

MILITARY OPPORTUNITIES IN SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

At some point in almost every male college student's career he must pause to consider his military obligation. Students in speech pathology and audiology who find themselves at this crossroads should explore the possibility of utilizing their professional skills while they serve in the armed forces. In this way they can add to their professional experience as they provide valuable services for the military.

Considerable interest has been shown in the Army Officer Audiology Specialty, MOS 3360, mentioned in *Asha* in January 1967. Therefore, this Special Report has been prepared to describe for students and their advisors the current Army and Air Force opportunities in audiology and speech pathology. (At present the Navy does not have an approved officer's specialty in either field.)

ARMY AUDIOLOGY

The Army Audiology Officer is commissioned in the Medical Service Corps Branch (MSC) as a member of the Army medical team dedicated to a common mission of "conserving the fighting strength." The MSC Officer may serve as an administrator, scientist, engineer, or clinician. He may be assigned to a troop command, an Army hospital, a medical service or supply unit, or a research laboratory. The Audiology Officer is an allied medical specialist and performs duties which encompass all of the above activities in addition to his professional audiology services.

The Medical Service Corps Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) for Audiology was formally requested in June 1964. Approval was granted by the Army Surgeon General in July 1965, with official publication of the MOS Code 3360 appearing in Army Regulations in January 1966. For many years prior to this date, noncommissioned and commissioned Army personnel had been performing various types of audiology services, but were not assigned to any specific category related to hearing measurement.

Since the audiology specialty has been granted official approval, 11 audiology officers have been commissioned. Nine of these officers are currently on active duty, but one has been granted leave to participate in an Army educational program available to career-oriented officers. This officer will remain on active duty status, drawing full pay and privileges, for three years while pursuing a doctoral degree in audiology at a university of his choice.

Audiology Officer Job Description. The MOS 3360 Code describes the duties of the Audiology Officer in Army Circular 13, Army Regulation 611-101, as follows:

Summary: Conducts examinations of auditory pathways and prescribes treatment to conserve or improve hearing without the use of medicine or surgery.

Duties: Conducts examination of auditory pathways for purposes of determining hearing functions and location of pathology by using instruments and equipment such as the standard clinical puretone audiometer, speech audiometer (recorded or live voice), Bekesy audiometer, psychogalvanic skin response equipment, short increment sensitivity index adapter, and other specialized diagnostic equipment. Ascertains presence or absence of defects or abnormal hearing conditions which can be corrected, remedied, or relieved by use of hearing aids or hearing rehabilitation. Determines such hearing disorders as sensorineural hypacusia, conductive hypacusia, mixed hypacusia, combined hypacusia, and differentiates above organic deficiencies from nonorganic disorders. Rectifies such conditions through properly selected hearing aid and aural rehabilitation program. Examines and tests hearing aids for proper performance and conformance to prescriptions. Develops hearing conservation programs for patients and monitors programs. Acts in consultant capacity to smaller medical facilities which have only audiometrists. Refers patients having manifestations or disease to an otolaryngologist for treatment requiring medicine, drugs, or surgery. Instructs and supervises subordinate personnel in audiometric procedures. Records findings on prescribed AMEDS forms.

Qualifications for MOS 3360. Qualifications for audiology officers include academic requirements of at least a master's degree in audiology or in speech pathology/audiology (when the major portion of the academic work is in audiology) from a college or university that is acceptable to the Department of the Army. In addition to the degree requirements and knowledge concerning satisfactory performance of the described clinical duties, the Army audiologist must know how to develop hearing conservation programs. He must know the relationship between hearing loss and noise exposure, and be able to use noise measuring equipment and damage risk criteria. These additional requirements, of course, are essential to the particular military problems of noise exposure in training and combat situations related to possible hearing impairments.

Applicants are required to submit academic transcripts which are carefully reviewed to insure didactic and clinical emphasis in audiology or hearing science. Favorable consideration is given to candidates who meet the academic requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology as described by the American Speech and Hearing Association.

JERRY L. NORTHERN, Ph.D., Captain in the U.S. Army, prepared this Special Report. JAMES E. ENDICOTT, Ph.D., Major in the U.S. Air Force, provided material about the Air Force programs in speech pathology and audiology.

Applicants with excellent grades, high recommendations, and strong clinical experience have increased likelihood of acceptance for the 3360 MOS. Under most conditions, applicants with academic or clinical emphasis in speech pathology do not meet the prerequisites for Army audiology.

Eligibility for appointment in the Army Medical Service Corps depends on minimal education requirements. To receive a Reserve commission in the MSC, the applicant must be less than 33 years old, and less than 30 for a Regular Army commission. Applicants with previous service may exceed these age limitations. Good health, free from serious physical handicaps, is verified by examination of all applicants. Prospective Army officers must complete a National Agency check prior to being commissioned. Leadership potential demonstrated in extracurricular college activities is taken into consideration. Audiology officers are generally commissioned as First Lieutenants while those with doctoral degrees in audiology are eligible for commissioning as Captains. At this time, officers with master's degrees are eligible for promotion to captain following six months of active duty service.

Audiology Duty Assignments. With entrance to active duty all Medical Service Corps Officers are sent to the Basic MS Officer Orientation Course at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. This eight-week course is designed to acquaint new MSC officers with military life, and prepare them for productive active duty throughout their military duty assignments. The Basic Course includes classroom work, practical exercises, and field work at nearby Camp Bullis. It is taken with other Army Medical Service personnel: physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, occupational and physical therapists, psychologists, and social workers.

Following the Basic Course, the new Audiology Officer is sent to the Army Audiology and Speech Center, Walter Reed General Hospital, for an intensive one-week course to familiarize him with military aspects of audiology. The emphasis is on exposure to the many facets of military audiology which may be encountered in the available duty assignments. At the Army Audiology and Speech Center, each officer is taught the Army hearing disability profile system, retirement and boarding procedures related to hearing impairment, hearing aid evaluation procedures and policies, tri-service audiology responsibilities and relations, and the hierarchy system of Army audiological referrals.

From Walter Reed the 3360 Officer is sent to his permanent duty station. Each audiology assignment is unique and offers its own opportunities for professional development and variety of experience. With the growth of Army audiology, audiologists are now assigned not only to the larger general hospitals but to smaller hospitals where large concentrations of military personnel are located. The audiology officer

often reports to his initial assignment as Chief of an Audiology Clinic.

Audiology officers are currently assigned at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C.; Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver, Colorado; Brooke General Hospital, San Antonio, Texas; Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California; Madigan General Hospital, Tacoma, Washington; and the 2nd General Hospital, Landstuhl, Germany. New assignments soon to be filled include Beaumont Hospital, Ft. Bliss, Texas, and Camp Zama, Japan. It is planned to station an Army audiologist as hearing conservation consultant for the Army Environmental Health Center at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. New assignments are also under consideration for Ft. Dix, New Jersey; Ft. Benning, Georgia; and Tripler Hospital, Hawaii.

Each duty station invariably includes some responsibility for administrative functions related to audiology. Supervisory duties are quite common, with enlisted corpsmen (EENT Specialists) or civilians conducting audiometric testing under a military audiologist. Many of the assignments are at facilities with equipment and patient caseloads that lend themselves to research which can be conducted independently or in association with other medical specialties.

Teaching opportunities are available at most duty stations. In addition to acquainting the rest of the Army and hospital professional staffs with audiology, the 3360 Officer will commonly be called to initiate, advise, train, or monitor a hearing conservation program. Hospital assignments at Walter Reed, Fitzsimons, and Brooke are related to Otolaryngology Resident Training Programs which utilize regularly scheduled lectures in audiology. Some audiology assignments will include responsibility for the audiology training of corpsmen EENT Specialists. Following three weeks of academic preparation, these EENT Specialists are sent for nine weeks of on-the-job training at various ENT, audiology, and ophthalmology clinics. This training program for enlisted men will soon provide a good source for nonprofessional hearing technicians upon discharge from military duty.

Procedures for Application. At any particular time, vacancies may or may not exist in the Medical Service Corps for Audiology Officers. Competition for available positions has been rather keen. Army audiologists are helping establish this military specialty in a manner which will make a significant contribution to the efforts of the entire profession. Army audiologists are kept abreast of changes and communicate with each other through a quarterly informal publication, *The 3360*, published by the Army Audiology and Speech Center at Walter Reed General Hospital.

This year, for the first time, the 1968 Denver Convention of the American Speech and Hearing Association will include a Military Audiology Meeting in the Schedule of Events. It is hoped that this meeting will become a permanent part of the convention format. Besides a regular business meeting for

Army audiologists, time will be scheduled for person-to-person interviews between representatives from the Army and Air Force and individuals interested in learning more about military opportunities in audiology.

AIR FORCE SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

The U.S. Air Force has approved specialty qualifications in both audiology and speech pathology, but at this time has only a limited number of opportunities in these specialties. The overall specialty title is Biomedical Therapist, within the Biomedical Science Corps (BSC). The following information is taken from Air Force Manual, AFM 36-1P, *Officer Air Force Specialty, Biomedical Therapist*.

The Biomedical Therapist "provides care and treatment, within scope of professional capability, for human ailments, under general supervision and direction of a medical officer; and plans, conducts, and directs research, as appropriate, in area of professional practice." The manual describes his duties and responsibilities as follows:

Conducts examinations to provide basis for diagnosis: Administers appropriately prescribed treatment. Interviews patient and records patient's case history to determine previous ailments and complaints in areas of identification. Makes examinations to determine evidences of physiological abnormality. Conducts tests within appropriate specialty. Supplements examination by arranging, in conjunction with appropriate medical officer specialists, various laboratory test analyses and diagnostic X-rays. Interprets laboratory results in evaluating examination findings.

Administers and records progress of prescribed courses of treatment concerned within limits of area of practice: After consultation with medical officers, accomplishes necessary therapeutic procedures. Refers patient to and consults with physician at appropriate intervals for further case diagnosis and treatment planning. Provides instructions to patients regarding prescribed therapeutic exercises. Administers, upon prescription by physician, appropriate medication within limitations established by Director of Base Medical Services.

Instructs and supervises assistants: Prescribes and supervises instruction in use and maintenance of therapeutic devices, exercises, or procedures. Fits and adjusts appliances and advises patient on care of therapeutic or corrective equipment.

Conducts research in areas where applicable: Plans and conducts clinical research. Reviews and studies case histories, analyzes data, and participates in investigative programs in conjunction with other biomedical scientists and physicians, on new techniques and methodology to improve health and human effectiveness of Air Force personnel.

Participates in special programs: Plans, supervises, and participates in area of professional practice in such specialized Air Force health programs as Hearing Conservation Program, CHAP Program, Aerospace Medical Program, Occupational Health Program, etc., as appropriate.

The grade spread for Biomedical Therapists runs from Second Lieutenant through Lieutenant Colonel. Subspecialties are "podiatrist, audiologist, speech pathologist, speech clinician, speech correctionist, speech-and-hearing clinician, and rehabilitation therapist." Mandatory qualifications include knowledge of one or more areas of specialization within the field of biomedical therapy; a master's degree in one of the subspecialties from an accredited institution acceptable to the Surgeon General, USAF; and at least 12 months experience, either providing care and treatment for human ailments or planning, directing, and conducting research in the area of professional practice. No provisions for special training are set, but a license to practice, where applicable, or registration or certification by the appropriate national accreditation body is required.

The Air Force audiologist "performs specialized hearing examinations and trains individuals with hearing defects in speech perception and communication techniques." The speech pathologist's duties include providing "specialized education in voice communication to individuals with speech and voice difficulties and/or language disorders," and assisting in rehabilitation therapy of Air Force personnel.

OFFICERS IN SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY SPECIALTIES

Currently there are 15 audiologists and speech pathologists serving as Army and Air Force specialty officers. Their backgrounds and present assignments are quite varied. A few of them obtained their commissions through officer training programs; many did not. Some of them are making a career of military service; others will return to civilian life when their tours of duty end. Several had been given the opportunity to continue advanced academic training while in the service. Details about their education and military assignments follow.



Richard A. Arietio

RICHARD A. ARIETIO, Captain, Army MSC, received his B.A. from Idaho State University in 1965 and his M.S. from Southern Illinois University in 1967. His first permanent duty is at the 249th Army General Hospital, Japan.

KENNETH B. ASPINALL, Captain, Army MSC, received his B.A. from the University of Nebraska in 1965 and his M.A. from the University of Kansas Medical Center in 1966. He is Chief of Audiology at Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver, Colorado.



Kenneth B. Aspinall



Larry A. Crissup

LARRY A. CRISSUP, Captain, Air Force BSC, has a B.A. from the University of Wichita, 1961. He is currently working toward his master's degree at Columbia University under the Air Force Institute of Technology's Civilian Institutions Division.



Gerald R. Bearce

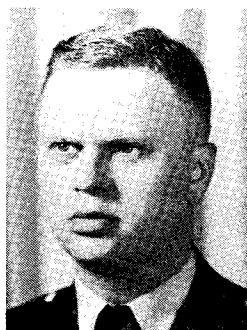
GERALD R. BEARCE, Captain, Army MSC, received his B.S. from Ithaca College in 1958 and his M.Ed. from the University of Wichita in 1964. He is head of the Army-wide hearing conservation program, Occupational Health Division, U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland.

JAMES B. ENDICOTT, Major, Air Force BSC, received his B.F.A. in 1956 and his M.A. in 1957 from Ohio University, and his Ph.D. in 1964 from Northwestern University. He is Chief of Audiology and Speech Pathology, Wilford Hall USAF Hospital, Lackland AFB, Texas.



James E. Endicott

WALTER S. CHARLIP, Captain, Army MSC, was awarded a B.A. by Hofstra University in 1963, then went to Purdue University where he received an M.S. in 1965 and Ph.D. in 1968. He is Chief of the Audiology Section, Otolaryngology Service, Brooke General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

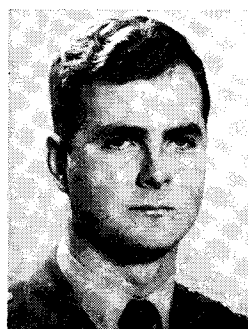


Walter S. Charlip



Donald C. Gasaway

DONALD C. GASAWAY, Major, Air Force BSC, attended Texas Christian University where he received a B.A. in 1956 and an M.A. in 1957. He is Chief of the Audiology Function, Otolaryngology Branch, USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Texas, and advisor to the Air Force Surgeon General in matters pertaining to audiology and hearing conservation.



Donald R. Ciliac

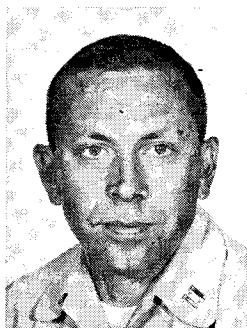
DONALD R. CILIAK, Captain, Army MSC, earned his B.A. at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1965 and his M.S. at Colorado State University in 1966. He is serving as a research assistant in the Aural Rehabilitation Section, Army Audiology and Speech Center, Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D. C.

JEROD GOLDSTEIN, Captain, Army MSC, received a B.A. from Trenton State College in 1963 and an M.S. from Pennsylvania State University in 1965. He is head of the Audiology Section, ENT Service, Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco, California.

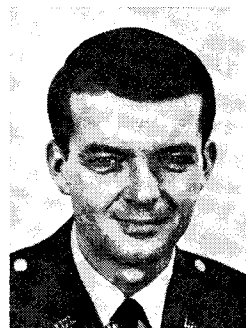


Jerod Goldstein

HUGH W. HAMLYN, Major, Air Force BSC, earned his B.S. at Texas State College in 1955. Currently serving as chief of the Speech and Hearing Clinic at Maxwell AFB Hospital, Alabama, he expects to be enrolled at Auburn University this fall to complete his master's degree under the auspices of the Air Force Institute of Technology.



Hugh W. Hamlyn



Ronald Ritter

RONALD RITTER, Captain, Army MSC, was awarded a B.A. by the University of South Dakota in 1964 and an M.A. by Northern Illinois University in 1966. Stationed in Germany, he is Chief of the USAREUR Audiology Center, 2nd General Hospital, Lanstuhl.



Karl W. Hattler

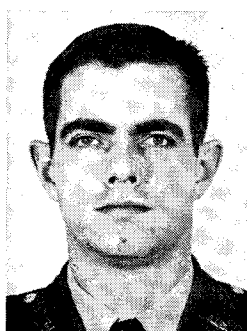
KARL W. HATTLER, Captain, Army MSC, received a B.S. from Emerson College in 1965 and an M.S. from the University of Oklahoma in 1967. His first permanent Army assignment is as clinical and research assistant at the Army Audiology and Speech Center, Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C.

ROY K. SEDGE, Captain, Army MSC, has a B.S. from Central Michigan University, 1963; and an M.A. from Michigan State University, 1965. He is currently on leave of absence from the Army to earn his Ph.D. at the University of Washington.



Roy K. Sedge

JERRY L. NORTHERN, Captain, Army MSC, has a B.A. from Colorado College, 1962; an M.S. from Gallaudet College, 1963; an M.A. from the University of Denver, 1964; and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, 1966. He is Assistant Director of the Army Audiology and Speech Center at Walter Reed General Hospital, Washington, D.C.



Jerry L. Northern

HOW TO APPLY FOR SPECIALTY COMMISSIONS

For information concerning Air Force commissions in audiology and speech pathology, ASHA Members may write to:

Medical Personnel Procurement Division
Office of the Assistant Surgeon General
Staffing and Education
Randolph AFB, Texas 78048.

Any ASHA Member interested in detail about eligibility and application forms for a commission in the Army Medical Service Corps may obtain such information from one of the Army Medical Service Personnel Counselors listed below.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Delaware, District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia:

Army Medical Service Personnel Counselor
Office of the Surgeon
Headquarters, First U. S. Army
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Tennessee:

Army Medical Service Personnel Counselor



Richard H. Purdy

RICHARD H. PURDY, Captain, Army MSC, received his B.A. from Colorado State College in 1965 and his M.S. from Colorado State University in 1967. He is Chief of Audiology, Beaumont Hospital, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Office of the Surgeon
Headquarters, Third U.S. Army
Fort McPherson, Georgia 30330

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and
Texas:

Army Medical Service Personnel Counselor
Office of the Surgeon
Headquarters, Fourth U.S. Army
Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234

Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan,
Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South
Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming:

Army Medical Service Personnel Counselor
Office of the Surgeon
Headquarters, Fifth U. S. Army
1660 East Hyde Park Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60615

Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon,
Utah, and Washington:

Army Medical Service Personnel Counselor
Office of the Surgeon
Headquarters, Sixth U. S. Army
Presidio of San Francisco, California 94129

Alaska:

Commanding General
U.S. Army, Alaska
Attn: Chief Surgeon
APO Seattle, Washington 98749

Hawaii:

Commanding General
U.S. Army, Hawaii
Attn: Chief Surgeon
APO San Francisco, California 96557