



### "Medic!"

To millions of GIs throughout the 20th century, this call has meant the emergency aid needed in a combat zone. Now this skill that saved many lives in war can be utilized at the home front.

The most obvious example of the need for trained medics is in the Detroit area Emergency Medical Service. The EMSS was instituted to relieve pressure from the already overburdened police and fire departments.

Programs like the EMS are being instituted throughout the country to aid in this program. The services biggest asset is the speed with which emergency service can be rendered. Five minutes is the average time of each call. The service is based on ability to pay. This will aid in relieving the high cost of private ambulance service, not to mention lives saved.

EMS is now operating on an experimental scale on the North-west side of Detroit. It is staffed by 59 para-medics most of whom have previous skill as military medics. The force has need of 30 additional staff. Jobs are attained through the civil service.

Shortages also exist in other areas of medical service of which former military medics can take advantage. Because of the overwhelming shortage of doctors in the United States it has been found that many tasks of physicians can be fulfilled by properly trained personnel.

Community colleges have been especially active in developing courses in careers such as medical lab technicians and inhalation therapists.

Mercy College and Western Michigan University offer courses in primary physician assistants. The

course can be completed in two years. Graduates will be awarded associate degrees. Marygrove College offers a two year associate degree for orthopedic physician assistants.

A unique facet of these programs is that they have been financed with federal grants that allow the student to continue his education if desired and obtain a four year degree. This can be done at any time without a penalty being imposed for time passed.

The federal government is active in developing career programs for veterans whose skill would otherwise go unnoticed or never be developed.

One of the puzzles of the Vietnam veteran is his reluctance to use the aid that is available. Only about a fifth of veterans take advantage of educational programs

offered and many of them drop out before completion.

An example of the satisfaction that can be obtained by participating in the medical training is Air Force veteran Elucus Jeffries, 27. Jeffries flew 96 combat missions over Vietnam in his eight-year service career.

He says of the EMS program: "I'm doing what I really want to do. I love it. This job takes a certain amount of dedication. I actually look forward to it every morning. It satisfies my need for excitement. It challenges me. There is small margin for error and you must make decisions quickly."

It is rare that skills used in the military can be used in such an important capacity in civilian life. Through a little effort much can be gained in a career that offers satisfaction and excitement and at the same time an important service to the community.

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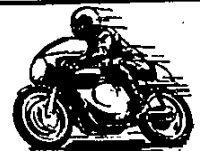
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