

AREA MEDICAL LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

PROVIDING MEDICAL SUPPORT for our combat forces in Europe, for their supporting elements, and for the thousands of military families stationed in Europe is a gigantic and complex task. The key to this monumental support mission is logistics.

One of the means by which each Medical Service Area in Europe operates its logistics program is the European Command Property (ECP) account, an administrative device through which are provided the medical supplies and equipment utilized by medical units and activities throughout Europe. The *Medical Bulletin* requested the largest of these accounts, that of the Frankfurt Medical Service Area, to describe its organization and operation.

Operated by the Medical Supply Branch of the 97th General Hospital's Supply and Services Division, the ECP account for the Frankfurt Medical Service area, in addition to servicing its own huge general hospital complex, must provide medical logistic support for Seventh Army units and other designated units located within the Frankfurt MSA. A vital task of the account concerns the development of requirements so that obsolescent and unserviceable equipment may be replaced and new equipment obtained.

Organization

The Medical Supply Branch, whose chief is Major Stephan Strumlok, MSC, is organized into Stock Control, Storage, and Medical Maintenance Sections. Each of these sections, in addition to carrying out its appropriate logistic functions for a big general hospital, must provide parallel support for scores of units satellite on the hospital, a job that requires vision and understanding and that has its unique ramifications.

Magnitude of Logistic Support

The magnitude of logistic support rendered may perhaps best be visualized by considering some past performance statistics. During FY 1964, an average of 340-350 line items valued at between \$9,000-\$10,000 were received and issued daily. The total weight of the supplies and equipment processed daily approximated eight tons. This workload compares favorably with that of a medical depot company supporting a similar geographic area with like population density.

Among the units supported by the Frankfurt ECP account are those cellular detachments of the TOE 8-500 series (JA, KJ, MA, OA, etc.), surgical hospitals, evacuation hospitals, and organic medical battalions of combat divisions. These units must maintain a posture of combat readiness while performing a peacetime mission commensurate with that of similar activities in CONUS; the dual mission thus compounds the accountable officer's difficulties.

The scope of the task at hand can perhaps best be appreciated by noting that the number of active accounts that must be supported exceeds the 100 mark, and that these accounts are dispersed over an area extending from below Darmstadt on the south to above Kassel on the north, a distance of approximately 140 miles; and from Fulda on the east to Giessen on the west, a distance of 75 miles.

Stock Records and Financial Accounting

To keep the records in order, the Stock Record and Financial Accounting Section, a manual operation, maintains in excess of 3,000 active stock record cards. This section also processes an average of 600 non-standard and 350 Imprest Fund requests each month.

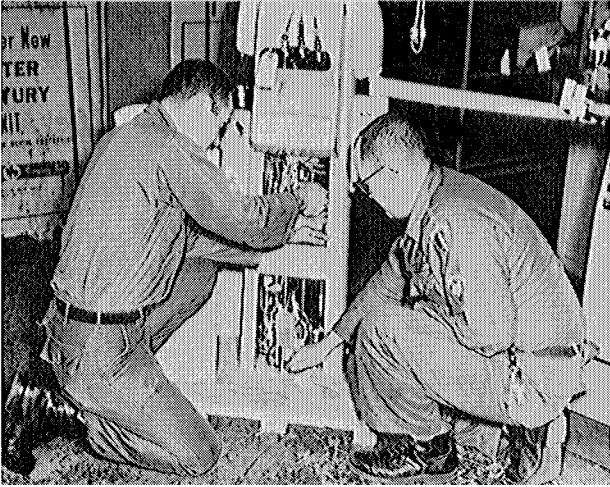
Maintenance and Repair

As new advances are scored in medicine and more burdens are placed on machines which aid the medical team in treating patients, hospitals must employ skilled technicians who can service and repair these machines. The Medical Equipment Repair Shop has thus become an indispensable function of the Frankfurt General Hospital. Equipment, once relied upon, must not fail when it is needed. The shop, headed by WOJG Stice, supervises the maintenance problems of the hospital and its 42 satellite dispensaries and dental clinics. Personnel of this unit possess diversified skills which enable them to repair electrical, electronic, mechanical, and refrigeration equipment, as well as the countless other items of equipment found in a modern hospital. In all, a total of approximately 5,000 pieces of equipment are serviced by these men throughout the Frankfurt MSA. Because of the dispersion of the units they must service, these skilled technicians travel approximately 24,000 miles annually.

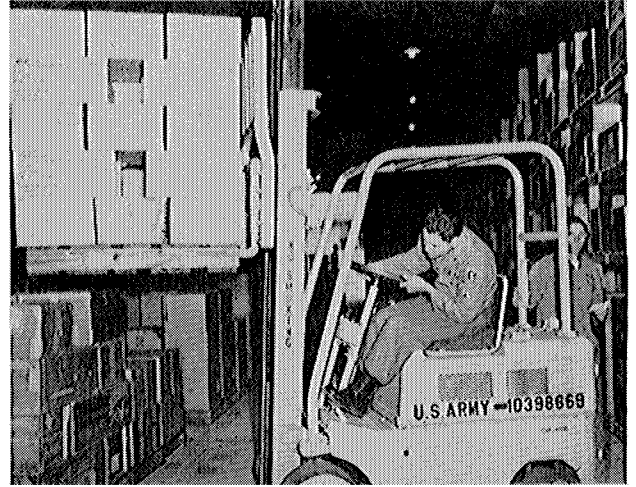
Equipment and Funding Requirements

The size of the account makes programming for both supplies and equipment an exacting and involved task. Records are subjected to intensive daily scrutiny and study, and the medical staff is consulted periodically so that the equipment and supplies procured for them will help them maintain high standards of patient care.

Giving the responsibility for the operation of a logistics system such as the ECP account to a hospital's Medical Supply Branch is unique in many respects. Although there have been many problems involved in its operation, the system has been tried and tested and found to meet the challenge of the Medical Service Area concept. The accountable officer for the Frankfurt ECP account, through which is expended 25 percent of the total funds in Europe for medical supplies and equipment, has a huge responsibility; he faces it daily with equanimity and efficiency.



Sp-5 Friesland and Pvt. Reichard make a preinstallation check of a new dental operating room unit.

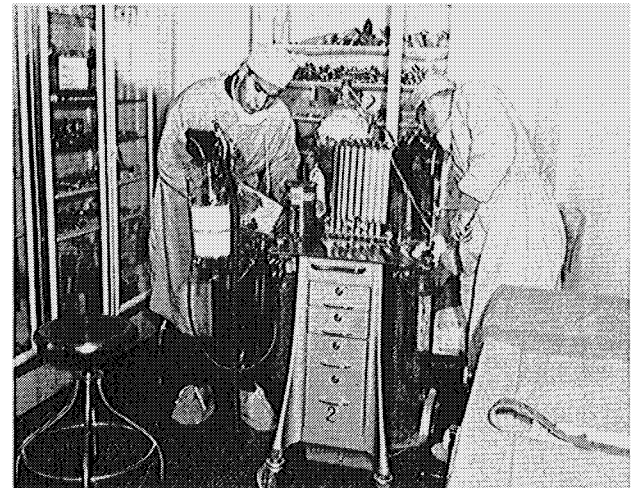


Pfc Reed stores a new shipment of supplies in bulk storage area.

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Pvt. Ysais check the electrical connections of Dental Furnace.



Pvt. Ysais and Pvt. Reichard conduct a preventive maintenance inspection of anesthesia apparatus.

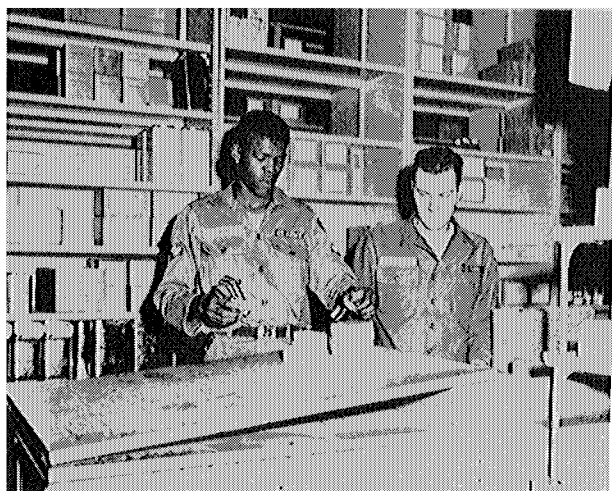


Pfc Reed loads supplies in a unit ambulance for delivery to a customer.

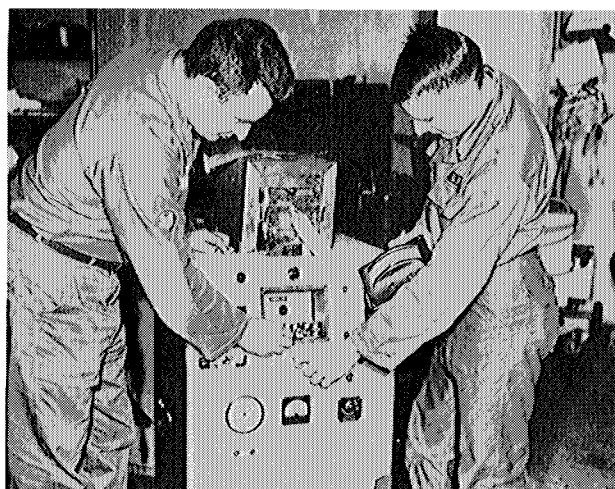


WOJG Stice and Sp-6 Herycyk trace a circuit on an Electromyograph Apparatus.

GISTICAL SUPPORT



Sp-4 Savage is shown checking an item in the stockroom selected by Pvt. Tomczyk as a part of his on-the-job training.



Sp-4 Landis and Pvt. Williams check the operation of a dental vacuum unit.