

5. *Estimated magnitude of program in 1970*

It is estimated that the level or magnitude of performance of the military medical program in 1970 will reflect an increase consistent with advances in medical technology and increase in social and welfare programs within the Department of Defense. It is reasonable to assume that under peacetime conditions expenditures in 1970 will reflect an increase of approximately 10 percent above those of fiscal year 1965 at the rate of 2 percent per year.

6. *Prospective changes in program orientation*

(a) The legislative proposals which would modify this program are now being coordinated within the executive branch. These are:

(1) A proposal to establish a civilian health care program for retired members and their dependents to supplement the insufficient amount of care which will be available for this group in the future from military facilities.

(2) A proposal to authorize civilian outpatient care for the dependents of active duty members in order to provide a complete health care program for this group.

(3) A proposal to establish a civilian program providing health care, training and education for the mentally and physically handicapped children of active duty members.

(b) Proposed administrative and organizational changes.—No major administrative or organizational changes are anticipated. However, significant improvements in efficiency can be anticipated as a result of the use of computers, improved management techniques, and in the collection of better statistics. This should result in better organizational planning and more economical utilization of manpower, materiel, and facilities which in turn will result in improved patient care.

(c) Probable changes in the conditions under which the program will function in 1970.—This, to a large extent, will be dependent upon the technological, professional, and sociological advances which may occur. In these areas the possibilities are unlimited. The pharmaceutical industry is constantly introducing new drugs of extensive potential. Appliances and medical equipment manufacturers are taking advantage of miniaturization of electronic systems developed in the space industry. Many new materials are just now becoming available from research programs in a vast expanse of industries.

There is a growing interest in global epidemiology in which the military has a major interest for mobilization planning purposes. This can result in increased demands for vector control agents and methods.

The widespread practice of family planning may, in 1970, have a reducing effect upon the military medical program in the area of obstetrics.

Concepts of military medicine planning in 1970 will undoubtedly reflect greater use of the helicopter and extensive reliance upon airlift of the sick and wounded to fixed medical facilities for definitive care.

Demands for professional medical personnel in the country are increasing each year. It is reasonable to assume that more and more difficulty will be encountered in obtaining qualified professional personnel for the military medical services in 1970. This may result in a greater proportion of care being provided from civilian sources.