

## BIOSKETCH

of

SPURGEON H. NEEL, JR.  
Major General, USA Retired

Spurgeon Hart Neel, Jr., was born and educated in Memphis, Tennessee. He entered the military service following internship at the Methodist Hospital in Memphis, and was commanding a medical company in Europe when World War II ended. In the succeeding years General Neel became involved in all phases of field medicine and aviation medicine and achieved full qualification in these fields by training with both the Army and the Air Force. Additionally he is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

General Neel was one of the most decorated medical officers on active duty. A career summary follows:

### EDUCATION:

Pre-Med,	Memphis State University	1939
MD	University of Tennessee	1942
MPH	Harvard School of Public Health	1958
MSBA	George Washington University	1965
Internship:	Methodist Hospital, Memphis, TN	1943
Residency:	X-ray, Santa Ana Army Air Base, CA	1944
	Aviation Medicine, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, TX	1960
Diplomate:	American Board of Preventive Medicine (Aviation Medicine)	1960

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Fellow, American College of Physicians  
Fellow and Past Vice President, American College of Preventive Medicine

Fellow and Past President, Aerospace Medical Association

Fellow, Royal Society of Health (London)

Fellow, International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine

Fellow and Chairman, Membership Committee, American College of Hospital Administrators

Fellow, American Academy of Medical Administrators (Honorary)

Adjunct Professor of Health Care Administration,  
Baylor University

Member, American Medical Association

Member, Texas Medical Association

Member, Bexar County Medical Society (Texas)

Member, Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce

Member, Association of Military Surgeons of the United States

Member, Association of the US Army

Member, Army Aviation Association of America

Member, International Health Society, Inc. (Honorary)

Associate Member, Phi Chi Medical Fraternity

Biographee, Who's Who in America

Biographee, World Military Leaders

## AVIATION MEDICINE

Surgeon, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.,  
1949-1951

Published "Medical Aspects of Military Parachuting," The Military Surgeon, 108:91-105, Feb 1951. Evaluation of medical standards for military parachuting and the problems of jump refusal and jump injury. Recognized as the best military medical essay of the year by the award of the Louis Livingston Seaman Award of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

First Army graduate of the USAF School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, in March 1951.

Commander, 30th Medical Group, Korea, 1953-1954

Established the Eighth Army Aviation Medicine Program in 1954 -- the prototype of the Army-wide program today.

First medical officer to receive the MOS 3160, Army Aviation Medical Officer, 10 June 1954.

Chief, Aviation Branch, Medical Plans and Operations  
Division, OTSG DA, 1954-1957

Established the Aviation Branch in 1956 from the aviation section of the hospitalization and operations branch -- first Chief.

Established flying status for aviation medical officers and became first aviation medical officer to receive flying status, 20 Sep 1955.

Designed and justified the Aviation Medical Officer Badge and first to have it awarded, 28 May 1957.

Published:

"The Adaptability Rating for Military Aeronautics," US Armed Forces Med J. 6:1005-1010, July 1955.

"The Army Aviation Medical Program," Ibid 6:1341-1348, Sep 1955.

"The Medical Aspects of Army Aviation," Journal of Aviation Med, 26:304-307, Aug 1955.

Established formal program for Board certification of Army medical officers in Aviation Medicine.

Student, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston,  
1957-1958

First Army student to matriculate in specialized Aviation Medicine Program. Received MPH cum laude.

Wrote scientific papers:

"Control of Motion Sickness among Airborne Personnel."

"Public Health Considerations in the Air Movement of an Army Division from a Temperate to a Tropical Area." This has served as a basis for further research into the problem and as basis for medical planning of actual operations.

Resident, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks  
Air Force Base, Texas, 1959-1960

Prepared a thesis on "Military Survival Medicine" as basis for medical instruction at the SAC survival School at Stead AFB, Nevada. This documentation has been used as basis for jungle survival training at Albrook AFB in Panama, and translated into Spanish is used in several Latin-American countries.

This thesis was published serially in Military Medicine in four issues: Jul, Aug, Sep and Oct 1962.

Commander, US Army Hospital and Surgeon, US Army  
Aviation Center and School, Fort Rucker, Alabama,  
1961-1964

Established the US Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory.

Established and first Director of the Department of Aeromedical Education and Training in the US Army Aviation School.

Established the formal Aviation Medicine Residency Program at Fort Rucker in affiliation with the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine.

Established the central US Army Aeromedical Consultation Service.

Coordinated the design and initiated construction of Lyster Army Hospital -- a modern facility with specialized aviation medicine capability.

Co-authored Chapter V "Army Aviation Medicine" of the Army Aviation Story, Colonial Press, 1963

Published six papers in the US Army Aviation Digest.

Received the Army Aviation Association of America's John H. McClellan Award in 1962 for "Outstanding Contributions to Army Aviation Safety."

Deputy Surgeon General, US Army 1969-1973

Co-authored Chapter 19, "Medical Aspects of Survival and Rescue," Second Edition of Aerospace Medicine, Hugh W. Randel, Editor, The Williams and Wilkins Co., 1971.

Chaired the Long Range Planning Committee of the Aerospace Medical Association.

Elected to Fellowship in the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine.

Elected President of the Aerospace Medical Association.

## AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION

### Surgeon, 82d Airborne Division

Fall 1949 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Chaired a board which conducted tests and made recommendations relative to medical evacuation by helicopter. Letter, Office of Chief Army Field Forces, Fort Monroe, VA., Subject: "Test of Helicopters for Medical Evacuation," dated 16 May 1949.

Vehicle tested was early model Kaman with forward clam shell doors and capability of transporting 2 internal litters and 1 medical attendant in addition to pilot.

The board concluded that helicopter evacuation was both feasible and desirable, and made specific recommendations concerning further development.

### Chief, Field Medical Service Branch, MFSS, 1952-1953

Developed doctrine based on Korean experience which led to establishment of medical detachments, helicopter ambulance (TOE 8-500 cell RA) and recognition of helicopter evacuation as a medical mission. These teams are still the basis of today's helicopter ambulance detachments and companies.

Supervised the activation, training and deployment of five helicopter ambulance detachments at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Revised doctrine for field medical service incorporating the helicopter evacuation capability.

### Commander, 30th Medical Group, Korea, 1953-1954

Developed the recently organized first helicopter ambulance company (provisional) into an effective unit consisting of five detachments of five helicopters each. Established operating procedures that are basis of today's operations.

Published a paper, "Medical Considerations In Helicopter Evacuation," US Armed Forces Med J, 5:220-227, Feb 1954, establishing basis for integrating helicopter evacuation into medical service operations.

Chief, Aviation Branch, Medical Plans and Operations  
Division, OTSG, DA, 1954-1957

Established and was first chief of the Aviation Branch.

Served as medical member of DA Board in January 1955 which conducted design competition to select the new standard Army utility helicopter. Each proposal was subjected to complete medical evaluation before consideration of other functions and factors. Of some dozen competitive proposals the Bell candidate was selected. This ultimately became the UH-1.

Participated as medical member in in-process review of the Bell NH-40 then YH-40 as the UH-1 was developed.

Published:

"Helicopter Evacuation in Korea," US Armed Forces Med J., 6:691-702, May 1955, Documenting the Korean experience and the principles established with emphasis on organization and operations.

"Aeromedical Evacuation," Army 16:9:30-33, April 1956. Perspective paper written for the line commander.

"Army Aeromedical Evacuation," US Armed Forces Med J. 8:1195-1200, Aug 1957. An update citing principles established and requirements for future.

Student, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas. 1958-1959

Conducted research into "Noise and Vibration Exposure of Combat Zone Evacuees: An Investigation of Field and Helicopter Ambulances." Research Report SAM USAF, May 1959.

Wrote historical paper, "Army Aeromedical Evacuation, Korea to Date." January 1959.

Commander, US Army Hospital and Surgeon US Army  
Aviation Center and School, Fort Rucker, Alabama,  
1961-1964

Developed the crash rescue operation FLATIRON into a highly sophisticated system that has served as model for such systems, Army-wide, and now being given civilian application.

Howze Board medical representative.

Beach Board, June 1963 Aeromedical Evacuation Panel  
Chairman.

MSC Aviation Board Chairman.

11th Air Assault Division evaluation  
Helicopter ambulance platoon organic to division  
medical battalion.  
Crash rescue is medical mission.

Co-authored Chapter VI "Medical Evacuation" of the Army  
Aviation Story, Colonial Press, 1963.

Surgeon, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam,  
1965-1966

Developed requirements for and coordinated introduction  
of medical air ambulance units during the build-up.  
Established initial operating and medical regulating  
procedures.

Established the Saigon office of the Far East Joint  
Medical Regulating Office which managed patient  
movements within and from RVN during the war.

Coordinated US Army aeromedical evacuation in support  
of Marines, RVNAF, Allied Forces and RVN civilians.

These achievements were recognized by receipt of the  
first "Major Gary P. Wratten Award" of the Association  
of Military Surgeons of the United States in November  
1967 for outstanding accomplishment in field military  
medicine. The plaque reads, "In recognition of his  
unique role in the development and execution of a new  
concept in combat zone medical operations."

Director, Plans Supply and Operations, OTSG DA,  
1966-1968

Published "Army Aeronautical Evacuation Procedures in  
Vietnam; Implications for Rural America," JAMA  
204:4:309-313, 22 April 1968. Has been republished in  
various other journals in a variety of revisions.

Lectured on Army aeromedical evacuation at several  
major medical and civic organizations at local, state  
and national level. Participated in seminars and  
panels at several national and international  
professional meetings.