



Panorama

Vol. 30

FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1970

No. 14

Late Surgeon General Honored

Name Selected for New Hospital

The new Ft. Ord Army hospital, now under construction on Gigling Road, is to be named in honor of the late Major General Silas B. Hays (Ret.).

The distinguished soldier-physician was Surgeon General of the Army from June 1955 to July 1959 when he retired, ending a 31-year career in the Army Medical Corps.

A native of St. Paul, Minn., General Hays was born in February, 1908 and received his high school education in Westchester, Pa. He then attended Iowa State College for two and a half years, majoring in engineering before transferring to the University of Iowa. In 1928 he received his degree of doctor of medicine and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps through the R.O.T.C. program.

Called to active duty in August, 1928, he served his internship at Letterman General Hospital.

In the years prior to World War II, General Hays served in a variety of assignments and in mid-1937 enrolled as a student in the Laboratory, Procurement Planning, and Storage and Issue Sections of the medical unit of the New York General Depot, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The three years of intensive training were instrumental in equipping the then Captain Hays for the vital roles he would play during the war, first in the Surgeon General's Office and later as the Chief, Supply Division, Office of the Chief Surgeon, European Theater of Operations.

Following the war, General Hays, by then promoted to Lieu-

tenant Colonel, returned to the Surgeon General's Office in Washington where he served for 4½ years, first as Chief, Supply Division and then as Special Assistant to the Surgeon General. In April, 1948, he was promoted to Brigadier General.

On the eve of the outbreak of hostilities in Korea he assumed the position of Surgeon, Headquarters, US Army, Pacific and 4 months later transferred to the position of Surgeon, Japan Logistics Command.

Once again he distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service during a major conflict while supervising the operations of 18 hospitals, about 20 dispensaries and one medical depot.

Working with air transportation personnel and the 8th US Army, he worked out a system of air evacuation whereby combat casualties were expeditiously routed to specialized hospitals where they received treatment sooner than had been possible before.

Demonstration of his versatility during the Korean War qualified him for his appointment as deputy surgeon general in August 1951.

In 1953 he was promoted to the permanent rank of Major General, and in March 1955 was selected to succeed Major General George E. Armstrong as the Surgeon General of the Army.

On the 1st day of June 1955 General Hays took the oath of office and began a 4-year tour that brought distinction and honor to the Office of the Surgeon General.

It seems fitting that General

Hays be honored by the naming of the new Ft. Ord hospital since he was a vigorous advocate of Army hospital construction to replace outmoded facilities. He also supervised the program of dependents' medical care for members of all the uniform services. He strongly supported a preventive psychiatry program, inaugurated courses in management of mass casualties, sponsored research in the method of protecting personnel against exposure to radioactivity and in general provided inspired leadership and guidance to the entire Medical Corps.

During his long and illustrious career, General Hays was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Clusters, the French Croix de Guerre with Palm, and the French Order of Sante Publique, plus many campaign and service medals.

General Hays was described as an amicable, sociable man with an engaging personality. He was credited with having a keen intellect, soundness of judgment, aggressiveness and tact.

The new medical facility, scheduled for completion in September 1971, is currently 43% complete, as of December 1969.

When completed, the Silas B. Hays Army Hospital will be an 8-story, 440-bed unit with dental facilities, outpatient and specialty clinics and a total of 367,000 square feet of floor space.

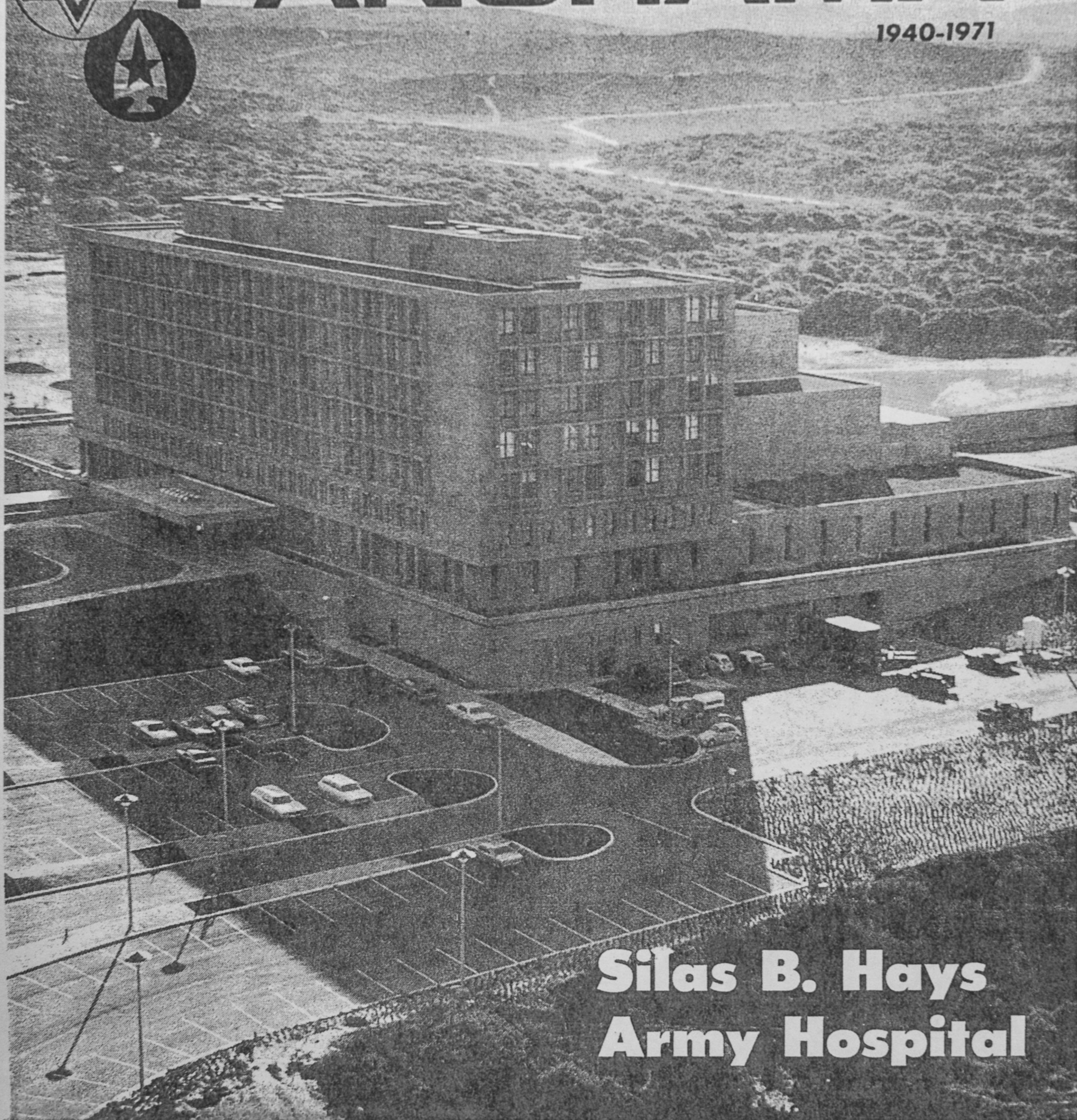
Dec 10, 1971



FORT ORD

PANORAMA

1940-1971



**Silas B. Hays
Army Hospital**

Hospital is named for former surgeon general



Major General Silas B. Hays

THE NEW Ft. Ord Army hospital being dedicated today is named in honor of the late Major General Silas B. Hays.

The distinguished soldier-physician was surgeon general of the Army from June 1955 to July 1959 when he retired, ending a 31-year career in the Army Medical Corps.

A native of St. Paul, Minn., MajGen Hays was born in February 1908. He attended Iowa State College for 2½ years, majoring in engineering, before transferring to the University of Iowa. In 1928, he received his degree of doctor of medicine and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps through the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program.

In the years prior to World War II, MajGen. Hays served in a variety of assignments and in mid-1937 enrolled as a student in the Laboratory, Procurement Planning and Storage and Issue Sections of the medical unit of the New York General Depot, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The three years of intensive training were instrumental in equipping the then Captain Hays for the vital roles he would play during the war; first in the surgeon general's office and later as the Chief, Supply Division, Office of the Chief Surgeon, European Theater of Operations.

FOLLOWING THE war, MajGen. Hays, by then promoted to lieutenant colonel, returned to the surgeon general's office in Washington where he served for 4½ years, first as chief, Supply Division, and then as special assistant to the surgeon general. In April 1948, he was promoted to brigadier general.

On the eve of the outbreak of hostilities in Korea, he assumed the position of surgeon, Headquarters, US Army, Pacific and four months later transferred to the position of surgeon, Japan Logistics Command.

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major conflict while supervising the operations of 18 hospitals, about 20 dispensaries and one medical depot.

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Demonstration of his versatility during the Korean War qualified him for his appointment as deputy surgeon general in August 1951.

In 1953 he was promoted to the permanent rank of major general, and in March 1955 was selected to succeed Major General George S. Armstrong as surgeon general of the Army.

ON JUNE 1, 1955, MajGen. Hays took the oath of office and began a four-year tour that brought distinction and honor to the office of the surgeon general.

It is fitting that MajGen. Hays be honored by the naming of the new Ft. Ord hospital since he was a vigorous advocate of Army hospital construction to replace outmoded facilities. He also supervised the program of dependents' medical care for members of all the uniform services.

He strongly supported a preventive psychiatry program, inaugurated courses in management of mass casualties, sponsored research in the method of protecting personnel against exposure to radioactivity and in general provided inspired leadership and guidance to the entire Medical Corps.

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PANORAMA

Vol. 32

FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1971

No. 12 **1940-1971**

Fitch Parks large councils

Park neighborhood council had a and voted to merge into a joint

ers present elected former Marshall; the new joint council chairman.

of Fitch Park, was elected vice-arts director and Judy Grimshaw is

nant Colonel John M. Kirk, chair-ies Council. He presented proposed ities participation. Various athletic iting, baseball and softball for both ts are being planned so that more of extra-curricular activity through-

sponsible for youth activities," said, "if there is no parental interest in here will be no program."

l be needed to organize, supervise eir community. "Funds for equip-would be raised by parents," said

Congressman to speak

440-bed Hays hospital to be dedicated today

Ft. Ord's new 440-bed hospital will be formally dedicated to the memory of Major General Silas B. Hays, surgeon general of the Army from 1955 to 1959, in ceremonies scheduled for 2 p.m. today.

A portrait of MajGen. Hays and the dedication plaque will be unveiled by members of the late general's immediate family.

Keynote speaker for the occasion will be the Honorable Burt L. Talcott, US Congressman, 12th Congressional District, who will be introduced by Major General H. G. Moore, Ft. Ord's commanding general.

The surgeon general of the Army, Lieutenant General Hal B. Jennings Jr., will make the formal dedicatory address.

The hospital, which has been three years in building and contains 367,000 square feet of floor space, is equipped with the most modern medical facilities for inpatient and outpatient care, specialty clinics and dental treatment.

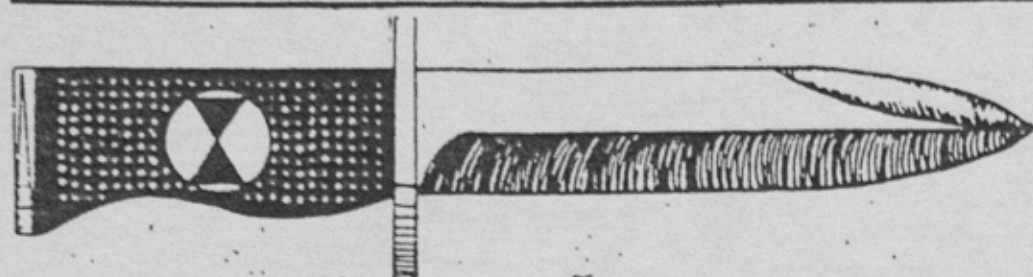
MajGen. Hays is being honored in the naming

of the new hospital because of his many achievements and innovations while serving with the Army.

Throughout the ceremony the 28th Army Band will provide appropriate music; after the ceremony, refreshments will be served in the new hospital dining hall.

The schedule of events for the prededication ceremony today honoring the family of the late Major General Hays' and distinguished guests is as follows:

Invocation	2:00 p.m.
Chaplain (Colonel) Charles L. Burgreen	
Opening remarks	2:05 p.m.
Colonel Edward J. O'Shaughnessy	
Unveiling of portrait	2:08 p.m.
Mrs. Andrew Raetzsch	
Reading of Plaque and remarks	2:12 p.m.
Mr. James Hay	
Benediction	2:17 p.m.
Chaplain (Captain) Harold Wasserman	
Proceed to dedication site	2:20 p.m.



COMMUNITY

health capsules

Does Silas B. Hays Hospital live up to its name?



by Doctor Gary Grant

Maj. Gen. Silas B. Hays is gone, but his name lives on. Does his spirit? Would he be proud today, of the hospital that carries his name?

Let's see why Dr. Silas B. Hays deserved to be so ultimately honored, that is, to have a hospital named after him. And let's then compare his ideals and performance to those of Silas B. Hays, the Army Hospital.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota eighty years ago, Dr. Hays built a distinguished career culminating with the job of Surgeon General of the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1959.

From 1928-1930 he did his internship and served as ward officer at Letterman General Hospital (so did I, by golly, only fifty years later). It was here that his talents and leadership were first recognized. This young physician was described as "conscientious, competent, and forceful."

It's interesting that none of the biographical information available to me mentioned whether or not he was good with patients—or their prostates, for that matter. Did his patients like him? Was he a successful surgeon and a caring bedside physician? Perhaps, but his real fame came from his later administrative accomplishments (under the surgeon general) during WWII and the Korean Conflict.

Silas B. Hays distinguished himself by keeping crucial medical supplies (like penicillin and blood) coming in to wounded soldiers. His unique supply depot and distribution systems were well conceived and highly successful. He also was instrumental in obtaining medical care benefits for family members of active duty servicemen. And he saved many lives with the medical air evacuation system he developed in Korea.

So here was an Army surgeon who excelled as an administrator.

Some would say this is a rare breed. He was actually able to benefit patients and military medicine more this way than at the bedside, and he got two stars doing it.

With all due respect, a couple of things bother me, however, about our hospital being named after Hays. For one, he was never stationed at Fort Ord. For another, he wasn't known for direct patient care skills. Come to think of it, I know of no senior physician whose officially recognized Army "claim to fame" has been excellence in primary patient care. And this is NOT because none deserve it! Providing good direct patient care just doesn't get you much recognition in this system.

So, to me, there's a bit of a paradox. Silas B. Hays Army Hospital is chock full of clinically oriented young professionals, nurses, medical specialists,

technicians, secretaries, and receptionists who are darn good at both primary patient care and the necessary support services. They do it twenty-four hours a day.

These lower ranking personnel of a hospital are the ones that really set its tone, its reputation, and its standards. Yes, I mean E-2's and E-3's, lieutenants, captains, and GS-3's. They receive and treat the sick. And, don't forget, that's precisely the reason of existence for our hospital.

Most of our front-line personnel care for the sick in a sensitive way. They do it well, and too often they also do it thanklessly. And I bet none of these men and women ever has a hospital named after them. But their names should be plastered on the front of our building. After all, they ARE the hospital.

They are what make good old Silas B. Hays proud. The man—and the hospital.

New hospital is among most modern

THE SILAS B. HAYS Army Hospital is one of the most modern facilities of its kind.

According to a hospital spokesman, since it was designed in 1967, the hospital has undergone periodic modification in order to incorporate the very latest developments in hospital technology.

Dedicated today to the honor of the late Major General Silas B. Hays, much work remains for its planned opening of Feb. 15, 1972.

Although structurally complete, it is still barren of all the equipment and apparatus one associates with a hospital. During the next several weeks the many complex electrical and mechanical systems will be tested and installed. The equipment and furniture will be moved in, and all other accessories added.

ONE OF THE features of the new hospital is that it is geared towards patient comfort. Having no large bay areas as in the old hospital, it is comprised of mostly two and four man rooms with some single rooms.

As well as adding privacy to the patients, each room is equipped with color televisions, AM-FM radios, piped in music and telephone jacks for each bed. Individual speakers which clip onto the pillow are also provided for added privacy. The idea is to make the patient feel at ease and as comfortable as possible.

More important than patient comfort and privacy is the way the hospital is designed for the maximum of speed and efficiency of the hospital staff in caring for the patient.

TO FACILITATE this, in-patient and out-patient areas

are completely segregated. The out-patient clinics and service areas are totally on the first three floors of the building and are serviced by their own entrances and elevators. A glass-walled courtyard at the out-patient reception desk provides a pleasant sitting area for waiting patients.

There are seven operating rooms in the new hospital; these extend off of a centralized work area to afford the maximum of efficiency and work area utilization.

Doctors will now be able to give a more personalized style of treatment and care to their patients due to the new facilities, while at the same time give the quickest and best care possible.

As one member of a touring group remarked, "If you have to get sick, this looks like a nice place to do it."



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON - FORT ORD
FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA 93941-5000

May 10, 1994



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Office of the Commander

Mrs. Ellen H. Raetzsch
827 East College Street
Sequin, Texas 78155

Dear Mrs. Raetzch,

Fort Ord is one of the Army Installations scheduled to close in the very near future. As a result of the transfer of property, the Silas B. Hayes Army Hospital, memorialized in honor of your father, Major General Silas B. Hayes, will no longer be located on U.S. Army property.

The Silas B. Hayes Hospital contains a framed portrait of your father and a brass plaque bearing the inscription "Silas B. Hayes Army Hospital, Named in Honor of Major General Silas B. Hayes, Medical Corps, United States Army, 18 February 1902 - 24 July 1964" followed by words of dedication. If you desire, these items will be forwarded to you.

If you do not wish these items to be forwarded to you, the Center of Military History in Washington, D.C. will provide storage and preservation at the Pueblo Army Depot, Colorado indefinitely.

Your family can be proud of the selfless sacrifice your father made in behalf of our country's freedom.

Please contact me as soon as you can so that we may ensure your wishes are carried out in a timely manner. The individual on my staff who will handle this matter is Major Phillip Sisk. His telephone number is (408) 242-7006, or you may write to him at the address above.

Sincerely,

Bjorn Lundegard
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Acting Commander

827 E. College St.
Sequin, Texas 78155

Dear Major Sisk,

I am saddened to hear about the closing of the Silas B. Hays Memorial hospital. I would like the framed portrait and the brass plaque ^{sent} to me at my home.

My address is:

827 E. College St.

Sequin, Texas 78155

My family and I appreciate you having these mementos sent to us.

Sincerely,