

**Program:** The 249<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, a 1000 Bed Combat Casualty Hospital  
**Speaker:** Gonzalo Chua, MD, Professor/Radiologist (retired), Sciencetech Club member

**Introduced by:** Ed Nitka

**Attendance:** 127

**Guests:** Morris Winkler, Bill Maxam, Bob Rottwann, Dave Badger, Herb Tesser, James Ziegler, Herman Fitscher, John Nusbaum, Frances Russell, Aden Scott, Anita Mellor, Heather Perdue, Janine Short, Claire Collins

**Scribe:** Gonz Chua

**Editor:** Bill Elliott

The speaker started by describing the discriminatory environment in the Philippines that prompted his career choice of Medicine and his unusual route of migration to Canada and then to the United States. This was followed by Residency Training at the Indiana University Medical Center from 1966-1969. The escalation of the Vietnam War and the change in the armed forces draft legislation suddenly placed the speaker in the unexpected position of being drafted into the US Army.

The subsequent months were challenging due the induction into the US Army as an unaccompanied officer along with the problems of relocating his young family located in Japan. In addition, he found himself in the position of being the Chief Radiologist of a large Radiology Department in which sophisticated procedures were performed to take care of combat casualties without the proper equipment and materials required. He described the initiatives he took to accomplish his task of taking care of his patients.

He then described the role of the 249th General Hospital and other hospitals in the US Army Medical Services which serviced the injuries and medical problems that arose during the war. He showed the physical assets of the hospital and numerous examples of the facilities and patients and corresponding radiology studies.

In the end, he was also able to acquire a small house in the Air Force Housing Complex for his family.

He also showed the statistics for the combat injuries that were unique to the Vietnam War.

He was transferred out of the 249th in December of 1970 and relocated to the Sandia Base Hospital. The 249th General Hospital closed its door in Jan. 1971.



Dr. Gonz Chua M. D.

Gonz's Autobiography available on Amazon.com: <https://www.amazon.com/Gonz-Chua-Remembers-Dr-Gonzalo/dp/1530511348>