

NEWS
For Immediate Release

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**National Museum of Health and Medicine Unveils Exhibit
on Wartime Medicine in Korea on 50th Anniversary of Conflict**

Washington, DC, June 22, 2000 –*Blood, Sweat and Saline: Combat Medicine in the Korean Conflict* an exhibit revealing the challenges and accomplishments of the military medical teams who served during the conflict (1950-1953), opens June 26, 2000 at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, exactly 50 years after the start of the Korean conflict.

The story of medicine during the Korean conflict comes to life through photographs and the personal recollections of medics, patients and military personnel. The realities of performing medicine in mobile hospitals are represented by the weapons, equipment, supplies, medications and medical instruments of the time. The tools of a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) surgeon and real artifacts of human tissue and organs illustrate the toll that climate, injuries and diseases took on the human body.

Despite war-weariness just five years after the close of World War II, the United States felt compelled to react when North Korean troops, with aid from the Soviet Union, invaded South Korea in June of 1950. In addition to a lack of preparedness, the United States faced unique challenges in Korea, such as extreme weather, varied terrain, and exotic diseases.

Through research and innovation, the medical teams succeeded in getting the soldiers to care

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faster and more efficiently, and making the treatments more accessible and effective. Due to research in the field and back in the United States, the medical teams managed to update and improve old models, and institute new paradigms. The advancements in treatment in Korea outlasted the war itself by bolstering past findings and triggering additional research.

This modest exhibit utilizes the unique collections of the Museum, and includes images of soldiers afflicted with Epidemic Hemorrhagic Fever, and models of a foot afflicted with fourth-degree frostbite and a heart pierced by shrapnel. The exhibit will be on display through July 2001.

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. The Museum is an official 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemorative Society. 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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AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS: **Army Captain Dr. Richard Mulvaney** (Retired) served during the Korean Conflict as a medic in the 7th Infantry division, 1951-1952. Dr. Mulvaney has also been a volunteer docent at the Museum for three years. Please call 202-782-2671 to arrange for an interview.