In October, Public Health Activity (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 Militarie) 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. After touring the museum, Soldiers traveled to the American Military Cemetery and Memorial, where they were greeted by the Public Affairs Officer of the Luxembourg Embassy. The PAO presented the group with a brief overview of the services provided by US Embassies to Americans overseas, the mission of the US Embassy in Luxembourg, and fielded questions from the group on his experiences and challenges. Next, Soldiers were introduced to the Superintendent of the American Military Cemetery, who provided an unforgettable lesson in history, explaining in detail the movement of the Allied forces across France, Germany, and the eventual Allied victory. He personalized the Soldiers buried in the cemetery through historic accounts of their bravery, as the group visited the graves of 5076 American service members. These stories highlighted the legacies of individuals like General George S. Patton, revered in Luxembourg for his leadership of the Third US Army, Lieutenant Nancy Leo, the only woman buried in the Luxembourg American Cemetery, and Private William McGee and Sergeant Day Turner, who both posthumously earned the Medal of Honor for heroism in WWII. The highlight of the day for the Soldiers followed the official tour, when the PHA-I Soldiers were invited to assist 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.

Overall, the outing was a great success, leaving each Soldier with a greater understanding of American military history, the importance of promoting relationships with US allies and partners, and a renewed sense of purpose as the group entered into their annual training exercise in Baumholder, Germany.
U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Officer Inducted into DLA Troop Support Hall of Fame

COL John C. Smith was inducted posthumously into the Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support Hall of Fame for his outstanding mission support. COL Smith is the first Veterinary Corps officer ever to be inducted into the DLA Troop Support Hall of Fame. COL Smith distinguished himself through exceptionally meritorious service as the Chief Food Safety Officer and Senior Veterinarian in the Subsistence supply chain. As the agency’s Department of Defense Veterinary Service Executive Agent advisor to the Commander, he was the Subsistence supply chain’s focal point for all quality and technical policies, and responsible for executing the DoD Hazardous Food and Drug Recall Program – the lone worldwide food safety recall system, for all uniformed services and support elements.

COL Smith also served as the quality and technical liaison between DLA and the respective veterinary commands, DoD Veterinary Service Activity, the Services, and other government agencies. As the Program Director for the Combat Rations Network for Technology Implementation (CORANET), he was responsible for the DoD manufacturing technology program, and for worldwide support, assistance, and technical guidance concerning food safety and quality assurance issues for DLA customers. COL Smith’s broad deployment experience, staff officer expertise and technical knowledge made him a vital asset to DLA Troop Support, the Veterinary Corps, the Army, and most importantly, the warfighter. The distinctive accomplishments of COL Smith reflect great credit upon himself, the Defense Logistics Agency, the United States Army, and the Department of Defense.
Public Health Activity Fort Belvoir had the honor of providing Veterinary Services (VS) personnel to the numerous agencies tasked with providing security at the Democratic National Convention last summer. Multiple Veterinary Corps Officers and Veterinary Services Soldiers traveled to the City of Brotherly Love where they coordinated with various agency contacts to ensure the health and welfare of the working canines. While interagency coordination can often be a daunting task, on-site contacts worked diligently to establish clear communication, a site of operations, and a vehicle to provide VS personnel ambulatory medical care at the event.

Deploying service members prepared for high heat, both for themselves and the working dogs. Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with local emergency centers were generated for advanced medical care or a mass casualty scenario, but, thankfully, utilization of neither emergency center was required.

Overall, few minor sick calls were seen, and 58 health certificates were issued for return travel. Interagency cooperation, thorough preparation by all agencies, and adaptability to dynamic situations ensured the health and welfare of all canines and successful completion of the mission!
PHA-Italy Conducts Annual Field Training Exercise

Public Health Activity-Italy completed a training exercise in Germany. PHA-Italy Soldiers attended the exercise, where they participated in realistic scenarios and collaborative hands-on training to increase interoperability, strengthen relationships, and demonstrate unity of effort. Soldiers learned how to properly exit a tactical vehicle that has flipped over. Medical lane training included combat casualty care and requesting medical evacuation. The Unit focused on training to ensure ready and resilient Soldiers by teaming up with a performance expert from the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Program. Soldiers were taught real-time resiliency during land navigation and a ten-mile ruck march, giving them tools for improved performance as well as resiliency-building techniques during difficult challenges.

The event culminated in a combined training exercise with Soldiers of the 64th MDVSS. Eighty-six Soldiers inspected rations to extend non-perishable food items. The Soldiers set up a modular, multi-purpose tent system, and completed scenario-based medical training in a fully functional veterinary field hospital. Soldiers also trained how to properly perform preventative maintenance checks and services on generators and tactical vehicles.

A Non-Commissioned Officer Induction Ceremony was held, inducting four NCO’s from PHA-Italy, and one NCO from PHA-Rhineland Pfalz in the time-honored traditional ceremony. The Public Health Command Europe Sergeant Major, was a distinguished guest and speaker at the event, and 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.
During a recent Green Tab Lunch, the commander of the 65th Medical Brigade presented the LTC Holland Veterinary Leadership Award to the Commander of the 106th Med Det (VSS). The nomination states that he “Has made immeasurable” contributions to the Army and the AMEDD throughout his career; positively impacting every unit in which he has served”. During a single 6 month period he concurrently served as the PHCD-Fort Hood Commander, PHCR-South Veterinary Clinical Specialist, and First Year Graduate Veterinary Education Instructor.

Two of the Veterinary Corps Officers assigned to PHA-Ft Belvoir completed the 2016 Marine Corps Marathon. Congratulations to both of you on your accomplishment!
EVENT: 83rd Civil Affairs Battalion (BN) Veterinary TCCC training at Ft. Bragg, NC

PARTICIPANTS: Civil Affairs (CA) Medics, 83rd BN Veterinarian, Ft. Bragg Veterinary Center (VETCEN) veterinary technicians, 3rd Special Forces Warfare Group (SFWG) Kennel Master, 3rd SFWG Veterinary Technician, 92nd CA BN veterinarian, and personnel from the 551st Military Police Company were present.

TASK: Enhance veterinary and trauma skills, provide familiarization with military working dogs (MWD), and learn the fundamentals of kennel inspections.

PURPOSE: Train Civil Affairs Medics to handle combat emergencies in a working dog, enabling them the ability to teach these skills to our partner nations.

ENDSTATE: Trainees proficient in MWD veterinary TCCC, increased comfort doing physical exams, and performing basic kennel inspections. Increased survivability of injured MWDs. Improved Mil-to-Mil cooperation and interoperability among partner units.

Clockwise from top left: Medics work to control massive hemorrhage while blindfolded. E Company technician practices catching a MWD. F Company and B Company Soldiers work to cover a simulated sucking chest wound. A Company Soldiers prepare to perform a needle decompression on a simulated tension pneumothorax.
Welcome to the Veterinary Services Newest Animal Care Specialists!

The Army Medical Department Center and School Health Readiness Center of Excellence (AMEDDC&S HRCe) and the Department of Veterinary Science (DVS) hosted a graduation ceremony for the Army’s newest Animal Care Specialists (MOS 68T).

Family, friends, and fellow service members joined the graduates and their instructors in Blesse Auditorium to celebrate their achievement as they prepare to start their Army career.

The Chief of the Animal Health Branch spoke to the graduates about the importance of the knowledge that they had earned, and encouraged them all to put that knowledge into practice and look for opportunities to learn more as they move to their first duty station.

The guest speaker, a former 68R, shared her wisdom about the importance of helping soldiers and taking the opportunity to volunteer. After a rousing rendition of the class motto, the members of Class 171 were released to begin travel to their new duty stations. Congratulations to the newest Animal Care Specialists in the Veterinary Service and Good Luck as you start your Army Career!
Class 171-17 Graduation

Upper left: The guest speaker speaks to the class; Upper right: The Chief of the Animal Health Branch presents the class Distinguished Honor Graduate her diploma;
Lower left: The Chief of DVS congratulates class members; Lower right: The Distinguished Honor Graduate presents the guest speaker a gift on behalf of the class.

Congratulations to the Graduates of Captains Career Course 16-164!!
43D MDVSS and 21st Combat Support Hospital Certification Training Exercise MWD Cross-Training Events

Personnel from the 21st Combat Support Hospital and 555th Forward Surgical Team received comprehensive didactic and hands-on training from the Soldiers of the 43D Medical Detachment Veterinary Services Support (MDVSS) IAW the Clinical Practice Guidelines regarding emergency, anesthetic, and surgical management of Military Working Dogs. The main focus of the training was to provide TF MED 21 Soldiers with basic relevant veterinary knowledge and the opportunity to experience live emergency and surgical canine patients in order to prepare them to help support potential MWD emergency patients downrange. The training phases progressed to the capstone event of the 43D performing a live canine surgical procedure in the TF MED 21 operating room during its field Certification Training Exercise (CTE).

The TF MED 21 training started off with a didactic portion that focused on MWD safety considerations, basic physical exam techniques, and surgical and recovery considerations of the MWD patient. This was followed by a hands-on training portion at the Fort Hood VETCEN that allowed the 68Ds to place IV catheters, surgically prepare the patients, and scrub-in to assist with instrument and tissue handling during spay and neuter procedures performed by a Veterinary Corps Officer.

During the actual CTE, several Veterinary Corps Officers repeated the didactic portion in the field for 68Ws, 68Cs, CRNAs and other Emergency Management providers utilizing the Trauma FX® K9 HERO trainer dog. This was followed up by a MWD (and his stunt double HERO) arriving at the field hospital via field litter ambulance (FLA) as a notional MEDEVAC patient that the Emergency Management Team was required to examine, stabilize, and transfer to the 555st FST facility for definitive surgical care, all while utilizing telemedicine with veterinary personnel throughout the process. The goal was to stress EMT and FST personnel with a live canine and challenge them to think through the process of how they would accommodate such a patient in their facility, as well as other operational considerations involved with such a scenario.
On the surgical side, TF MED 21 conducted live outpatient procedures in the field as part of its CTE validation. The final surgical procedure of the day was a canine scrotal ablation performed by a junior Veterinary Corps Officer utilizing the TF MED 21 equipment and personnel. Senior Veterinary Corps Officers assisted CRNAs with anesthetic management of the patient while the 68Ds performed sterile surgical preparation of the patient and assisted with the successful procedure. The patient was recovered without incident in the Intermediate Care Ward.

In addition to training our human medical counterparts, the 43D also established Role II and Role III split operations during the CTE that allowed us to exercise our own veterinary capabilities and familiarize TF MED 21 with animal care and food safety missions.

The Zebu Vets conducted real-world Physical Exams in the field on live MWD patients. With the support of Public Health Activities-Fort Hood, the 43D was able to successfully conduct five live surgical procedures.

Food missions involved collection of lettuce samples for a notional food borne illness outbreak that were then transferred to the 43D Food Surveillance Laboratory in the rear, and real world inspection of the TF MED 21 Containerized Kitchen facility at the CTE site.

Training of our fellow AMEDD providers is important to prepare them for times an MWD or CWD may present in need of emergent care when veterinary services personnel are not available, or when veterinary personnel need to utilize their facilities for care. This can happen due to a variety of situations, including...
distribution issues of veterinary assets and lack of MEDEVAC resources in an evolving theater such as OIR, or the inability of those resources to get the canine patient to veterinary care.

Overall, the training was well received by the TF MED 21 and 1st Medical Brigade personnel. Those who participated in the CTE got an up close look at what a Veterinary Service Support Team (Role II) and Veterinary Medicine and Surgical Team (Role III) adds to the Force Health Protection capabilities in theater. The 68Ts had a chance to learn more about the similarities between their MOS and 68D responsibilities while picking up a couple tricks of the trade regarding patient sterile preparation and instrument cleaning. The 43D also gained more comprehensive knowledge about the overall facility and operational management of a field Combat Support Hospital and Forward Surgical Team that can translate into potential enhanced resources for our patients in a deployed environment. Integrated cross-training opportunities with our human medical counterparts should continue to be actively pursued in order to continue building partnerships that will benefit our canine patients in active operational environments around the world.

“By the Horns!”

43D MDVSS
The Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) 2nd Football World Cup was held in Muscat, Oman in January 2017. The goal of CISM is to build better relationships between militaries around the world through sports. The CISM Football World Cup is held every 3 years. Teams from 16 different countries participated in the competition this year including: Algeria, Poland, Mali, Guinea, Iran, Syria, Ireland, France, Egypt, Germany, Bahrain, Canada, the USA, Oman, Qatar, and North Korea.

Team USA’s CISM Soccer Camp this year was located at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. The camp consisted of try-outs for the top players from each respective branch service. Thirty-two players were invited to the Team USA Camp with eight players representing each service. Each service member competed for a spot on the final roster of 20 players. This grueling three week camp included up to three sessions per day, sometimes going from 0500-2300.

A PHA-Fort Belvoir Joint Base McGuire Dix Lakehurst Veterinary Services Branch Soldier was one of eight Army players invited to attend the Team USA soccer camp after distinguishing himself at the 2016 US Armed Forces Soccer Tournament by making the All-Tournament team. The preparation for Team USA Camp started months in advance. While preparing for the Team USA he suffered a devastating ankle injury. Just like on the soccer field, he tackled this injury head on, aggressively pursuing diagnostics and rehabilitation to return to nearly 100% before the start of the camp.

At the camp, the Veterinary Services Soldier excelled both on and off the field proving to be a vital part of the team. He made the final roster of 20 players, one of only two Army personnel to make the final team. He represented his service well at camp, not only finishing first in the multi-stage fitness test (beep test) but breaking the all-time record set by any Team USA Camp player.

Every Team USA player’s hard work and determination was on full display in Oman. They were complimented by multiple countries for their hard work, and sportsmanship. Although Team USA did not make it out of the group stages, the entire team portrayed the United States of America in a positive manner, building relationships with other militaries, and setting a foundation for the future of Team USA Soccer.
Veterinary Services Team Member Recognized

A junior enlisted Soldier of the US Army Element Naval Amphibious San Diego was recognized with a Letter of Appreciation (LOA) by the Director of Professional Education at the Naval Medical Center San Diego. The Navy Captain highlighted the Veterinary Services Soldier’s professionalism in his role as the Inspectors’ Escort during the 2016 Naval Medical Center San Diego CLER Visit.

Congratulations and Bravo Zulu!

Public Health Activity-Fort Belvoir Soldier Participates in BOSS Community Outreach Program: Reading with the Kids!

A PHA-Fort Belvoir Soldier spends her free time reading with the kids at a local elementary school as part of the JBMHH BOSS’s Community Outreach Program. It is a volunteer program that is open to all Soldiers married or single. It allows the Army to build good community relations and gives each child one-on-one reading attention which is essential to building their reading skills and self-confidence.

Rota VTF holds wellness clinic for POAs

Rota VTF and PHA- Italy performed a veterinary wellness clinic in Portugal. There are Active Duty Service Members stationed overseas, many of whom have their furry family members with them. For some, the language barrier in the local community is a hindrance to their pets’ veterinary needs. For others, their work schedules preclude the ability to take their pets to local veterinarians. Veterinary Corps Officers performed sick call and wellness exams, vaccinations, FAVN blood draws, and issued EU passports. Their services were well received and the service members and their dependents expressed deep gratitude. It is the hope that this budding relationship will continue to blossom, and that these visits can occur with greater frequency and regularity.
Public Health Activity – Fort Belvoir
Provides Support to the 58th Presidential Inauguration

In October 2016, Public Health Activity – Fort Belvoir (PHA-FB) was tasked to provide Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region (JFHQ-NCR) with the majority of veterinary service support to the 58th Presidential Inauguration. This support involved advising the JTF Commander on food defense, veterinary medical care of federal working animals, veterinary preventive medicine programs, veterinary medical supplies, and assisting with the planning and execution phases of the operation.

Prior to the event, PHA-FB Soldiers were tasked to man veterinary teams and food defense teams. The Soldiers provided support to the canine units and ceremonial horses, many of which were military horses from the Old Guard (Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall), 1st Cavalry Division (Fort Hood), and 1st Infantry Division (Fort Riley, Kansas). Veterinary care encompassed standard health physicals, sick calls, and health certificates for return to home stations. Likewise, the food defense teams provided 24-hour support to the numerous feeding stations for the participating Armed Forces, as well as the traditional Military Ball, now known as the Armed Services Gala.

The Soldiers of PHA-FB demonstrated their talents and MOS proficiencies to ensure a successful 58th Presidential Inauguration with zero human or animal casualties. Albeit behind the scenes, this was an excellent opportunity to showcase the United States Army Veterinary Services capabilities to the Armed Forces and numerous federal government agencies.
Public Health Command Europe vets visit UK’s Defence Animal Centre

Public Health Command Europe leadership visited the United Kingdom’s Defence Animal Centre (DAC). The purpose of the visit was to learn about the Centre, its mission capabilities and to develop the relationship between the US Army Veterinary Corps and the Royal Army Veterinary Services.

“The Royal Army Veterinary Service is one of the larger veterinary military organizations in NATO and, without a doubt, one of our key partners worldwide,” said the Public Health Command Europe commander.

The DAC is the training hub for all Military Working Dogs (MWDs) and Military Ceremonial Horses within the United Kingdom (UK) and is comprised of three training squadrons: Canine Training Squadron, Equine Training Squadron and Veterinary Training Squadron. The Defence Animal Centre commanding officer, explained that these squadrons collectively procure dogs and horses on behalf of the UK Ministry of Defence, provide veterinary care to the working animals, as well as train animals, handlers, riders, and farriers within their ranks. The visit included an extensive tour of the facility to learn more about the capabilities of the Defence Animal Centre.

The Defence Animal Centre can perform minor surgical procedures, provide dental care and conduct rehabilitation treatment for its Military Working Dogs. While away from the central facility, civilian veterinarians provide care for the UK’s Military Working Dogs.

In addition to veterinary care, the facility provides Military Working Dog handler training and veterinary training for the Royal Army veterinary technicians. Currently, their technicians are training at civilian practices to ensure they receive the appropriate case load to become a registered technician.

Along with the Military Working Dog mission, the Defence Animal Centre provides extensive care for equine regiments to include the Household Calvary Regiment, the Household Division and the King’s Troop Royal Horse Artillery. For patient specialty care as well as cultivating proficiency for the UK military veterinary provider staff, the Defence Animal Centre has an agreement with the University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine to provide extensive care to their horses. In addition to veterinary care for the horses, the Defence Animal Centre operates the Army School of Equitation, where Soldiers and horses learn ceremonial riding, as well as the Army School of Farriery, an apprenticeship program for Soldiers to become registered farriers.

According to the PHCE commander, the visit to the Defence Animal Centre was a great success.
PHCE fosters interoperability with Bundeswehr Counterparts

Public Health Command Europe staff visited their counterparts from the Bundeswehr Medical Services Headquarters. The visit was an opportunity for the PHCE staff to learn about the Bundeswehr’s organization and identify similarities and comparable functions.

The visit included an overview of the Bundeswehr Public Health program as well as a tour through the Central Institute of the Bundeswehr Medical Service.

The Central Institute houses the veterinary and food chemistry program; entomology and zoology; tele-microbiology and more.

“There are many parallel services that the U.S. Army public health enterprise and the Bundeswehr public health services provide for our respective militaries,” said the PHCE Commander. “As we toured their facilities, I observed a few areas where we could learn from their knowledge and experiences.”

The two organizations have been building their partnership for the last year and have since committed to finding ways to work and train more closely together.

PHCE and the Bundeswehr Public Health Services worked together to develop quarterly combined training events which partners U.S. Army Public Health Soldiers with Bundeswehr Veterinary Services Soldiers.

The training “focuses on conducting food protection training utilizing in food safety, defense, and production in support of NATO operations. While these events foster a climate and trust and understanding between allies, they also serve as a way to challenge and empower junior Soldiers.

“These events challenge our junior Soldiers to apply their technical skills to non-standard circumstances, significantly contributing to their confidence and competence, and making them better prepared to perform their public health missions in the current complex operating environment,” the PHCE Commander said.

And because of this operating environment within Europe, building interoperability with NATO allies and partners is important.

“Our understanding of interoperability, structures, procedures and material will set the standards for European military cooperation and defense in the field of public health and VetService,” the Budeswehr Medical services Commander said. “We have to get a common mind of what we are doing and we must be able to share information.”