Centennial Time Capsule Placed

Following on the successful celebration of the US Army Veterinary Corps Centennial in June, and the official unveiling and dedication of the Veterinary Corps monument at the AMEDD Museum, at the end of October, the official Centennial Time Capsule was put in place. On a sunny Friday afternoon, Veterinary Corps Officers and the AMEDD Museum Director carefully placed the time capsule into the cement pillar and covered it with the plaque dedicating the Veterinary Corps monument. The time capsule contains memorabilia from the Corps’ Centennial celebration, including a roster of all of the Corps members on duty, a copy of the Centennial program and a copy of the Corps Chief’s speech, as well as several models and molds created and signed by the monument sculptor. The time capsule will serve as a reminder of the celebration of the service Veterinary Corps and Veterinary Services personnel have provided the nation not only during its first 100 years, but since the founding of the United States as a nation.

No date has been set for opening the time capsule.

Veterinary Support to the 71st United Nations General Assembly

PHA-Fort Belvoir  Members of the Public Health Activity-Fort Belvoir provided veterinary support to the United States Secret Service for the 71st United States General Assembly in New York, New York from 15 to 26 September 2016. The team supported Military Working Dogs (MWDs) and United States Secret Service (USSS) Government Owned Animals (GOAs) supporting the General Assembly meeting.

Also available for veterinary support were members of the National Veterinary Response Team (NVRT), an asset of the National Disaster Medical Response System (NDMS).

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Veterinary services personnel and NVRT members in front of their mobile veterinary unit outside of the United Nations Headquarters.
Veterinary Support to United Nations General Assembly

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The NVRT is a cadre of individuals within the NDMS who have professional expertise in areas of veterinary medicine, public health and research whose members are private citizens who have been hired as intermittent federal employees and activated in the event of a disaster. The NVRT is the primary Federal resource for the treatment of injured or ill animals affected by disasters. While not disaster occurred, these individuals were deployed as a precautionary measure and aided in provided medical support to MWDs and GOAs across a large area of operations.

The partnership fostered between the DoD Veterinary Team and the NVRT during the mission ensured that care for sick or injured working dogs was provided promptly. The open communication between entities ensured that patient medical records were updated to reflect the care provided, regardless of which entity provided it.
The Veterinary Corps and Veterinary Services were well represented at the Expert Field Medic Badge competition hosted by 1st Med BDE at Fort Hood, TX. Veterinary Corps Officers from the 85th Civil Affairs BDE, the 43D Medical Detachment Veterinary Services Support, and PHC-Fort Leonard Wood earned their badges with an impressive finish. Congratulations to these outstanding officers on their accomplishment!
The First Year Veterinary Graduate Education (FYGVE) program has given participants the opportunity to delve more deeply into tricky Military Working Dog (MWD) medical cases.

Recently, a MWD presented with behavioral issues which precluded him from working regularly. His handler had recently moved to a new duty station, and his behavior made him unpopular with the canine handlers.

The FYGVE doctors were approached by the kennel to evaluate the behavior. In coordination with the Behavior resident at the LTC Daniel E. Holland Military Working Dog Hospital, the FYGVE doctors developed a plan of action.

The FYGVE team was assisted by a new handler who whole-heartedly took on the task. Hard work and keen observation by everyone identified trigger behaviors and implementing new training regimes.

Over the course of a year, consistent effort on the part of the FYGVE team and the dog handler paid off, with the MWD’s behavior improving to the point that he could be re-certified and returned to full duty status.

Key to their success was a focused and flexible, yet intensive behavior plan, that addressed specific issues, and a diligent and responsible handler who ensured that the behavior plan was followed day after day.

Without background knowledge, nobody would have known that this was the MWD all soldiers feared just months before. While the FYGVE doctors have all moved on to new duty stations, they continue to check in and get updates. The case is evidence that MWDs with behavior issues can make major improvements with some time, patience, and a dedicated group of caretakers.

MWD SPIKE

A behavior consult, along with the dedicated efforts of the FYGVE interns and his new handler, helped a MWD overcome behavioral issues and return to fully mission ready.
Veterinary Support to Institute of Surgical Research and Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute (USAISR)

The Institute of Surgical Research, originally named the Surgical Research Unit, was established in 1943 to evaluate the role of the newly discovered antibiotics in the treatment of war wounds. The unit was stationed at Halloran General Hospital, Staten Island, New York. The Institute became a permanent unit and moved to Brooke General Hospital, Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas in 1947, and had 12 personnel assigned.

As part of the Army Medical Department reorganization in March 1994, the Institute became a subordinate command of the Medical Research and Materiel Command, itself a major subordinate command of the newly formed Medical Command (MEDCOM), and in 1996, the Institute moved to its current location adjacent to the newly constructed Brooke Army Medical Center. As a result of the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, the Battlefield Health and Trauma Research Institute (BHT) was formed and collocated with the USAISR. The BHT is a tri-service combat casualty care research institute with the USAISR, the Naval Medical Research Unit, San Antonio (NAMRU-SA), and the US Air Force Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service (DECS). USAISR research focus is burn injury, coagulation and blood, critical care systems, damage control resuscitation, dental trauma, en route care, extremity trauma and regenerative medicine, multi-organ support technologies, ocular trauma, systems of care for complex patients, and tactical combat causality care. 1500 individuals make up the work force providing administrative, research and support to the wide spectrum of research topics.

USAISR Research Support Division (RSD) consists of veterinarians, animal technicians, husbandry staff, and laboratory technicians with 46 individuals within its two branches, Comparative Pathology and Veterinary Support. The Comparative Pathology Branch (CPB) is composed of a Laboratory Support Section and an Anatomic Pathology Section, both staffed by board certified Veterinary Pathologists. The Laboratory Support Section offers services for processing and analyzing clinical samples, including chemistry, CBC, coagulation and blood gas.

ISR has been awarded five Army Top Ten Inventions from work done using animals: 2004 - Chitosan Dressing; 2005 - Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT); 2007 - Damage Control Resuscitation; 2008 - Combat Gauge; 2009 - Burn Fluid Resuscitation Decision Support System (BRDSS); and 2015 – SAM Junctional Tourniquet. USAISR continues to be a prominent research institution with worldwide recognition and with the United States Warfighter as its primary focus for improvements in combat casualty care and burn treatment.
Snapshots from deployment:

During the 72nd MDVSS deployment, team members went above and beyond to provide support to fellow services members and allied troops. Team members taught classes on canine first aid and physical exams. The unit sponsored a fun run in support of Rabies Prevention Awareness, providing both key information about a deadly zoonotic disease and an opportunity for fun and fitness!

Eagle Vets... Ready to Fly!
A Soldier is promoted to the rank of Sergeant during deployment.

A Non-Commissioned Officer takes the Oath of Reenlistment while deployed.

Research and Development Short Course participants practice wearing personal protective equipment.

Presentation of the 2016 LTC Daniel E. Holland Leadership Award.

Soldiers view a display in the National Museum of Military History.

The AMEDD Museum Director places the Veterinary Corps Time Capsule.

The commemorative plaque marking the Corps’ Centennial.
Around the Corps

By Melissa Myers, USAMRMC Public Affairs

US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command hosted the 2016 Annual Military Veterinary Research and Development Short Course in September. The course exposes participants to research and development specialization offered via the US Army Long Term Health Education and Training (LTHET) program, providing a unique glimpse into the career opportunities available and giving attendees the exclusive opportunity to really see what a day would be like in the life of a lab animal veterinarian, a pathology veterinarian, or a scientific researcher in comparative medicine. The five-day course provides 40 total hours of education, training, and exposure related to DOD research and development mission requirements. This year’s training had a particularly positive turnout, with 93% attendees stating they now plan to apply for research and development specialization through the U.S. Army LTHET program.

A secret service canine was treated by the Public Health Activity (PHA)-Italy team during a visit from President Obama in July 2016. Although the veterinary team was not able to successfully treat the life-threatening illness, their care and compassion to the working canine team earned them the personal thanks of the Secret Service team and President Obama.

PHA-Italy Soldiers embarked on a memorable staff ride, diving into WWII history through visiting the National Museum of Military History (Musee National d’Histoire Militaire) and the American Military Cemetery and Memorial in Luxembourg. The staff ride was conducted in conjunction with the unit’s annual training exercise, setting the stage to remind Soldiers of US Army Europe’s commitment to our European allies, increase understanding of American military history in Europe, and honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and our allies.

Soldiers traveled back in time at the National Museum of Military History, exploring life-size diorama displays and the museum’s comprehensive collection of weapons, uniforms, vehicles, equipment, and even rations from WWII. The highlight of the day for the Soldiers followed the official tour, when PHA-I Soldiers assisted in the ceremony for retrieving the colors at sunset. In accordance with tradition, the flag was lowered, folded in a triangular fold, and kept under watch throughout the night at the memorial chapel as a tribute to our nation’s heroes. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity that the Soldiers will never forget.
A Veterinary Corps Officer recently became the first to earn the prestigious AMEDD Captains Career Course Top Graduate award. This honor is determined by a combination of course GPA, APFT score and peer evaluations. The AMEDD Captains Career Course Top Graduate award is a replica of a Civil War Hospital Surgeon’s knife, and is presented by AUSA and the Silver Caduceus Society. This top graduate was also presented with a 187th Bn Commander’s coin for APFT performance, and a 2-year membership from the Uniformed Veterinary Medicine Association as the top Veterinary Corps graduate.

A Basic Officer Leadership Course Officer receives the Elia Award. The Elia Award is presented to those officers in the Veterinary Track who have distinguished themselves by academic and leadership abilities. The Elia recipient is selected by the Class Advisor based on input from the Instructors on their performance and a vote from the students in the class on who they thought best demonstrated and lived the Army Values while attending the course, as well as who exemplifies the characteristics of a Veterinary Corps Officer.
PHA-Italy Conducts Field Training Exercise

Public Health Activity-Italy completed an annual training exercise in Germany. Soldiers participated in realistic scenarios and collaborative hands-on training to increase interoperability, strengthen relationships, and demonstrate unity of effort.

The Unit focused on training to ensure ready and resilient Soldiers by teaming up with performance experts.

The event culminated in a combined training exercise with Soldiers of the 64th MDVSS. Soldiers inspected rations, set up a modular, multi-purpose tent system, and completed scenario-based medical training in a fully functional veterinary field hospital.

A Non-Commissioned Officer Induction Ceremony inducted four NCO’s from PHA-Italy, and one NCO from PHA-Rhineland Pfalz in the time-honored traditional ceremony.

The distinguished guest and speaker at the event provided an inspirational message for the inducted NCOs as well as for the junior enlisted Soldiers.

The field exercise resulted in well-trained, ready and deployable Soldiers, building capacity in the European theater and beyond.
PHA-Hood Best Medic Competition

Two Non Commissioned Officers represented Public Health Activity-Hood at the Regional Health Command-Central Best Medic Competition on 21-23 September 2016. Both Soldiers endured a three day long competition that included Combat Water Survival Testing, Physical Fitness Assessment, Obstacle Course, 5K Buddy Run, Written Test, Day and Night Land Navigation, Army Warrior Tasks, and 12 mile ruck march. There were 10 teams competing and they were the only females to compete in this grueling competition.

Air Assault Graduate

Non Commissioned Officer from Public Health Activity—Fort Hood receives his Air Assault badge from the Commander of Public Health Activity—Fort Hood

Fall Running

Congratulations to everyone who ran the Army Ten Miler or the Marine Corps Marathon!

The Fort Hood Masters team included a Veterinary Corps Officer

Two Veterinary Services personnel ran the Army 10 Miler Shadow Run at Fort Hood, TX

Two officers from PHA– Ft Belvoir with their MCM finisher medals.
Congratulations to the latest BOLC graduates!

Welcome to the United States Army Veterinary Corps and best of luck to each of you at your future assignments!
Official Veterinary Corps Chief Facebook Page and Unaffiliated Veterinary Service Facebook Pages

VC Chief:  https://www.facebook.com/armyvetcorpschief/

Unaffiliated:
1. UVMA (Uniformed Veterinary Medicine Association)
2. AREVP (Association of Retired Enlisted Veterinary Personnel)
3. The mighty 68R club
4. 68T, 68R and 68S NCO Leadership Support Forum
5. Soldiers of the Veterinary Corps
6. Army Veterinary Corps Group
7. Former Students of the 68R10 Veterinary Food Inspection (2012-2015)
8. 68T [Animal Care Specialist] MOS
9. ROVR