan, and Captain Duckett. Dental Technicians: MSgt Wever, MSgt Griffeth, SSgt Nelson, SSgt Towe, SSgt Little, SrA Gatti. Medical Materiel: Lt Aycoth, MSgt Wuchevich, and SSgt Meek. Pharmacy: ALC Ross Veterinary Service: ALC Ramirez. LtColonel Holmgrain was selected to head the team and give the needed administrative guidance.)

On Thursday (Thanksgiving Day), 23 November, the bodies started to arrive - planes arrived at 6 hour intervals with 81 bodies per plane. A total of 913 bodies in all. With my environmental man (Captain Nitch - Bioenvironmental Engineer) I investigated the potential health problem caused by the bodies being stored in particular areas of the base and the need to eliminate the presence of maggots and flies. The problems were solved by storing the bodies in an area on base but removed from any nearness to working areas...Washing the boxes inside with amphyll and washing the bodies down with kerosene. (ALL SUCH PROTOCOL WAS SENT TO YOU - "AFTER ACTIONS REPORT" - as an attachment to our last Informal Activities Report.)

Our medical maintenance men, TSgt Malysa and SSgt Loop gave commendable support throughout this unpleasant task, which ended for us after all bodies that could possibly be identified had been identified, 15 December 1978. As reported to you in our Informal Activities Report, all of our people involved were recognized by the award of the Air Force Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal or Special Achievement Certificate.



2. NEW ADDITION TO THE VETERINARY CLINIC: At a cost of \$41,137.00, our Veterinary Clinic was enlarged 450 square feet. Attached photos were taken after the addition was constructed. Unfortunately, the "before" negatives were misplaced or lost by our photo laboratory.



LESTER L. BORDEN, LtColonel, USAF, MC
Director of Base Medical Services