MEDICAL NEWS

Space Medicine Branch
Report

Annual Meeting
Space Medicine Branch
Las Vegas Hilton
May 11, 1977

1. The 26th Annual Business Luncheon
was called to order by President Karl H.
Houghton, who was given temporary cus-
tody of the Arkansas Potash Forest Gavel
delivered by Capt. Paul Tyler on behalf of
Capt. Roger Ireland, Custodian of the
Gavel, by authority of the "real" Cus-
todian, Dr. Frank B. Voris. President
Houghton then introduced those seated
at the head table. These individuals in or-
der from the audience's right were: Dr.
Paul Campbell, Maj. Gen. Heinz S. Fuchs,
Dr. Walton L. Jones, Maj. Gen. Heinz S. Fuchs, Dr.
Dr. Karl H. Houghton, Maj. Gen. Thomas P.
Stafford, Col. George C. Mohr, Capt.
Capt. Roger Ireland, Custodian of the
Galveston Branch active membership increased from
mence and was seated as a matter of pro-
essional courtesy.

2. Col. George C. Mohr, on behalf of Col.
Willard L. Meader, read the minutes of the
1976 business luncheon and presented the
treasurer's report. It was noted that the
Branch active membership increased from
99 in 1976 to 140 in 1977 in spite of the
increased dues levy of S. The Branch
bank balance also exhibits a favorable
trend, standing at $614.13 on 30 April,
1977. The membership was commended
for their enthusiastic support during the
past year. A motion to accept the minutes
of the 1976 business luncheon and treas-
urer's report was seconded and passed
unanimously.

3. President Houghton gave his president's
report. He expressed his personal gratitude
for the opportunity to lead the Space Medi-
cine Branch during the past year. He com-
mented on the Branch's formative plans
to develop a Space Medicine Branch
Newsletter. He also charged the members
to communicate freely and often with
their officers on means to improve the
quality and productivity of the Space Medi-
cine Branch.

4. Dr. Houghton presented the Hubertus
Strughold Award to Dr. William K.
Douglas, a Space Medicine pioneer known
and respected for his singular medical
contributions to America's Manned Space
Flight Program. Dr. Douglas is now serv-
ing as Director, Program Engineering-
Life Sciences, McDonnell Douglas Astro-
nauts.

5. Dr. Houghton next announced the win-
er of the Space Medicine Branch Space
Paper of the Year Award for 1977. Sq.
Ldr. M. W. Whittle, RAF Institute of
Aviation Medicine, Farnborough, Hants,
U.K., won this year's award for his paper
entitled "Regional Changes in Body
Volume Observed in Skylab Astronauts."
Since Sq. Ldr. Whittle was unable to re-
ceive his award personally, Gp. Capt.
Peter Howard agreed to hand-carry the
$100 honorarium to the winner.

6. Dr. Walton L. Jones, Chairman,
presented the report of the Nominating Com-
mitee. Nominees were: President-Elect:
Harold J. von Beckh, M.D.; Executive
Committee: Lawrence F. Dietlein, M.D.,
and Frederic Doppelt, M.D. Karl H.
Houghton, M.D., joins the Executive
Committee as a past president; Col. Wil-
lard L. Meader continues for the second
year of his 2-year term as Secretary-Treas-
urer; Col. Stanley C. Knapp, John M.
Lagerwerff, M.D., Capt. Paul Tyler and
David L. Winter, M.D., continue for their
second year as members of the Executive
Committee. A motion to accept the
report was seconded and passed unanimous-
ly.

7. Dr. Houghton introduced the guest
speaker, Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Stafford,
Commander, AF Flight Test Center, Ed-
wards AFB, Ca. General Stafford gave a
stimulating narrated film presentation on
the historic linking in space of the Apollo
and Soyuz vehicles culminating this joint
Soviet-American Test Program. The "on-
the-scene" color movie record of the ac-
tivities of Gen. Stafford and his fellow
space pioneers of both countries showed
the way to ever-expanding opportunities
for manned operations in space.

8. Following the address, Maj. Gen.
Heinz S. Fuchs, GAF, MC, was installed as
President for the coming year and the
gavel was relinquished by Dr. Houghton.

9. President Fuchs then presented the Past
President's plaque to Dr. Houghton.

The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.,

Respectfully submitted,
Willard L. Meader
Secretary-Treasurer
Space Medicine Branch

FPA Criticizes
FAA Regulation
Of Air Ambulances

The Flying Physicians Association,
whose membership of 2,400 is made up of
physicians who fly their own planes, has
sent a "frankly critical" reply to the FAA
concerning its proposed regulations for air
ambulances.

The FAA ANPRM (advance notice of
proposed rule making) on air ambulances
was printed in the Federal Register in July.

Aside from providing no justification for
air ambulance regulation, FPA says, the
FAA rules proposed would:

- Require that even a patient with
  greenstick fracture of a radius be carried
  in "an airplane with resuscitation equip-
  ment, various medical supplies, etc. Ob-
  viously it is ridiculous and expensive to
  boot."
- Require onboard stethoscopes and
  blood pressure devices. "Ever try to listen
  to anything with a stethoscope while air-
  borne? Particularly a very weak blood
  pressure?"
- Require medical oxygen to be carried.
  "As we all know, medical oxygen is fine
  for hospitals but, by definition, it is not
  safe in aircraft because of the possibility
  of extra moisture within the medical va-
  riety. The extra moisture can freeze in
  flight, effectively shutting off any oxygen
  flow."
- Require a 1-to-1 ratio of attendants to
  patients. "How many hospitals have 1-to-1
  ratios in their ICUs?"
- Require yearly training of medical
  attendants in "a whole list of things" ... so
  many that the attendant "would have
  no time at all left to work. He'd be spend-
  ing all his time going to school!" The
  training would also be required of any
  physician who might ride aboard. The
  physician could either fly or serve as an
  attendant, but not both. FPA suggested
  basic training but that physicians meet-
  ing their state or AMA continuing educa-
  tion requirements be exempt.
- Require that reports of deviations
  from the rules be filed with the flight
  standards service. "It does seem more logi-
  cal that a report of a medical deviation
  should be reviewed by an FAA Regional
  Flight Surgeon."