GENERAL SCIENCE

Fear Loss of Personnel

Armed Forces laboratories must compete with industry which can pay more for professional men and technical workers. Also faced with threat of losing reservists.

➤ AS DEFENSE production orders mount up and recent enlarged appropriations for Defense Department research begin to come through, armed forces laboratories are starting to feel the effects of competition from industry for scientific and technical manpower. Private industry can pay more.

A recent example of this, with others like it expected, was the case of an underwater sound physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory. He receives a salary of $7,800 a year. A private concern offered him $12,000. Fortunately, this particular physicist will probably stay with the government because he likes his work.

The pinch is not confined to Ph.D.'s. The Naval Research Laboratory has approximately 3,000 employees, of whom 1,000 are scientists and another 1,000 technicians and craftsmen. The latter build the machines and equipment which are the tools and products of scientific research.

Private industry is beginning to compete for these skilled workers, too. This competition is not confined to defense industry—television manufacturers have made tempting offers to some of the workers at this Laboratory.

Officials at the Laboratory do not know what the answer will be if all-out mobilization hits the nation. The answer will come from a higher level of government. Right now the National Security Resources Board is considering plans which envisage control during all-out mobilization of scientific and technical personnel, but whether or not this will include skilled laboratory workers is another question.

Another worry in this, and other, defense department research operations is the large number of employees in the reserves. Of the 3,000 employees at the Naval Research Laboratory, between 500 and 600 are in one component or another of the reserves.

If a man who is called up wants to go on active duty, the policy is not to ask for deferment. However, deferment has been asked for most employees in the reserve who have been called up. In all cases, except for those who are in Naval Aviation reserve units, this deferment has been granted.

What worries those responsible for keeping up the quality of the research work in the Naval Research Laboratory is, in view of the large percentage of reservists on the staff, what will happen during a total mobilization?

Right now, the Naval Laboratory is searching for 46 high level scientists—physics Ph.D's, electronics scientists and others—either to fill jobs which have been vacant for some time or to take on new jobs. It needs men to do research in sound propagation, optics, airborne and shipboard electric systems, antennas, vacuum tubes, radar, psychology, nuclear physics and other subjects.

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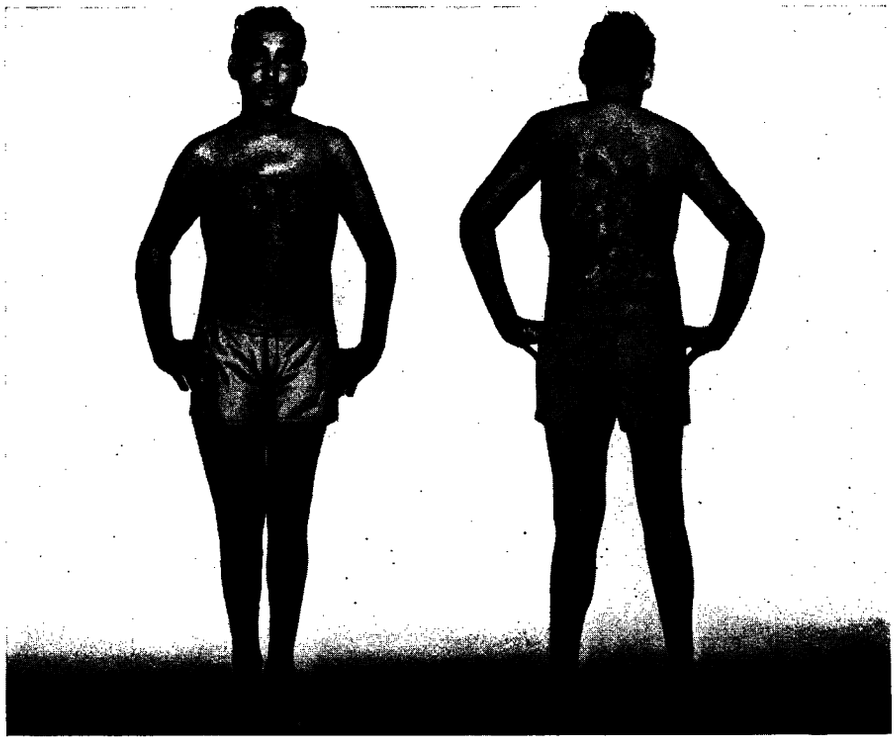

LIFE SAVED—Although burned over 71% of his body, T. C. Gains of Parker, Ariz., was saved by treatment with ACTH. In addition to his troubles with the terrible burn, Mr. Gains had to have an appendicitis operation (note scar) and had a bout with pneumonia. This photo was taken 102 days after treatment was started.

MEDICINE

ACTH Life-Saving In Severe Burn Case

➤ ACTH, one of the two wonder drugs for arthritis, was credited with saving the life of a man who was critically burned over 71% of his body.

Doctors gathered in Cleveland for the American Medical Association's meeting were given an opportunity to see the patient, T. C. Gains of Parker, Ariz., as well as hear the report of the case by the physician who treated him, Dr. M. James Whitelaw of Phoenix.

The case is considered of special significance because Mr. Gains's burns were from a gasoline explosion, and therefore comparable to those which cause many casualties in modern warfare.

In the course of recovering from the burns, Mr. Gains had an attack of a kind of pneumonia and also an appendicitis operation.

In addition to saving Mr. Gains' life, ACTH was credited with the fact that, contrary to medical experience, 39 of 40 tiny skin grafts from other persons not only took root but grew outwards into covering for the exposed muscles, without sloughing off later as is usually the case.

Unusual also was the fact that Mr. Gains did not have any crippling from contracting scar tissue which is common in deep and extensive burns.

After ACTH treatment was begun, 24 hours after the accident, Mr. Gains was practically free of pain and needed very little narcotic drugs. There was none of the acute toxicity, severe shock and complete prostration usual in such cases, and he showed a sense of well-being and had a good appetite. ACTH was given for 92 days, but Mr. Gains was up and about on the 27th day.

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