

US ARMY HEALTH SERVICES COMMAND
Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234

OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY

15 May 1977

SPURGEON H. NEEL, JR.
Major General, Medical Corps
Commanding General, US Army Health Services Command

Spurgeon Hart Neel, Jr., was born and educated in Memphis, Tennessee. He entered the military service following internship at the Methodist Hospital in Memphis, and was commanding a medical company in Europe when World War II ended. In the succeeding years General Neel became involved in all phases of field medicine and aviation medicine and achieved full qualification in these fields by training with both the Army and the Air Force. Additionally he is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

General Neel is one of the most decorated medical officers now on active duty. A career summary follows:

PERSONAL:

Born: 24 September 1919 in Memphis, Tennessee
Parents: Spurgeon H. Neel, Sr., father, deceased
Mrs. S. H. Neel, mother, 3604 Walker Ave, Memphis, TN
Marriage: 18 November 1939 to Alice G. Torti of Memphis
Children: Spurgeon Hart Neel, III, born 3 December 1949
Alice Leah Neel, born 24 May 1957
Home Address: 416 Dickman Road, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234

EDUCATION:

| | | |
|-------------|--|------|
| | Pre-Med, Memphis State University | 1939 |
| MD | University of Tennessee | 1942 |
| MPH | Harvard School of Public Health | 1958 |
| MSBA | George Washington University | 1965 |
| Internship: | Methodist Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee | 1943 |
| Residency: | X-ray, Santa Ana Army Air Base, CA | 1944 |
| | Aviation Medicine, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, TX | 1960 |
| Diplomate: | American Board of Preventive Medicine (Aviation Medicine) | 1960 |

MILITARY SCHOOLS:

| | |
|--|------|
| Command and General Staff College | 1952 |
| Industrial College of the Armed Forces | 1965 |

PROMOTIONS:

| | <u>USAR</u> | <u>AUS</u> | <u>RA</u> |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2LT | 20 Jan 42 | | |
| 1LT | | 7 Oct 43 | 5 Jul 46 |
| CPT | | 26 Sep 44 | 7 Oct 46 |
| MAJ | | 30 Oct 46 | 8 Jul 54 |
| LTC | | 18 Jul 51 | 17 Nov 60 |
| COL | | 17 Nov 60 | 31 Dec 68 |
| BG | | 21 Jul 68 | 5 Oct 69 |
| MG | | 1 Jun 70 | 31 Jul 73 |
| | | (DOR 10 Aug 65) | (DOR 3 Aug 70) |

ASSIGNMENTS:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 7 Oct 43 | Student O, Medical Field Service School |
| 22 Nov 43 | Med O, Gen duty, RAAF, Roswell, NM |
| 10 Mar 44 | Resident, X-ray, SAAAB, Santa Ana, CA |
| 1 Jul 44 | Med O, Gen duty, SAAAB, Santa Ana, CA |
| 30 Aug 44 | C, OPD, 3009 AAFBUCAAF, Carlsbad, NM |
| 20 Oct 44 | Med O, Gen duty, Co D, 369th Med Bn, ETOUSA |
| 22 Oct 44 | CO, Co C, 369th Med Bn, ETO |
| 26 Nov 45 | Bn Surg, 387th AAA AW Bn, ETO |
| 19 Apr 46 | Med O, Gen duty, 57th Field Hosp, ETO |
| 1 Jul 46 | CO, 1st Platoon, 57th Field Hosp, ETO |
| 16 Mar 47 | Bde Surg, HQ 1st Constab Bde, ETO |
| 11 Jul 47 | Acting Post Surg, 1st Gen Disp, ETO |
| 6 Sep 47 | CO, 30th Med Gp, Ft Benning, GA |
| 9 Apr 48 | Student, Air Trans Crs #4, 30th Med Gp, Ft Benning, GA |
| 2 May 48 | CO, 30th Med Gp, Ft Benning, GA |

ASSIGNMENTS - continued:

8 Oct 48 Relieved from AD - RA Commission and AUS Commission resigned

15 Apr 49 Returned to AD, Brooke Army Medical Center, no duty assignment

18 May 49 C, Surgical Service, 3442 ASU, Ft McPherson, GA

4 Aug 49 C, Medical Service, 3442 ASU, Ft McPherson, GA

17 Oct 49 Div Surg, HQ 82d Airborne Div, Ft Bragg, NC

14 Aug 51 Student, C&GS, Ft Leavenworth, KS

14 Jul 52 C, Med Field Service Br, Medical Field Service School, BAMC

3 Aug 53 C, Opns Div, Medical Service, HQ Eighth US Army, FEC

14 Sep 53 CO, 30th Med Gp, FEC

1 Dec 54 Asst C, Hosp & Opns Div, OTSG

1 Feb 55 C, Army Aviation Section, Med Plans & Opns Div, OTSG

16 Jan 56 Dep Dir, Div of Physiology and Pharmacology, WRAIR, WRAMC

15 Aug 56 C, Aviation Branch, Med Plans & Opns Div, OTSG

10 Sep 57 Student O, Harvard School of Public Health

1 Jul 58 Student O, School of Avn Medicine, RAFB, TX

13 Jul 59 Student O, School of Avn Medicine, BAFB, TX

28 Jun 60 Asst C, Avn Med Div, USAH, Ft Rucker, AL

4 Oct 60 C, Avn Med, USAH, Ft Rucker, AL

1 Sep 61 Hospital CO and Post Surgeon, Ft Rucker, AL

20 Aug 64 Student O, ICAF, Ft McNair, Washington, D.C.

16 Jun 65 Student O, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

19 Jul 65 Casual, en route to Vietnam

22 Jul 65 Surgeon, US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam

16 Jul 66 Director, Plans, Supply and Operations, OTSG

31 Jul 68 CG, 44th Medical Brigade and Surgeon, US Army Vietnam

1 Feb 69 Surgeon, US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam

26 Aug 69 Special Assistant to The Surgeon General, OTSG

1 Oct 69 Deputy Surgeon General, US Army, OTSG, Washington, D.C.

1 Mar 73 Commanding General, Brooke Army Medical Center, Ft Sam Houston, TX

1 Apr 73 Commanding General, US Army Health Services Command, Ft Sam Houston, TX

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Distinguished Service Medal *w/1 OLC*
 Legion of Merit w/4 OLC
 Bronze Star Medal w/1 OLC
 Air Medal w/3 OLC
 Joint Service Commendation Medal
 USAF Commendation Medal
 Purple Heart Medal
 American Campaign Medal
 European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/2 battle stars
 World War II Victory Medal
 Army of Occupation Medal (Germany)
 National Defense Service Medal w/OLC
 Korean Service Medal w/1 battle star
 Korean Ulchi
 United Nations Service Medal
 RVN National Distinguished Service Order Medal
 RVN Army Distinguished Service Order Medal
 RVN Health Service Medal First Class
 RVN Campaign Medal
 RVN Service Medal w/4 battle stars
 Meritorious Unit Commendation w/1 OLC
 USAF Outstanding Unit Award
 Combat Medical Badge
 Master Flight Surgeon Badge
 Senior Parachutist Badge
 Gliderist Badge
 Vietnamese Parachutist Badge
 Seaman Award, AMSUS, 1950
 McClellan Award, AAAA, 1962
 Gary Wratten Award, AMSUS, 1967
 Hall of Fame, AAAA, 1976
 Theodore C. Lyster Award, Aerospace Medical Association, May 1977
DAR MEDAL OF HONOR, 1999
DUSTOFF HALL OF FAME, 2001
LOUIS H. BAUER FOUNDERS AWARD
AEROSPACE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 2003

MILITARY RATINGS:

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|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Parachutist | 27 Jan 50 |
| Gliderist | 27 Jan 50 |
| Senior Parachutist | 5 Jul 51 |
| Flight Surgeon | 24 Mar 58 |
| Master Flight Surgeon | 3 May 62 |
| "A" Prefix to MOS 3160 Flight Surgeon | 31 Aug 62 |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Fellow, American College of Physicians
Fellow and Past Vice President, American College of Preventive
Medicine
Fellow and Past President, Aerospace Medical Association
Fellow, Royal Society of Health (London)
Fellow, International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine
Fellow and Chairman, Membership Committee, American College of
Hospital Administrators
Fellow, American Academy of Medical Administrators (Honorary)

Adjunct Professor of Health Care Administration, Baylor University

Member, American Medical Association
Member, Texas Medical Association
Member, Bexar County Medical Society (Texas)
Member, Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
Member, Association of Military Surgeons of the United States
Member, Association of the US Army
Member, Army Aviation Association of America
Member, International Health Society, Inc. (Honorary)

Associate Member, Phi Chi Medical Fraternity

Biographee, Who's Who in America
Biographee, World Military Leaders
Who's Who In the World
Who's Who In American Education

PUBLICATIONS:

A listing of 36 published articles is available upon request.

**SPURGEON H. NEEL, Jr., M.D.
Major General, Medical Corps
United States Army**

General Neel, born in 1919 in Memphis, TN, was known throughout the U.S. Army as the “father of aviation medicine.” Receiving his M.D. degree from the University of Tennessee in 1942 and appointment in the army that same year, Neel’s service as a Medical Corps officer began in 1943 and continued until his 1977 retirement. During World War II he served as a company commander and battalion surgeon. Later key assignments included those of Division Surgeon, 82nd Airborne Division; Commander, 30th Medical Group; Chief, Army Aviation Branch at the Office of the Surgeon General, Surgeon, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (2 tours), Commanding General, 44th Medical Brigade and Surgeon, U.S. Army Vietnam; Deputy Surgeon General; and the first Commanding General of U.S. Army Health Services Command. In a period extending from the Korean War through the Vietnam War, General Neel championed the use of the helicopter for battlefield casualty evacuation and was the leader in development of aeromedical evacuation doctrine. His accomplishments included establishment of the U.S. Army Aeromedical Research Laboratory and serving as author or co-author of numerous publications relating to aviation medicine. He was a past president of the Aerospace Medical Association. One of the Army Medical Department’s most decorated soldiers, Neel’s awards included the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, and Combat Medic Badge. Other badges earned included the Glider Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, and

Master Flight Surgeon Badge. General Neel was a Diplomat, American Board of Preventive Medicine (Aviation Medicine), having earned an M.PH. degree at Harvard University. Following Army retirement, General Neel continued his professional activities, to include acceptance of an appointment as Professor of Occupational and Aerospace Medicine at the University of Texas School of Public Health. He was one of two Army Medical Department retired general officers who, in 1977, began the successful campaign to raise funds to build a new U.S. Army Medical Department Museum. General Neel served for many years as Chairman, Board of Directors, U.S. Army Medical Department Foundation, Inc., and in concert with Mrs. Neel, became a major donor whose generosity continued over the years. At time of his passing, he was Chairman Emeritus of the museum foundation.