

PM Lab Collects Disease Data

By Sp5 Jack Hamilton

SEOUL — Mosquitoes, mice and fleas are among the many species that are being collected from provinces throughout Korea for examination and indexing at the 5th Preventive Medicine Unit Laboratory at Camp Nabors.

The laboratory recently compiled data from many years of surveys in order to publish a checklist of Korean ectoparasites. They maintain a complete file on every animal collected and with this information work closely with research programs of the 406th Medical Laboratory in Japan, assisting in the attempt to find a cause for the killer, epidemic hemorrhagic fever.

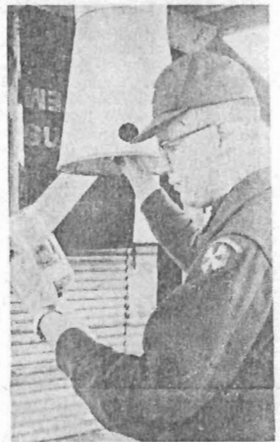
Another important role of the laboratory is keeping up with Korea's mosquito population. There are 60 light trap sites throughout the Republic which collect mosquitoes which are sent to the laboratory for examination and indexing. Graphs of the various species, their abundance with regard to location, temperature, date and other variables along with the percentage of possible disease carriers are also kept up to date.

During 1967, from April to October, more mosquitoes were collected than during any previous year and among these samples a large num-

ber were found to be malaria vectors. This corresponded with the larger number of malaria cases in Korea last year.

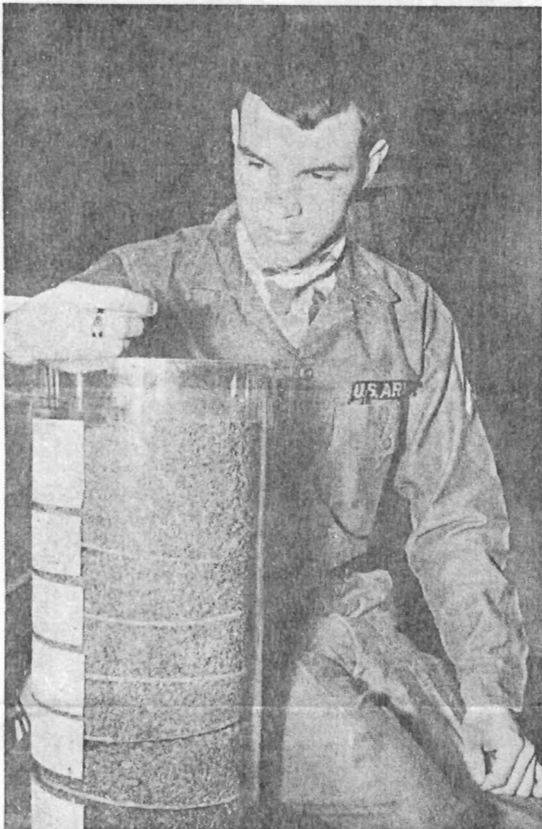
The laboratory, with Capt. J. Wanless Southwick as its officer-in-charge, is comprised of four Korean National entomologists, nine enlisted preventive medical specialists and two KATUSAs. To accomplish the collecting of samples the laboratory has teams which alternate one week periods in the field. Those teams are transported with the assistance of helicopters from the 2d Aviation Battalion and the 55th Aviation Company.

The laboratory takes pride not only in its contributions of information on disease carrying animals and insects but also on its general contributions to science. It is significant that the information compiled by the laboratory plays an important role in disease control after their causes have been established.

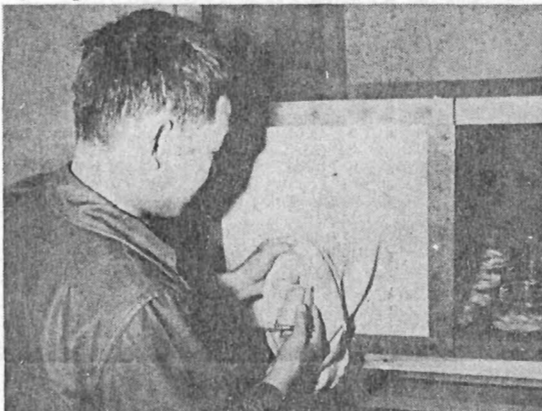


MOSQUITO LIGHT TRAP—Capt. J. Wanless Southwick, an entomologist and the OIC of the laboratory, collects mosquito samples from a light trap at Camp Nabors. There are 60 light traps located in various provinces throughout Korea.

Story And Photos
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MOSQUITO COLLECTION—PFC Sam Laster, a preventive medicine specialist, adds the newest member to the laboratory's six-year collection of mosquitoes. The unit keeps a close check on Korea's mosquito population and the percentage of possible malaria carriers.



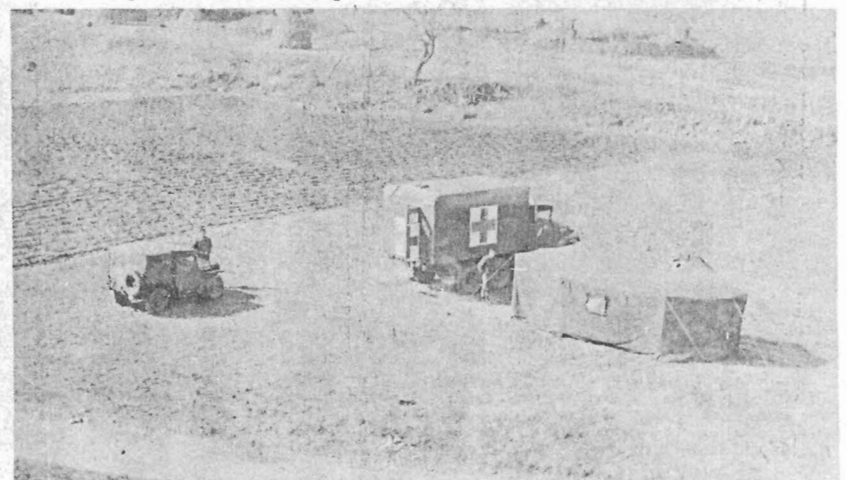
INSECTARY—PFC Ki-jei Jang, a KATUSA assigned to the laboratory, inserts a white mouse, the day's entree, into the mosquito colony quarters. This was the first year that the laboratory has been able to maintain a mosquito colony throughout the winter.



MOUNTED SPECIMENS—Dr. Pyong-ui No, a laboratory technician, holds a Korean hare which has been mounted and tagged for purposes of species identification. The laboratory has collected over 1,200 specimens this year, and each was completely examined for ectoparasites.



INDEXING SLIDES—PFC Ronald Morton, PFC Mike Collector and Sp4 Robert Killin (from left), preventive medicine specialists with the laboratory, index slides of ectoparasites recently examined.



FIELD CAMPSITE—A helicopter's view of a laboratory field campsite shows a jeep, a lab van, a tent and a communications antenna. The team uses helicopters to pick up preserved specimens from the field.