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November 29, 2000

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### **KOREAN WAR MEDICINE EXAMINED IN MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES**

WASHINGTON – The National Museum of Health and Medicine continues its Korean War lecture series with a presentation by Dr. Dale C. Smith, Ph.D., titled “Field Medicine and the Korean Conflict: New Solutions to Old Problems” on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2000 at 1 p.m.

Smith’s presentation is the second of three lectures given by medical professionals who served during the Korean War and prominent military medical historians. The lecture series is presented in conjunction with “Blood, Sweat and Saline: Combat Medicine in the Korean Conflict,” which opened at the Museum on June 25, 2000. The exhibit and the lectures focus on the challenges and accomplishments of the medical teams in Korea 1950-1953. The remaining lecture will take place on January 13, 2001. American Sign Language interpretation is available by advance registration.

Smith will discuss how World War II set the stage for the medical successes that occurred during the Korean War. Throughout the course of World War II surgery and the treatment of disease advanced. In both the European and Pacific theaters surgical hospitals made surgical care more accessible from the field of battle. In Korea this concept was refined to create the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH). Additionally, the development of the helicopter led

to a new means of evacuating troops. These advances in medical science during the Korean War combined to lower the death rate among injured soldiers to an all-time low.

Dr. Smith is the chairman of the medical history department at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and has been on the faculty there since 1982. He has authored numerous papers on medical history, and is active within the historical profession. He received the Laurance D. Redway Award for Excellence in Medical Writing in 1987. In 1999 he was appointed the consulting historian to *Military Medicine: International Journal of AMSUS* (Association of Military Surgeons of the United States).

The National Museum of Health and Medicine, founded as the Army Medical Museum in 1862 to study and improve medical conditions during the American Civil War, is a division of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Open daily except Christmas from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the Museum is located at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue and Elder Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Public telephone number is 202-782-2200. Admission is free.

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