

Title: Virus Diseases of Americans in Southeast Asia

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### Objective

To determine the etiology and study the epidemiology of viral illnesses in US military and civilian personnel stationed in Southeast Asia.

### Description

A collaborative program to investigate febrile illnesses in the Republic of Vietnam was carried out with the US Army Medical Research Team (WRAIR) Vietnam. During the period of June—Dec 1967, hospitalized troops of the 2nd Brigade, IX Inf. Division stationed at Dong Tam in IV Corps Tactical Zone were studied. Paired sera were collected and in some subjects stool and jejunal biopsy specimens were submitted for viral studies. Specimens were received on 94 men; the absence of sera from seven rendered them unsuitable for further study, leaving a total of 87.

### Progress

Paired sera were routinely tested for hemagglutination-inhibiting antibody to chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis and dengue 1—4 viruses and hemagglutination lysis antibody for leptospirosis. Thirty stool specimens were inoculated into a variety of cell cultures, and 15 into suckling mice—no agent was isolated. Five jejunal biopsy studies were triturated with balanced salt solution and tested for virus—all were negative. Sera were also sent to WRAIR for rickettsial serology, these results are unavailable at present.

Forty—five of the 87 men had an identifiable illness, based either on subsequent clinical course, laboratory studies, or on serological studies. Diagnoses were as follows

	No. Cases
Dengue	8
Japanese Enceph.	2
Leptospirosis	7
Urinary tract infections	7
Malaria	8
Intestinal parasites	3
Pneumococcal pneumonia	3
Scrub typhus	3
LGV	2
Lymphadenitis	1
Infectious mononucleosis	1

Cases not otherwise identified could be roughly classified into four groups; one man had meningo-encephalitis, sixteen had illnesses with prominent gastrointestinal symptoms, twelve had respiratory disease, and thirteen had illness with fever, constitutional symptoms and no organ system localization. With the exception of the CNS infection, all others were febrile for only 1—3 days. Degree of disability was minor and thus these illnesses presumably represent undifferentiated febrile illness of manifold etiology. That some may have been non—viral is suggested by the fact that some of the patients were treated with antibiotics and experienced a concomitant clearing of fever.

Ten pairs of sera from subjects not otherwise included in this study who had respiratory illness were tested for influenza infection. None demonstrated a rise in HI antibody to influenza A<sub>2</sub>/PR/64.