



# VETERINARY SERVICE NEWS

April-June 2016



## US Army Veterinary Corps Centennial



**IN THIS ISSUE:**

P2	463d MDVSS/72nd TOA	P21	Veterinary Conference
P3	72nd MDVSS in CENTCOM	P21	Uniformed Services Veterinary Spring Ball
P6	64th MDVSS NEO Operation	P22	Veterinary Corps Centennial
P7	64th MDVSS Training Exercises	P29	Veterinary Service Soldiers are Army Strong
P10	43d MDVSS JRTC Rotation	P31	Animal Victoria Cross
P11	218th MDVSS Pacific Pathways	P31	Bite Prevention Training
P12	83d CA BN training	P32	Teddy Bear Clinic
P15	412th CA BN training	P33	NAF Employee Awards
P15	DSCA Course Article	P34	Veterinary Corps History
P16	FYGVE Staff Ride	P40	Marijuana Toxicity Article
P17	Redstone Arsenal Wildlife Vet Support	P41	Global Veterinary Engagements Article
P17	Dolphin Procedure	P43	C.J. Reddy Leadership Course Article
P18	APHC/FDA PMO training	P44	APHC Veterinary Service Products
P19	GTMO Food Protection Mission	P45	Facebook Pages
P20	Working Dog Handler Training		

## Operation Spartan Shield Transfer of Authority



On 25 March 2016, the 463<sup>rd</sup> MDVSS completed their mission in support of Operation Spartan Shield/Operation Inherent Resolve. The unit headed home to Ft. Benning after providing exceptional veterinary service support across numerous countries within the CENTCOM Region. The 72<sup>nd</sup> MDVSS begins the challenging mission with teams spread across four countries ready to support the myriad of animal medicine, food protection, and public health programs required to ensure Force Health Protection.

## 72nd MDVSS in CENTCOM

# 72nd MDVSS Iraq Team

**Background:** Bite reports, emergency care, and stabilization of Military Working Dogs (MWDs) are common times for Human Health Care Providers (HCP) to interact with veterinary patients. Veterinary patients require a special skill set to handle, diagnose, and treat appropriately so HCPs must receive this training from a Veterinary Corps Officer (VCO) or Animal Care Specialist (68T).

**Mission:** The 72nd MDVSS Iraq Team was tasked with training the Taji TMC on bite report and emergency animal care procedures.

**Execution:** The current 72nd MDVSS Iraq rotation veterinarian, and her Animal Care Specialist provided training for 25 Role 1 personnel and two HCPs at the Taji TMC. Their audience included US Forces and NATO personnel from Australia and New Zealand. One of the contract working dog (CWD) companies, American K-9 (AM K-9), volunteered three of their dogs as model patients for initial survey examinations during the hands-on portion of training.

**Results:** FST personnel are now properly trained on emergency working dog care procedures and stabilization. In addition, they gained knowledge of bite reporting protocols.



*VCO provides working dog emergency care training for Health Care Providers and Role 1 personnel at Taji.*



*Veterinary Service team pose with the AM K-9 working dog 'training aid' and Role 1 personnel.*

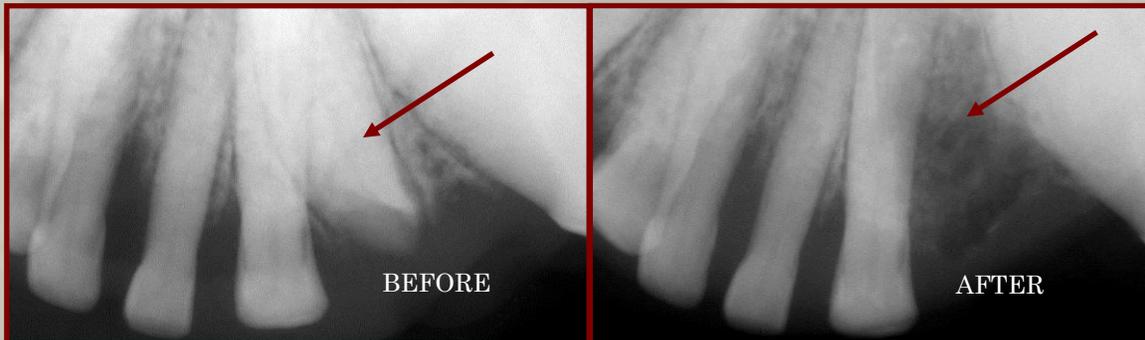


## 72nd MDVSS in CENTCOM

### 72nd MDVSS - Qatar MWD Clinical Case

#### MWD: Surgical Extraction of Fractured Incisor

**Presentation:** In the late evening of 19 APR, a VCO received a call from Al Udeid Air Base Kennel that an explosives detection canine had fractured an incisor tooth while searching a vehicle. The handler had stopped the bleeding and Ares was stable, so the VCO scheduled dental radiographs at the 379 EMDG Hospital the next day.



**Diagnostics:** Using the portable dental radiography from the 379 EMDG Dental Clinic, the vet team was able to determine that a portion of the root of incisor #403 (right mandibular third incisor) still remained.



**Procedure:** In the ER area of 379 EMDG Hospital, Ares was placed under total intravenous anesthesia (TIVA) using a propofol infusion monitored by the Animal Care NCO. With the help of the 3DMCDS Brigade Surgeon an envelope flap was used to access and visualize the tooth root for extraction. The root was removed and the incision was closed using 4-0 Vicryl Rapide in an interlocking pattern. Ares remained stable under anesthesia and woke without complication.

**Treatment:** VCO placed the MWD on anti-inflammatory pain medication and a course of Clindamycin antibiotics. She also instructed the kennel to feed the MWD on soft food and work only on light duty for one week.

**Recovery:** At the one-week recheck, the incision appeared to be healing well, and the sutures were intact. At the two-week recheck, the incision had completely healed and VCO released the MWD to return to bitework.



## 72<sup>nd</sup> MDVSS - Qatar MWD Clinical Case

### MWD: Cystic Prostatitis & Chronic Tail Tip Trauma



**Presentation:** On 7 APR, a 7yo MI Belgian Malinois presented to the Qatar Veterinary Treatment Facility with a three day history of lethargy and hyporexia. On presentation the MWD had a depressed mentation, normal TPR and was estimated to be 8% dehydrated. A cephalic catheter was placed and a quarter shock dose of LRS was administered. On examination, he was painful in his caudal abdomen, and on rectal exam, his prostate was enlarged and painful.

**Diagnostics:** Due to limited diagnostic capabilities at Camp As Sayliyah, the MWD was transported to Al Udeid Air Base 379 EMDG Hospital for further testing. Baseline bloodwork and abdominal radiographs showed no significant abnormalities. A focused ultrasound of his prostate showed significant enlargement with mottled hypoechoic areas. Based on these findings, the presumptive diagnosis was cystic prostatitis.

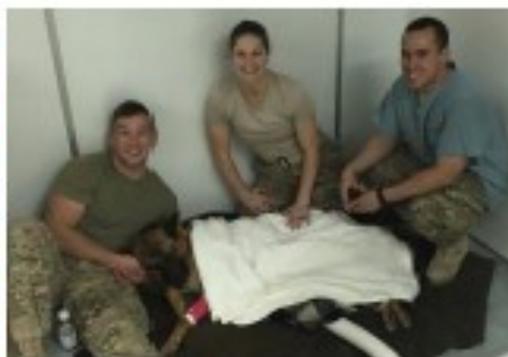


**Hospitalization:** The MWD was hospitalized at the CAS MWD Kennel with round-the-clock care from his handler and Animal Care NCO. His treatment regimen included broad spectrum antibiotics, pain medication, and anti-nausea medication administered intravenously, along with a rehydration fluid protocol.

**Surgical Treatment:** VCO received confirmation of the prostatitis diagnosis after consultation with a veterinary radiologist. Neutering him as soon as possible would be the best way to resolve the cystic prostatitis. Because the team had been managing his chronic tail tip trauma and a tail amputation had been scheduled on return to his home station, the team decided to combine the procedures to minimize anesthesia time.



**Recovery:** The surgery was completed without complication, and he continued his treatment regimen of antibiotics, pain medication and anti-nausea medication. Post-operative challenges included a hematoma and minor dehiscence of the caudectomy site. Vito was an excellent patient and quickly won the hearts of the Qatar Vet Team during his daily bandage changes. The MWD made a full recovery and recently returned to duty.



## 64th MDVSS and PHC-Region Europe Conduct Real World Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations

**WHO:** 64<sup>th</sup> MDVSS Soldiers

**WHAT:** Emergency NEO from Turkey

**WHEN/WHERE:** 31 March 2016 Ramstein Air Base, Germany

**SUMMARY:** With only an hour and half of notice following verbal order, four VCOs and four 88Ts started on a mission to Ramstein AFB to be briefed on veterinary support of pets involved in the emergency noncombatant evacuation from Turkey. After receipt of mission and coordination of schedules, one VCO/88T team remained at Ramstein as the first 24hr shift to meet arriving planes with dislocated families. They provided a quarantine brief to arriving families and examined 47 animals arriving overnight. As Germany has strict pet import regulations which the pets from Turkey did not have time to meet, all pets will be quarantined on base until they can be in compliance. Unfortunately, no pictures of the arrival exams could be taken as they were performed in the sterile customs area.

Right: Lead VCO briefs her troops on the mission in the Ramstein AFB Airport while PHC veterinarians huddle in the background.



Left: Veterinary Service Soldiers await the arrival of the first plane of the evening.

**WHO:** 64<sup>th</sup> MDVSS Soldiers

**WHAT:** Emergency NEO from Turkey

**WHEN/WHERE:** 31 March- 5 April 2016, Ramstein Air Base, Germany

**SUMMARY:** Teams consisting of 1 VCO and 1 or 2 88Ts (Animal Health Technicians) from the 64<sup>th</sup> MDVSS worked daily with members of Public Health Command (PHC) Region-Europe to examine animals upon landing at Ramstein and to make house calls to quarantined pets. Home visits were executed to collect blood for FAVN blood tests required by German law for animals coming from Turkey, update rabies vaccinations, and ensure quarantine compliance. After ensuring that records from all 20 pets remaining in the EU were perfect, on Tuesday 5 April, VCOs of the PHC assisted with inspection by German state veterinarians of the ad-hoc lodging quarantine procedures. 11 pets and their records were inspected and the host nation veterinarians are pleased so far with compliance. In total, the 64<sup>th</sup> MDVSS provided over 100 man-hours of support to PHC for this real world emergency mission.



Left: PHC and German state veterinarians, scan the microchips of two aggressive Chihuahuas (under the dog bed) while maintaining safety of both dogs and people.

Right: VCO, 64<sup>th</sup> MDVSS, reviews the records of an evacuee's cat with German state veterinarian during inspection of quarantine procedures.



## 64th MDVSS Training Exercises

### Field Medical and Surgical Training

By SPC Sally Dolenc

64th Veterinary Service Support (VSS)

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – In Dog Center Europe, Pulaski Barracks, members of the 64th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service Support (MDVSS) Detachment from the 421st Medical Battalion (Multifunctional) stationed in Baumholder, Germany recently completed a field exercise as part of a larger unit level shock event that deployed 64th MDVSS in small groups to different locations throughout Germany.

In an excellent demonstration of collaboration and building partnerships with allied partners, the site served as a central point to host a joint meeting between Senior Veterinarian for the Bundeswehr Medical Headquarters, Commander of Public Health Command Region Europe, and the Commander for the 64th MDVSS. The leaders discussed differences and similarities in practices and capacities in order to refine the interoperability of veterinary services in support of Strong Europe.

During the Field Training Exercise, the Pulaski Team hosted two Public Health Command personnel. During their visit they assisted with the set-up of the ROLE-2 Field Hospital and learned about the ROLE-2 Field Hospital capabilities.

During the Field Training Exercise, VCOs conducted instructional training on the Magellan Anesthesia Machine, drug calculations, and how to prepare both the patient and the surgery suite for a procedure. The five animal care specialists, including those from Public Health Command Region Europe, were given the opportunity to provide top anesthetic care to patients during surgical procedures on Wednesday. These procedures within Dog Center Europe created a comfortable and learning environment, which prepared the animal care specialist for their anesthetic cases the following day. The veterinary officers and animal care technicians performed dental prophylaxis on two patients within their expeditionary clinic. This skill and knowledge in practical experience (preparing, inducing, monitoring, and recovering a surgical patient in a veterinary field hospital) will better prepare the Soldiers for real life missions.

The Pulaski Barracks members successfully completed first class training in Veterinary Medicine. According to the 421st Medical Battalion (Multifunctional) Commander, “the Pulaski Team has done something (convoy, set up, field surgeries) that has never been done before during a Field Training Exercise.” The Pulaski Barracks team wrapped up their Field Training Exercise with a successful convoy back to Baumholder, Germany; proving the members of the 64th MDVSS from the 421st Medical Battalion (Multifunctional), are STRONG EUROPE!



68T restrains surgical patient for intravenous catheterization. Other 68Ts completes intravenous catheterization in preparation for surgical procedure.



68T reads an ear cytology taken from one the surgical patients.

## 64th MDVSS Training Exercises (cont)

### Level Shock Exercise Provides Valuable Service While Enhancing Soldier Readiness

By CW3 Richard Belcher

21st TSC Public Affairs

BAUMHOLDER, Germany – Veterinary Food Inspection Specialists (68Rs) assigned to the 64th Medical Detachment Veterinary Service Support (MDVSS) from the 421st Medical Battalion (Multifunctional) stationed in Baumholder, Germany, conducted inspections of Unitized Group Rations A (UGR-As) and Meals Ready-to-Eat (MREs) during a recent field exercise. The inspections were part of a larger 30th Medical Brigade shock event that deployed the 64th MDVSS across Germany in preparation for Atlantic Resolve support and future missions in support of EUCOM and AFRICOM areas of operation. The exercise tested the unit's expeditionary capabilities, ensuring a warfighter-level of readiness for one of only two forward deployed veterinary detachments in the Army. The inspections resulted in the shelf life extension of over \$200,000 of UGR-As and the condemnation of \$7000 of MREs while providing the Soldiers the opportunity to enhance their primary Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) skillset.

Working in partnership with Public Health Command (PHC) District-North Europe, the 64th MDVSS inspected more than 80 lots of expired UGR-As at the Prime Vendor warehouse near Frankfurt, Germany. The inspections were conducted by 25 68Rs from the 64th MDVSS, 421st Medical Battalion (Multifunctional), and local PHC Soldiers. The mission was spearheaded and coordinated by the lead PHC District Food Safety Officer. The inspection provided a rare non-deployment opportunity for Soldiers to conduct a shelf life extension of UGR-As in a Prime Vendor warehouse setting. Most food safety inspections conducted by 68Rs occur on military installations at receipt or at storage. To quote the Food Safety Officer in charge "...it is a pleasure to assist the 64th MDVSS by providing real world Garrison Food Inspection missions during field exercises and regularly occurring Medical Skills Readiness (MSR) training".

The UGR-A consists of both shelf-stable and perishable (frozen entrees) components that are designed to feed 50 Soldiers restaurant quality food in a field environment. Operational rations are a top mission priority due to their high-dollar value and criticality to the Department of Defense's mission/exercise support and emergency response capability. The Soldiers' inspection of UGR-As included a Destructive Open Package Inspection (DOPI) of components to include organoleptic (taste, sight, smell and texture) testing. After a



Soldier of the 64th MDVSS set up a food inspection tent in the 106<sup>th</sup> Financial Management Support Unit motor pool in preparation of an MRE inspection.



Orderly Room Clerk and Veterinary Food Inspection Specialists for 64<sup>th</sup> MDVSS briefs the Commander of the 64<sup>th</sup> MDVSS, on the procedures of sample sizes taken for the MRE inspection performed during the field exercise.

## 64th MDVSS Training Exercises (cont)



During Organoleptic testing of MREs a Veterinary Food Inspection Specialist from the 64<sup>th</sup> MDVSS (left) demonstrates the proper way to open an MRE component to the Commander of the 421st Medical Battalion (Multifunctional).

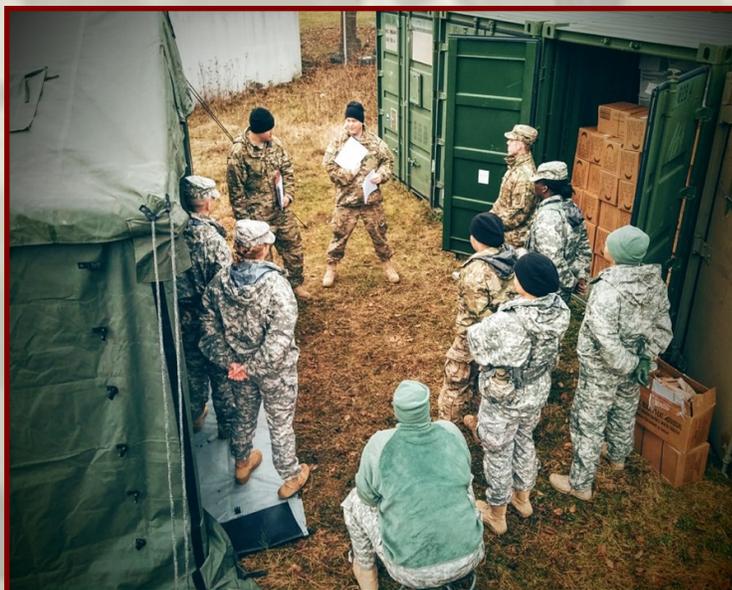
thorough inspection a determination is made on the product's serviceability. During this inspection the 68Rs determined if the UGR-As were wholesome and fit for extension. These UGR-As will have a second chance of being issued to Soldiers for use during exercises and training throughout EUCOM and beyond. In a time of fiscal constraint these 68Rs doing this important mission ensure that funds are not wasted on purchasing rations unnecessarily while providing safe wholesome product to the warfighter. The inspection of UGR-As also gives 68Rs hands-on training while performing a real world mission. According to SGT Rafael Miralrio, Orderly Room Clerk and 68R for 64th MDVSS, "...most Soldiers do not get the opportunity to inspect UGR-As other than at the school house. This training provided not only hands-on product, but the completion of the necessary documentation to the customer for accountability purposes." This mission allowed Soldiers to receive key developmental training on inspecting actual product, preparing legal documents

for shelf-life extension, and interacting with DoD and contracted Prime Vendor customers.

During this same shock event the 64th MDVSS performed a multi-movement convoy from Baumholder to Pulaski Barracks with a final destination of Kleber Kaserne to inspect MREs in support of the 16th Sustainment Brigade's 106th Financial Management Support Unit (FMSU). The mission provided 68Rs an opportunity to inspect multiple lots of MREs while providing a service to the requesting unit. This mission also provided 68Rs the opportunity to teach and conduct a convoy brief, how to communicate during a convoy, and other related Army Warrior Tasks (AWT) and MOS related skills.

Upon arrival to Kleber Kaserne the team set up a food inspection tent in the 106th FMSU motor pool. Like the UGR-A inspection, the Soldiers inspection of the MREs included a DOPI of components to include organoleptic testing. During this mission the 68Rs inspected and ultimately condemned 68 boxes of MREs worth \$7,143.40. This ensured only safe and wholesome MREs remained in the food chain. At the conclusion of the mission the Soldiers demonstrated proper destruction of condemned MREs to include removal and disposal of MRE heaters in accordance with local law. Unlike the usual scenario-based training, for this real-world mission all necessary paper work and condemnation instructions were provided to the accountable officer prior to convoy departure.

This 64th MDVSS shock event tested the Soldiers on a variety of MOS and AWT skills. The exercise was a welcome change to standard field problems and didactic food inspection training. Additionally, the missions saved the government over \$200,000 in useable and wholesome troop-feeding rations. The Soldiers enjoyed the opportunity to sharpen their food inspection skills while providing a value added service to the customers and warfighters. Flying Foxes, Viper Medics, Victory Medics!



The Senior Food Safety Officer for the 64<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment Veterinary Service Support (MDVSS) (center) briefs the Veterinary Food Inspection Specialists from the 64<sup>th</sup> MDVSS at the conclusion of the MRE inspection.

### 43d MDVSS JRTC 16-05 Rotation

On 8-24 MAR 2106, the 43D Medical Detachment Veterinary Service Support participated in Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) Rotation 16-05 at Fort Polk, LA in preparation for assuming the Defense CBRN Readiness Force (DCRF) mission on 01 JUN 2016. 43D MDVSS deployed and conducted continuous operations to refine individual and leader skills and enhance proficiency in mission essential tasks with nearly 300 other Soldiers in TF-MED as part of a full-scale integrated readiness exercise featuring over 3,000 DoD Service members comprising JTF-Civil Support. This was the first JRTC rotation at Fort Polk to involve a complete Medical Brigade element, thus making the 43D MDVSS the first veterinary detachment to complete a JRTC rotation.



A panoramic view of the Level II Veterinary Facility set up for the Carnis Hospital response exercise

The Zebu Vets deployed 17 Soldiers to JRTC 16-05 for validation of the unit's preparedness to assume the DCRF mission. The unit went through the complete process of deploying from Fort Hood and establishing an area of operations to provide veterinary service support in a simulated CONUS CBRN disaster affecting 27,000 people. The disaster scenario involved a damaged nuclear power plant venting radioactive gas and challenged all participating units to integrate with one another as effectively as possible to support the request from local officials for assistance.

Mission Assignments tasked to the 43D included establishment of a Level II veterinary treatment facility to provide veterinary care for 2-4 federal service animals a day and the use of our HemaCool blood fridges to support the 440th Blood Support Detachment with blood storage capacity. Our facility was collocated with the Level II (-) medical facility assigned to provide patient care in support of the overwhelmed local hospital. The MASCAL exercise provided an opportunity for 68Rs and 68Ts to practice Combat Lifesaver and litter-bearing skills.

In addition to the simulated exercise, 43D MDVSS food inspectors gained valuable real-world experience teaming up with Fort Polk Branch Veterinary Services to address food safety and sanitation concerns at the Base Support Installation (BSI) where Soldiers from JTF-CS were being housed. Efforts by both teams resulted in mitigation of the public health risk at the temporary DFAC and TISA.

Overall, the JRTC 16-05 mission was successful. Lessons learned during the exercise were invaluable as we prepare to assume the DCRF mission in June.



VCO and 68T trimming goat feet.



68R demonstrating bottled water inspection to other Soldiers at the RSC Warrior temporary shoppette .



43D MDVSS JRTC group photo in front of our milvan container.

## 218th MDVSS in Pacific Pathways 2016



Food safety specialist explains to a food venter that their water is contaminated.

A team from the 218th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service Support) recently participated in Pacific Pathways 2016. The five Soldier team performed food protection and safety assessments of military and civilian facilities throughout the event, across seven different foreign military bases in three different countries; to include Thailand, South Korea, and the Philippines. This team's efforts ensured the prevention and control of food and water related disease outbreaks during a major joint and coalition multinational exercise, designed to promote regional peace and security in South East Asia.



Food inspection specialist explains proper food storage temperatures to a local venter.



Food safety specialists, inspect a vendor's food storage area.

## 83d Civil Affairs Battalion Veterinarian Trains with Medics at Camel Farm

**Tasks Trained:**

Perform Veterinary Medicine Operations (08-2-1502);  
 Perform Veterinary Public Health Operations (08-2-1503)

**Training Event Mission:** SFT, HHC, 83<sup>rd</sup> CA BN Conducts veterinary training 5 October 2015 at Carolina Camel Rides to enhance the veterinary and agricultural skills and capabilities of the medics and provide familiarization with CENTCOM animals.

**Commander's Intent:**

HHC, 83<sup>rd</sup> CA BN, special functions team in conjunction with an assistance professor from NCSU brought medics to a camel farm to gain familiarization with camel handling and common husbandry practices, in addition to sheep, goats, and donkeys. All medics in attendance are familiar with camels, sheep, goats and donkeys, comfortable doing exams and understand basic anatomy and husbandry.

**Lessons Learned:**

- All medics gained familiarization with the two main camel species, husbandry and feeding practices, common ailments and performing health assessments.
- All medics flexed their small ruminant skills from CAMs and the July 2015 NCSU training by performing exams on sheep and goats in the field.
- Medics were introduced to examination techniques for small donkeys.
- All would like more time for hands-on experience with livestock and the opportunity to do a farm assessment and discuss recommendations.



Medics (68Ws) take turns listening to the heart of the Bactrian camel.



LEFT: 68Ws restrain a sheep while conducting a health assessment. RIGHT: 68W restrains a goat while others learn how to assess the health of small ruminants.



68W learns how to "cush" a camel for easier access to the head for examination.



68W properly restrains a sheep for examination.



Farm owner discusses husbandry of his two Dromedary (Arabian) and one Bactrian camel; 68W holds the lead of one Dromedary camel.



68W listens to the heartbeat of a Dromedary camel as VCO explains how to do an exam.

# 83d Civil Affairs Battalion Conducts Agricultural Crop Training

### Tasks Trained:

Perform Veterinary Public Health Operations (08-2-1503)

**Training Event Mission:** SFT, HHC, 83<sup>rd</sup> CA BN Conducts agricultural training on 6 October 2015 at the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Service, Second Harvest Food Bank, and a local farm to enhance agricultural skills and capabilities of medics and CA Soldiers.

### Commander's Intent:

HHC, 83<sup>rd</sup> CA BN, SFT in conjunction with Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Service provide familiarization training with growing crops and vegetable plants and hands-on training with planting concepts for use in developing countries by viewing the Farmland video, building raised planting beds and visiting a farm that does extension work with farmers in South America and testing for agricultural technologies.

### Lessons Learned:

- All Soldiers greatly enjoyed the knowledge base offered regarding growing vegetables and row crops, types of soil, fertilizers and planting techniques.
- Building a raised vegetable garden, planting and transporting soil and compost were all great educational and team-building experiences to assist a varied team in working together towards a common goal.
- For future similar training, all would like a "getting dirty" uniform and work gloves.
- Next step would be to do assessments on small family farms and discuss how to pick a good piece of land to cultivate.



Extension Service Rep discusses different types of soil and soil enhancers (such as poultry litter ash, grass ash) with Soldiers of the 83<sup>rd</sup> CA BN.



At the Second Harvest Food Bank, Soldiers of the 83<sup>rd</sup> CA BN work together to transport compost soil into compost piles and the newly built raised vegetable gardens.



LEFT: newly forming cabbage with evidence of parasitism on the leaves.  
RIGHT: newly forming broccoli head.



83<sup>rd</sup> CA BN Soldiers learn how to build raised vegetable beds.

Row crops of cabbage and broccoli grown with and without plastic row covers, showing different crop yield.



LEFT: Soldiers plant young broccoli plants in the brand new beds. RIGHT: Two newly built and compost-soiled vegetable beds.

## 83d Civil Affairs Battalion Veterinarian Cooperative Medical Engagement

**Tasks Trained:**

Perform Veterinary Limited Medicine Operations (08-2-1502);

Perform Veterinary Public Health Operations (08-2-1503)

**Training Event Mission:** SFT, HHC, and 8312 A Co 83<sup>rd</sup> CA BN conduct Veterinary Cooperative Medical Engagement (VETCME) to simulate a team requesting the veterinarian to be brought forward to conduct a VETCME downrange. Coordination with Ft Bragg VETCEN and the 248<sup>th</sup> MDVSS was done for logistics support, training assistance, and a second veterinarian to see patients.

**Commander's Intent:**

8312, A Co/83 CABN publicize, coordinate, and facilitate a training event culminating in a VETCME resulting in BN family cats and dogs receiving annual vaccines required by law for public health (rabies) and for good overall health (canine and feline distemper). In total 24 animals were evaluated and vaccinated.

**Lessons Learned:**

- All medics and CATs available in A Co were trained on the laws and importance of rabies, canine and feline distemper vaccines (DAPP-L, FVRCP), leptospirosis, and how to do a brief physical exam of a companion animal.
- Overall, there was adequate time for appointments, good training aid animals, good training slides for future use, more than enough Class VIII, and significant training and practice with regulated paperwork (rabies certs and SF 600).
- Incorporating the 248<sup>th</sup> MDVSS proved excellent; their 68T provided hands-on physical exams of dogs training; a VCO oversaw her 68T, and was an added veterinarian to see more patients in a condensed timeline.
- In the future, an area free of traffic with separate rooms for cats and dogs needs to be established.
- Additional train-up with cats is preferable.



An Animal Care Specialist (68T) of the 248<sup>th</sup>, instructs Alpha Company on physical examination of dogs.



68Ts evaluate the heart and chest of brother and sister kittens prior to vaccination.



68T administering a distemper/parvo (DAPP) vaccine to a canine patient.



VCO restrains a cat for 68T to take vital signs (temperature shown in this photo).



Typing up the rabies certificate for a Soldier's dog.



68T restrains a canine patient while others do a physical exam with the 248<sup>th</sup> VCO's help.

## Livestock training for the military extends reach of Extension

April 14, 2016  
By Matt Reese

To help prepare and train for instances where they may need to parachute in and assist with a situation involving livestock, a group of around 25 soldiers with the U.S. Army Reserve 412 Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), based in Columbus, Ohio, recently spent part of a day at Ohio State University's Columbus livestock facilities.

**For full article see link:**

<http://ocj.com/2016/04/livestock-training-for-the-military-extends-reach-of-extension/>



Ohio State University students work with the U.S. Army Reserve's 412 Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne) in some training on sheep handling.

## 43d MDVSS Trains for Disaster Mission

April 14, 2016  
By Staff Sgt. Ange Desinor, 13th PAD

U.S. Army Veterinary Services personnel from around the world traveled to Central Texas, April 5-Friday, to train alongside civilian agencies should a national disaster strike.

The Military Veterinary Medical Course: Defense Support of Civil Authorities training enables Army veterinarians to work with different civilian organizations, said Maj. Emilee Venn, a veterinarian assigned to the 43rd Medical Detachment Veterinary Services Support at Fort Hood. The course familiarized participants with the roles other federal government, state, local and non-governmental organizations such as the Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture have in the National Response Framework, while providing the other agencies a perspective on the Army Veterinary Services' potential role in a natural disaster or national emergency response.

**For full article see link:** [http://www.forthoodsentinel.com/news/rd-med-trains-for-disaster-mission/article\\_1328e1e6-00be-11e6-8d0f-cbc1acedad60.html](http://www.forthoodsentinel.com/news/rd-med-trains-for-disaster-mission/article_1328e1e6-00be-11e6-8d0f-cbc1acedad60.html)



## FYGVE Programs Conduct Consolidated Staff



On 29-30 March 2016, 28 interns, cadre, and guests from four First Year Graduate Veterinary Education program (FYGVE) sites prepared, trained and conducted a battlefield staff ride at the Chickamauga Battlefield in Chattanooga, TN. The FYGVE programs of Fort Bragg, Fort Belvoir, Fort Benning, and Fort Campbell all collaborated on the event. Staff rides are included in the FYGVE program to provide veterinary interns with the opportunity to visit a historical military site, learn lessons applicable to current operations, regarding military strategies, tactics, logistics and structure while also conducting research into past leaders' thought processes. The interns explored warfare, human characteristics, and universal principles of leadership on the ground where other leaders put these principles into action. The staff ride served to model events that would benefit individual and collective professionalism, morale, and productivity within the units that these interns will lead in the future. Through the exposure to situations historically and presently faced by fellow soldiers, the interns improved their depth and breadth of their inculcation of Army culture. The conveyance of lessons of the past to present day leaders fostered esprit de corps among the programs as the interns were reminded of their collective history as professional Soldiers.

## Redstone Arsenal Section Partners with Wildlife Services



Redstone Arsenal VTF personnel provided surgical support for an injured Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake that had been brought in by Redstone Arsenal Wildlife Services. Injured snake was estimated to be 6-7 year old male, approximately 4ft long, with a laceration approximately 1in diameter on right dorsal aspect approx. 8-10in caudal to the head. Control of the snake was maintained at all

Left: Anesthetizing snake via aquarium; Center: Veterinary staff restrain snake and clean wound; Right: VCO sutures wound.

times. The snake was first placed in an improvised tube in order to anesthetize via Isoflorane. The tube didn't work well and snake was transferred to small, modified aquarium and anesthetized successfully. Snake then transferred and taped into a mask to prevent the escape of Isoflorane. The NAF Veterinarian briefly scrubbed the wound. The VTF OIC trimmed the fibrosed tissue away from the wound and freshened the edges. The wound was sutured using an everting pattern. The rattlesnake was awakened slowly in the container that Wildlife Services brought him in. Neurologic examination following the procedure showed no nerve damage. Pending healing, snake may be kept by Wildlife Services for educational purposes.

## Dolphin Dental Procedure

The U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program (and National Marine Mammal Foundation) veterinary team along with some specialists including a veterinary dentist as well as both a veterinary and human anesthesiologist successfully completed a dental procedure on a dolphin under general anesthesia. The dental procedure included intravenous catheterization, intubation, extensive monitoring, diagnostic imaging including survey ultrasounds and dental/skull radiographs and several extractions in addition to sampling for cytology and biopsy due to the dolphin's old age and deteriorating dental health.



## Army Public Health Center and FDA Conduct PMO Training

Army Public Health Center (Provisional) and the Food and Drug Administration hosted a combined FD371 Milk Pasteurization Controls and Tests and FD372 Milk Plant Sanitation and Inspection course at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center located at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania from 3 April to 9 April 2016. The FD371/FD372 course is the only supported Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) training course for commercial sanitary audits in dairy plants. The once a year combined course is tailored for DoD Food Safety Auditors.

Veterinary Corps Officers identified by HRC as outbound to OCONUS assignment or VCOs identified by APHC (Prov) as a Junior VCO performing commercial food protection audits were targeted for training. 27 VCOs stationed CONUS and OCONUS were in attendance. 18 of the VCOs in attendance were either currently serving in an OCONUS location, are slotted to PCS to an OCONUS location, or on orders for an upcoming deployment. The remaining nine were either new officers, FYGVE officers, or are currently serving in an area with a high concentration of dairy facilities. Also in attendance were State Milk Regulators from Maryland and Pennsylvania, and employees of Land O'Lakes – Carlisle. Opening remarks were provided by the Program Manager of Food Protection Program at APHC (Prov).

The FDA Central Region Regional Milk Specialist and four other FDA Regional Milk Specialists provided training throughout the week and noted that all in attendance quickly grasped concepts allowing for more time to be spent on DoD specific concerns. Without the support of the FDA, Land O'Lakes – Carlisle, and local PHCD-Fort Belvoir assets, training and dairy audit certification requirements would not have been met leading to an increased potential for food-borne illnesses, potentially contaminated food items entering the food supply, and ultimately mission failure.



All five FDA instructors, Land O'Lakes – Carlisle, and the, Carlisle Barracks Section NCOIC received Certificates of Appreciation from the Director of the Army Public Health Center (Provisional). CW5 Coins of Excellence were also presented to the five FDA instructors on behalf of the Deputy Program Manager of Food Protection Program at APHC (Prov). The Carlisle Barracks Section NCOIC was also presented the Veterinary Corps Senior Warrant Officer Coin of Excellence for her logistical support before and during the course.



## GTMO Section Cuba Barge Food Protection Mission



68Ts await cranes unloading containers at the boat yard.



Refer-containers are immediately connected to power outlets after unloading from the barge to maintain temperatures.



68Ts begin inspecting refer-containers.

Guantanamo Bay (GTMO), Cuba is not your ordinary duty station. It is stacked with, “unique situations”. There are no Kroger's, Wal-Mart's or farmer markets where everything is available and easily accessible. The majority of goods brought to GTMO are transported on a bimonthly barge. The goods on the barge range from vehicles, to household goods, building supplies and perishable/non-perishable items. The GTMO Army Veterinary Inspectors (AVI) are directly responsible for inspecting an average 16 containers of perishable items and 14 containers of non-perishable. Once the barge is docked, it routinely takes 12 to 24 hours before the containers are offloaded and staged for inspection. The AVI's work closely with the Navy Antiterrorism Section to ensure all containers maintain proper security seals. Once the items are inspected and given the stamp of approval, they are transported to their perspective facilities. After the containers are offloaded by the perspective facilities, each item is inspected for deficiencies. With the many factors to consider, it is easy to see where there may be bumps in the road. In the past, delays for barge operations have ranged from weather delays, mechanical issues, broken cranes and manpower shortages. These delays have caused upward of three additional days before the container can be inspected, which can be critical for perishable goods. The 68Rs remain ready for inspections at all times to help ensure the morale of the community and to stock the empty produce shelves as quickly as possible. So the next time you hear the expression “it's on the barge”, think of GTMO and its very

“unique situations”. The biggest deficiency in the past four years was a NEX container full of chilled meat, milk, cheeses and fresh produce that had been below temperature for 16 hours. Unfortunately, most of the container contents were unfit for human consumption and had to be destroyed. Other deficiencies range from incorrect seals / containers, leaking roofs, lack of electricity, and broken door seals.

# PHCD-FG Provides Working Dog Handler Training

Tyndall AFB Section of Pensacola Branch-Section OIC and 68T provided Military Working Dog Handler Training to seven members of the 325<sup>th</sup> Security Forces in preparation for summer deployments.



68T (far right) provides instruction to Security Forces members utilizing animal training aide



Security Forces MWD handler conducts IV training utilizing training aide

Fort Benning FYGVE interns planned, coordinated and executed a two-day training session for working dog handlers from supported agencies of the Fort Benning Branch. Didactic and hands-on training was conducted in basic care, preventive medicine measures, husbandry, first aid, and emergency care. Assistance in conducting the event was provided by Fort Benning VETCEN 68Ts and Soldiers from the 463<sup>rd</sup> Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services). The training venue (classroom and audio/visual support) was graciously provided by the 14th Combat Support Hospital. Training was completed by 19 working dog handlers from multiple agencies including the Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), and Albany Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) canine sections.



FYGVE intern demonstrates physical conditioning techniques.



68Ts demonstrated proper administration of oral, ophthalmic, and otic medications.

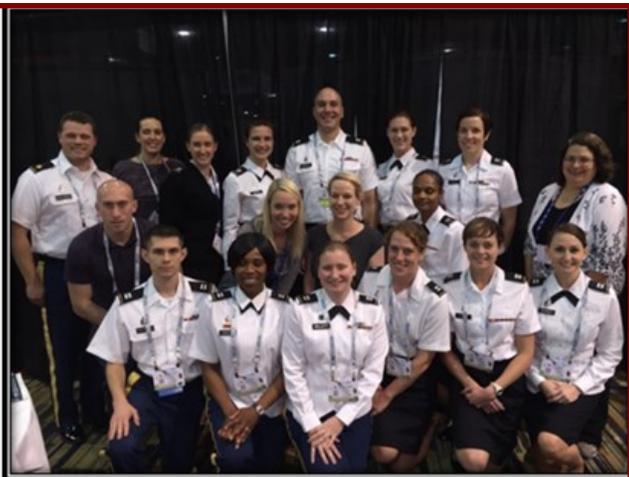
Ft Buchanan Section OIC planned, coordinated, and executed a training session for working dog handlers from Fort Buchanan and the San Juan, Puerto Rico area. Training topics included Basic Vital Signs, First Aid, Heat Injury, GDV, Bleeding Wounds, and CPR. The training venue (classroom and audio/visual support) was provided by Fort Buchanan DPTMS. Training was completed by 67 working dog handlers from multiple agencies including military, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and Puerto Rico Police K-9 Units. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the event is projected to occur again in the next quarter, for up to 50 more handlers.



VCO demonstrates checking the basic vital signs of a K9 volunteer



## Regional VCOs Attend North American Veterinary Conference



CONFERENCE SUCCESS: 14 members of PHC-A(P) (13 PHCD-FG and 1 PHCD-FB) attended the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC) to obtain needed CE credit to maintain licensure, gain knowledge of the most up to date methods of treating veterinary patients, and collaborate with other veterinary professionals. Notably absent from the conference was the Army Veterinary Corps' exhibit booth, which had been present in previous years. Veterinary Corps Officers (VCO) took it upon themselves to promote the Army Veterinary Corps through their military appearance/bearing, positive messaging, and discussions with civilian veterinarians. All represented the Army Veterinary Corps well in its centennial year (1916-2016). The conference provided not only an excellent CE training event, but also a leader development experience by allowing VCOs personal interaction with civilian counterparts and current/former Army VCOs from various duty locations across the Services. It facilitated an open sharing of best practices and esprit de corps.

## Uniformed Services Veterinary Spring Dinner



Held on April 30th, 2016 at the lovely Ft. Myer Officer's Club, the UNIFORMED SERVICES VETERINARY SPRING DINNER was a Tri-Service event with over 80 RSVPs from Army, Air Force, and Public Health Service active, reserve and retired personnel. BG Erik Topping, the Chief, US Army Veterinary Corps hosted this year's annual dinner. In addition to his remarks, RADM Terri Clark (USPHS) and Col Andy Mullins (USAF) provided service updates to attendees. Mr. Thomas Frezza, formerly of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, was the keynote speaker and gave a fascinating talk on veterinary involvement in the Civil War. Many thanks to the planning team and our Soldier who sang the National Anthem for ensuring a successful event.

# US Army Veterinary Corps 100th Anniversary



*With support from the Uniformed Veterinary Medicine Association (UVMA), the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps celebrated 100 years of service to the nation from 1-3 June 2016 in the Joint Base San Antonio area.*

*The three day event boasted over 220 registrants and included activities such as tours of the LTC Daniel Holland Military Working Dog Hospital, the DoD Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory and the US Army Institute of Surgical Research Institute. Other activities included a golf outing, continuing education classes, and presentations. BG Topping presented on the current status of the US Army Veterinary Corps, Mr. Andy Watson, AMEDD C&S historian, gave a US Army Veterinary Corps history*

*presentation, BG (Retired) Michael Cates, current UVMA President, provided an overview of the UVMA mission and the Soldier for Life Program spoke about opportunities to serve for retirees.*

*On the first evening an icebreaker was held that provided a wonderful chance to reacquaint with familiar faces. On the eve of the centennial a banquet that fed over 220 attendees was co-hosted by BG Topping and BG (Retired) Cates. Dr. Joseph Kinnarney, the current American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) President was the guest speaker and emphasized the continuing outstanding partnership between the US Army Veterinary Corps and the AVMA. BG Topping took this opportunity to recognize the AVMA for its support with a bronze plaque that will be used to officially*



BG Topping recognizing (clockwise from top) Mr. Andy Watson, Mrs. Dobberfuhl, Dr. Clark Fobian, past AVMA President, and Dr. Kinnarney along with BG (Ret) Cates and Dr. Kinnarney.

## U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Centennial (cont.)

*dedicate the US Army Veterinary Corps Centennial Monument at the AVMA convention in August. He also recognized Dr. Kinnarney, the monument sculptress, Mrs. Donna Dobberfuhl, with a framed star note and Corps Chief coin and all the organizers of the centennial event with a coin of excellence. In addition, he announced the recipients of the 2016 Corps Chief Awards.*

*Finally, on the morning of 3 June 2016, the weather cooperated and provided an outstanding setting for the centennial ceremony held at the AMEDD Museum on Fort Sam Houston. This ceremony was hosted by BG Topping and attended by over 300 people. BG Topping, Mrs. Dobberfuhl, and Dr. Kinnarney all provided remarks about this significant milestone. BG Topping and nine retired Veterinary Corps Chiefs then cut the birthday cake with the assistance of the youngest Veterinary Corps Officer present—CPT Jarrod Miller.*

*Then the moment everyone was waiting for, the unveiling of the US Army Veterinary Corps Centennial Monument, took place with a drum roll from Fort Sam's Own—the US Army 323d Band. The monument, covered with an US Army T-10 parachute, was unveiled by BG Topping and the guest speakers along with help from Veterinary Service Soldiers dressed in uniforms from different eras of the US Army's history. A description of the stunning commemorative statues was read as it was unveiled. The ceremony concluded with a proud rendition of the Army Song and photo opportunities commenced. As attendees made their way to a follow-on reception in the museum they were treated to a static display of the 43d MDVSS animal medicine and food laboratory tents from Fort Hood, as well as working dog demonstrations provided by the 902nd Security Forces Squadron from Randolph Air Force Base and a horse from the Caisson Section from Fort Sam Houston.*



**Top:** Cutting of the VC Centennial Cake

**Middle:** Unveiling of the monument

**Bottom (l to r):** Dr. Kinnarney, Mrs. Dobberfuhl and BG Topping

## U.S. Army Veterinary Corps Centennial (cont.)



**VC Corps Chiefs (l to r):** BG Robert Jorgensen (18th) BG Thomas Murnane (16th), COL John Fournier (22nd), BG Charles Elia (15th), COL Paul Barrows (21st), COL Clifford Johnson (20th), BG Frank Ramsey (17th), BG John Poppe (25th), BG Michael Cates (23d), and BG Erik Topping (26th).

*The entire event was a great success due to the efforts of numerous contributors behind the scenes and we extend our gratitude to each and every one of them. Here's to another 100 years of the US Army Veterinary Corps.*



*A video of the entire ceremony and making of monument the can be found at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-6NInPhjmA&feature=youtu.be>*

*Stories about the VC Centennial are also available in JAVMA (<https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/160601a.aspx>) and at the Army Homepage (<https://www.army.mil/article/169195?platform=hootsuite>).*

**Clockwise from top left:** 43d MDVSS Soldiers and static display, Caisson Section Soldier and horse, Fort Sam Houston Branch Soldiers and 902nd Security Forces Squadron MWD Teams.

## 72<sup>nd</sup> MDVSS Veterinary Corps 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On 3 June 2016, members of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Medical Detachment (VSS) across the CENTCOM area celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Army Veterinary Corps. The bulk of the unit gathered at Camp Arifjan in the early morning to host a 5k Fun Run. Approximately 150 personnel from the camp showed up with great support from the 10<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, 227<sup>th</sup> Preventive Medicine Detachment, and Military Working Dog teams. The unit then met up for an organizational day. 72<sup>nd</sup> Soldiers played basketball, dodgeball, cornhole, and enjoyed the pool. The Commander played the latest Veterinary Corps motivational video and gave a short presentation on the highlights of 100 years of Corps history. The day wrapped up with a ceremonial cutting of a Baskin Robbins ice cream cake by the 72<sup>nd</sup> MDVSS Commander and the youngest Eagle Vet.



**Top Left:** Commander (right) with the Top 3 male finishers, including Soldier from the 10<sup>th</sup> CSH. **Top Middle:** An Army MWD team crosses the finish line. **Top Right:** 72<sup>nd</sup> Soldier crossing the finish line with the 72<sup>nd</sup> guidon. **Middle left:** Members of the 227<sup>th</sup> PM Det finish the 5k together. **Bottom left:** Commander shares highlights of 100 years of VC history. **Bottom right:** Cutting the celebratory Baskin Robbins cake.



## European Veterinary Corps 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebra-

The "Roaring 20's" themed celebration held in conjunction with the International Military Veterinary Medical Symposium in Garmisch, Germany on 7 June 2016, had over 100 Veterinary Corps Officers and families from the 18 different countries at the symposium, in addition to BG (Ret) Michael Cates, BG Erik Tarring, BG Norvell Coots (Commander, Regional Health Command Europe), and Dr. Thomas Meyer (President-Elect, AVMA). The event was sponsored by the Uniformed Veterinary Medicine Association.



**Top left:** Cake provided by the Exchange Europe Region Bakery

**Top right:** Veterinary Corps Chief and most junior VCO present cut the birthday cake

**Bottom left:** PHCD-SE celebrates by embracing the event's Roaring 20's theme

**Bottom right:** Attendees gather together, building new relationships and strengthening comradery



## 106th MDVSS

### Veterinary Corps 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On 03 June 2016, the 106th Medical Detachment (VSS) hosted a special luncheon to celebrate the US Army Veterinary Corps 100th Anniversary. The 8A Deputy Commanding General for Sustainment, was the guest speaker for this event and helped Soldiers in attendance reflect on the importance of their work protecting the health and welfare of service members, their families and DoD civilians and contractors. It is also important to remember the services provided by Veterinary Corps Officers and their technicians that provide medical care to military working dogs and privately owned animals across the world. Several Soldiers were promoted recognizing their potential for greater responsibility in the military. Additionally, spouses and Soldiers were also recognized with various awards for their outstanding work in operational taskings, military exercises, and physical fitness.



**Top left:** The Commander of the 106<sup>th</sup> MED DET (VSS), presents the guest speaker with a token of appreciation for his inspirational words.

**Top right: (l to r)** Command Sergeant Major, 65<sup>th</sup> MED BDE; ROKA Veterinary Corps Officer; Commander- 65<sup>th</sup> MED BDE; 8A Deputy Commanding General-Sustainment; Commander- 106<sup>th</sup> MED DET (VSS); and First Sergeant- 106<sup>th</sup> MED DET (VSS)

**Bottom left:** 106th MDVSS Commander discusses the importance of Veterinary Services in defense of South Korea.

**Bottom right:** In keeping with tradition, a senior and junior Soldier cut the cake together.



## Fort Carson Veterinary Corps 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The Public Health Command District Carson, the 438th MDVSS and the 993rd MDVSS (Reserves) conducted a cake cutting at the Fort Carson VETCEN on 6 June 2016 at 12 noon to celebrate the centennial of the US Army Veterinary Corps.



**Top:** PHCD-Carson Commander speaking to the combined veterinary unit formation.

**Bottom:** Fort Carson Garrison Command Team are pictured speaking to the United States Air Force Academy Falconry Team with their falcon Aurora.



## Veterinary Services Soldiers are Army Strong!



Five Soldiers from Public Health Command Fort Hood-North Texas Branch completed the Baatan Death March on March 19th 2016 at White Sands Missile Range. This march is in honor of Soldiers during World War II. On April 9, 1942, tens of thousands of American and Filipino soldiers were surrendered to Japanese forces. The Americans were Army, Army Air Corps, Navy and Marines. Among those seized were members of the 200th Coast Artillery, New Mexico National Guard.

North Texas Veterinary Branch participants celebrate with a personalized cake!

## Veterinary Services Soldiers are Army Strong!



10 JAN 2016, The Food Safety Officer and FYGVE NCOIC) of the Benning Branch completed the Walt Disney World Marathon. The 26.2 mile run, which started and ended at Epcot, took participants through all four Walt Disney World theme parks (Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Hollywood Studios,

Epcot) and the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex. Here they display their commemorative Mickey Mouse Finisher Medals.

# Veterinary Services Soldiers are Army Strong!

## D-JBLM and 218<sup>th</sup>(VS) team win R2R relay

4 June- FYGVE instructor, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, teamed up with the 218<sup>th</sup> MDVSS Commander, Food Safety Officer and Team Leader to participate as a 4 man team in the Rainier to Ruston (R2R) 52 mile rail-trail relay run. There were over 1200 individual and team participants competing. Team 'Valiant Vets' competed in the 4 man military division (7 teams). The relay was divided into 12 legs with each leg ranging from 3 to 6.6 miles. Each team member was required to run 3 separate legs through a mixture of mud, sand, and paved trails for a total of ~13 miles. Valiant Vets' placed 1<sup>st</sup> in their division, and received golden spike recognition, with a time of 7hrs and 16min. They outpaced the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team by 45 minutes.



**Clockwise from top left:** ^Team Valiant Vets at the start line. Team member prepares to tackle leg one. Food Safety Officer makes the exchange. VCO starting leg six. 64F rings the final bell. Winners at the finish!

## Animal Victoria Cross for Heroic US Marine Dog

A retired US Marine Corps dog who protected the lives of allied troops in Iraq and Afghanistan has been honoured with the PDSA Dickin Medal – the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

The 12-year-old German Shepherd, who lost a leg while on duty, successfully completed over 400 separate missions during six years of active service. Her heroic actions were recognised by the UK's leading veterinary charity, PDSA, at a ceremony at Wellington Barracks, London (Tuesday 5 April) which was attended by Lucca and her owner.



See full press release at link: <https://www.pdsa.org.uk/what-we-do/animal-honours/the-dickin-medal/lucca> or news story at link: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/u-s-marines-dog-lucca-receives-pdsa-dickin-medal-after-n550786>

## Kids learn dog safety at RUFUS training

BY RUTH KINGSLAND

Northwest Guardian

They learned to “stand like a tree” and “lie like a log” — two poses designed to discourage interaction with unfriendly dogs and possibly limit dog bites.

These lessons were learned from a virtual canine named Rufus, who is teaching local children how to avoid being bitten by a dog through a program provided by Joint Base Lewis-McChord's Public Health.

“All it takes is a few good manners and you can be friends with dogs,” Rufus said, in a video shown to the 18 children in Erin Frie's first-grade class at Rainier Elementary School April 28.

Frie's class got the first local opportunity to try out the program and “meet” Rufus and some real-live service-dogs-in-training.

The program is provided by the JBLM Public Health Command District's First Year Graduate Veterinary Education Program. Maj. (Dr.) M. Todd French, public health and preventative medicine instructor for the graduate program, brought the RUFUS program to JBLM after moving here from the University of Tennessee's College of Veterinary Medicine. The program was created there.

For the rest of this story see link: <http://www.nwguardian.com/2016/05/05/24715/kids-learn-dog-safety-at-rufus.html>



# Fort Carson Vet Center Runs Teddy Bear

A ladybug, two-headed dragon, elephant, turtle, tiger, multiple teddy bears and a life-like fox named "Sprinkles" all checked in May 23-24, 2016, at the Fort Carson Veterinary Center for the Teddy Bear Clinic. More than 60 stuffed animals were dropped off at the inaugural event. This community outreach clinic was a collaborative effort between veterinary interns and the clinical medicine instructor to provide much needed, hands-on suture training.

"When Capt. Caitlin Sullivan, First Year Graduate Veterinary Education (FYGVE) intern, approached me wanting to organize a suturing lab for our technicians, I suggested that we couple this with a community outreach event bringing in injured stuffed animals as the surgical patients," said Lt. Col. Nic R. Cabano, Clinical Medicine Instructor, (FYGVE), Public Health Command District-Carson. "The enthusiasm of our Fort Carson client base and staff of the VETCEN was tremendous."

The clinic's goal was two-fold, according to Cabano.

"The clinic provided hands-on training for veterinary technicians on a variety of suturing techniques in line with their (military occupational specialty) skill requirements," said Cabano. "(It also) offered a service to our community to enhance the veterinary-client-patient relationships with our

Families on Fort Carson. We recognize that as PCS season is upon us, the children of Fort Carson would benefit from having their cherished stuffed animals in tiptop shape for any impending moves."

The Teddy Bear Clinic began with patient drop off May 23-24, 2016, and culminated in a suturing lab May 26, 2016. Recovering patients were ready for pick up May 27, 2016, and May 31, 2016.

Stuffed patients were dropped off by parents and even the youngest of owners. Several owners struggled to hand over their cherished "best friends" to be repaired.



A two-headed dragon is returned to its owner after surgery at the Fort Carson Veterinary Center's Teddy Bear Clinic May 28, 2016. The patient was brought in with severe neck injuries but is expected to make a full recovery. (Courtesy photo)

"Promise me you'll make him all better," said one young owner with tears in her eyes as she handed over her best friend to a veterinarian technician.

The unique event created a cross-training opportunity for veterinary technicians and their veterinary food inspection counterparts to improve suturing skills and prepare for emergency trauma scenarios encountered during daily work and while deployed overseas.

Veterinary technicians teamed up with food inspectors for major patient surgeries and shared knowledge and suturing techniques throughout the day.

During the suturing lab, technicians and inspectors analyzed patient injuries, determined best suture patterns and techniques and carefully worked to repair damages that were noted on intake forms attached to each patient.

Additionally, the FYGVE interns provided instruction to the technicians and inspectors while gaining valuable hands-on teaching experience in a unique surgical setting.

After surgery, each owner received handwritten discharge instructions on the patient's intake form from the technician or inspector who performed the surgery.

The clinic was able to provide critical training, utilizing expired suture and donated patients from the community, with no cost to the government and with a significant benefit to the community at large, Cabano said.

"This event boosted morale and far exceeded expectations for success," said Cabano. "The Teddy Bear Clinic was a tremendous success, and we look forward to offering this community service on a recurring annual basis."



Sgt. Logan Campbell, animal care specialist and clinic NCO in charge, Public Health Command District-Carson, perform rhinoplasty on a well-worn nose of a "patient" May 27, 2016, during the Fort Carson Veterinary Center's Teddy Bear Clinic. (Photo by Lally Laksbergs)

**By Lally Laksbergs**

**Fort Carson Mountaineer staff**

## GVMP NAF Employee Awards

The continued success of the Army Veterinary Service's animal health care mission depends on the dedication of its personnel. Recently, 87 NAF employees were recognized for their team contributions to the financial success or progressive improvement of their veterinary facilities' operations during the extremely challenging period from 1 October 2014 to 31 December 2015. The Global Veterinary Medical Practice (GVMP) selected facilities for group awards in three categories: sustained profitability, significant improvement, and tier top performance. All current NAF employees who worked in one of the selected facilities during any part of the award period were eligible for a monetary award, regardless of pay plan or position. The monetary awards to NAF employees ranged from \$125 to \$500, based on the individual's employment time during the 15-month period.

In the category of sustained profitability, only 22 of the more than 140 veterinary facilities worldwide were continuously profitable during the award period. These facilities succeeded in remaining "in the black" month after month for 15 consecutive months, meeting all the challenges posed by directed austerity measures, the implementation of ROVR, and the reorganization of MEDCOM. The facility locations earning recognition in this category were Dover AFB, Fort Myer, Hanscom Field, Guantanamo Bay, King's Bay NSB, Pensacola NAS, Tyndall AFB, Great Lakes NTC, Offutt AFB, FE Warren AFB, Barksdale AFB, Holloman AFB, Naples, Vicenza, Schofield Barracks, Zama, Misawa AFB, Fort Richardson, Camp Walker, Beale AFB, Lemoore NAS, and Boller-Guam.

Four facilities were selected for showing substantial, progressive improvement during the period. These locations were Charleston AFB, Hill AFB, Hohenfels, and Whidbey Island NAS. The positive trend in performance at these locations reflected the hard work and dedication of both military and civilian team members.

A top performing facility in each tier was selected based on net income. The facilities earning this distinction were Lackland AFB, Camp Lejeune, Kadena Air Base, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The GVMP will continue to develop its incentive awards program to recognize individual excellence in other aspects of clinic operations, including customer service, reporting compliance and patient care.

# US Army Veterinary Corps History

## Persian Gulf War, my veterinary experience – Brigadier General (Retired) John Poppe

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in August 1990 my wife and I were stationed with the 106<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service) in Yongsan, Republic of Korea. Tensions on the Korean peninsula are always high, but with the unpredictable nature of the leaders of North Korea, tensions once again escalated and security measures tightened as the risk of North Korean cross border activities increased while the United States was focused in the Persian Gulf. Over the next several months as the buildup of troops and equipment continued in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf during Desert Shield, tensions on the Korean peninsula returned more towards normal and my wife and I were allowed to take leave in January 1991 travelling to Hong Kong (back when it was still under British governance), Macau (under Portuguese governance), China, and Indonesia. The 43 day air war phase of Desert Storm began when we were in Bali. Bali was our last stop in our travels and we were glad that we found ourselves in Bali, a mostly Hindu island and one of the few primarily non-Muslim islands in the Indonesian archipelago. We were staying in a small village, one of the few televisions in the village was in the open air lobby of our hotel and it stayed tuned to the air war campaign. Most of the Balinese did not speak very much English and when they would recognize us as Americans, as was fairly easy due to our usual tourist attire, they would mimic machine guns with their two index fingers while making machine gun sounds and then proudly stating “George Bush, good! Saddam, bad!” This lasted for the remainder of our time in Bali. Upon our safe return to Korea, I immediately announced to the commander of the 106<sup>th</sup> that I would like to volunteer for duty in the Persian Gulf, my request was denied and so I got back to work.

We watched the 100 hour ground war phase of Desert Storm from afar, but few details of the veterinary service support were available to us in Korea so I didn't fully learn the story until the summer of 1991 at the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Annual Convention as we moved from Korea to New Orleans to begin my Masters of Public Health program at Tulane University. I am exceptionally proud of the accomplishments of the many soldiers and units that provided support to include a flawless food safety program, support of more than 100 military working dogs, support for the preparation to defend against and in a chemical or biologically contaminated theater, and the support of the grossly neglected animals of the Kuwait City zoo.

After completing my master's program and successfully passing the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine boards, our next assignment took us to Incirlik Air Base (AB) Turkey and the 34<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service). Incirlik AB was the home of Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Operation Provide Comfort which was tasked to provide support to the Kurdish population in northern Iraq under a no fly zone following Desert Storm. By 1992 the larger coalition had dwindled to the four nations of Turkey, Britain, France, and the US. The CJTF maintained a compound in northern Iraq in Zakho and had the mission of resettling the Kurds in the 300 villages that Saddam had displaced them from. My good friend, an Air Force Public Health Officer at Incirlik who was a veterinarian, and I briefed the CJTF Chief of Staff that since the CJTF did not have any public health assets or oversight that we should be providing that function for the CJTF. We were summarily dismissed from his office. After six months and a new CJTF Chief of Staff, we provided the same proposal. We were accused of dereliction of duty and put on the next C12 to Diyarbikar and a Blackhawk into Iraq. After a combat landing from an altitude of 8,000 feet screaming to a halt on the tarmac, we were greeted by a British officer in beret with a large red plume, I thought this was a nice welcome and a great way to draw fire from us new arrivals. In 1992 the CJTF compound in Iraq was still forming and did not have the strictest of security measures and my AF colleague and I ended up with two loaded M16s, a Humvee, and a Peshmerga interpreter. We were able to set up reoccurring shipments of approved source subsistence, train food handlers, collect blood samples for a Leishmaniasis surveillance program, as well as neuter and vaccinate the compound mascots. We were so popular we returned every quarter for the remainder of my tour at Incirlik. In 1993 security measures increased, Turkey limited what could and could not be brought in and out of Iraq and would search everything except what was carried on your person. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) was paying the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in northern Iraq in hard currency in the form of large shrink wrapped bundled fifty dollar bills. They were using the fifty dollar notes since the twenty and 100 dollar bills were much more commonly counterfeited. In Diyarbikar I was approached by the USAID agent to carry several satchels filled with the shrink wrapped bundles of cash to evade the Turkish authorities. Not sure why I accepted, but we also stowed Ketamine in these bags which was in short supply for our 18D Special Forces Medics that they would use in

## US Army Veterinary Corps History (cont.)

children. These bags also came in handy on the return trip for purchases made in northern Iraq like small carpets and AK 47 bayonets, which were permissible at the time by US statutes and not considered war booty. This is not to say these trips were not made without considerable pucker factor, if you have ever seen the movie *Midnight Express*, you'll know what I'm talking about.

On one of our trips in northern Iraq we were scheduled to consult with the NGO providing animal vaccination programs but did not have a veterinarian on their team. Our armed escort brought us to their armed compound, while waiting in the front room of the NGO program managers house I noticed a photo of my high school art teacher from Mount Vernon, Washington on the wall. After we completed our business, I asked the program manager how he was able to have a photo of my high school art teacher on his wall in northern Iraq. He stated that was his father-in-law, he was married to his daughter and she and their family were there with him. She also turned out to be a class mate of my sister, it truly is a small world. On our return trip to Diyarbikar on a Blackhawk, we could hear over our headsets that a British Harrier jet had taken small arms fire and was also landing about the same time we would. As we approached Diyarbikar we could see the Harrier flying slowing due to the loss of the canopy. We boarded the C12 for the flight back to Incirlik, the British pilot was next aboard after gathering the video cassette from his flight. He had extensive minor lacerations on his neck from the shattered canopy. It was winter so I had to ask, wasn't it cold flying without a canopy? He answered matter of factly, not too cold, but a bit drafty! When we landed at Incirlik, he was whisked away in a Range Rover by a bunch of his mates, a case of beer, and a hero's welcome. If this had been a US plane and pilot, I'm sure he would have been greeted with an investigation, sometimes the Brits have it right.

One morning I discovered a small sack of flour on the doorstep of our Incirlik AB veterinary treatment facility which was located on the flight line next to an F4 squadron. Later in the day I received a phone call from the CJTF explaining the flour had come from a United Nations (UN) warehouse in northern Iraq. The flour was being used to feed the Kurds and was implicated in a foodborne outbreak and they would like to have it tested. I explained to them that wheat flour was not considered a potentially hazardous food and we would need additional information of what else was being fed, any symptoms associated with the foodborne outbreak, and perhaps a representative sampling of the flour. Well, apparently more information wasn't possible. They first just wanted to destroy the possibly contaminated flour so they started burning it outside of the warehouse. The Kurds being short on food didn't take to this kindly and started shooting at the UN personnel ceasing the destruction of the flour. Two days later, a large sack of flour appeared on the doorstep of the veterinary treatment facility. Our Turkish interpreter helped me decipher the markings on the bag, even though it was wheat flour; it was in rice bags from Istanbul. We submitted samples to our veterinary laboratory in Germany; they found high levels of naphthalene, the common active ingredient in moth balls. The flour had been donated to the UN from an untraceable source, so it was unclear whether the high levels of naphthalene were due inappropriate application of this pesticide to control insects or intentionally to poison the Kurds. Our lab discovered that if the flour was placed on a flat surface such as a cookie sheet and allowed to aerate for eight hours, the naphthalene would volatilize off and the flour could then be used for human consumption. Great job lab, food crisis averted.

On a more somber note, in 1994 those Blackhawks we would fly on, two were shot down in a friendly fire incident killing all 26 aboard. We lost good friends that day including our Iraqi Peshmerga friend, Suleyman who would take us carpet shopping.

To end on a positive note, it was an honor to support Operation Provide Comfort which concluded the first Persian Gulf War. Living on an Air Force installation was definitely not a hardship especially considering I received hazard fire pay for three years and had a maid and a gardener. This was not the experience of my predecessor who had his family returned to the continental US in a non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) during Desert Storm.

For the real story of veterinary service support of the Persian Gulf War you'll need to read the first chapter of the much anticipated Borden Institute Textbook of Military Veterinary Service to be published later this year, this is my story, and I'm sticking to it.

# US Army Veterinary Corps History

## Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, my Veterinary Experience

By Brigadier General (Retired) John Poppe

I took command of the mighty, mighty 248<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service)(Airborne) in July 2001 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After the first couple of routine months in command and with the continuing mission in Bosnia; an AWOL Soldier confused over a chapter action due to homosexuality, back under don't ask don't tell that we successfully apprehended; two courts-martials due to an alcohol related event in Kosovo; a few airborne training operations at Sicily; the horrific events on 11 September 2001 unfolded.

I remember the day clearly when our unit Executive Officer came running into my office after the first plane hit the World Trade Center. We stayed glued to our television in the training room as they locked down the post, the second plane hit the other World Trade Center tower, the third plane crashed into the Pentagon, the fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania, and Operation Noble Eagle was put into effect. Our unit was located in old World War II barracks in the 1<sup>st</sup> COSCOM area of Fort Bragg physically separated from the 44<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade and XVII Airborne Corps headquarters on main post. I spent the remainder of the day in gridlock trying to get to the 44<sup>th</sup> on main post and reassuring our unit and their family members that everything was going to be alright.

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Dakin assigned with US Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg was the first Veterinary Corps officer (VCO) to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) to Karshi Khanabad Air Base (K2) in Uzbekistan. One of our 68Ts, SFC Ken Gaines who spoke Arabic, was quickly identified and shanghaied by XVIII Airborne Corps as an interpreter. He was our Air Ops NCO and his departure left a hole in our unit, I can't recall all the countries he worked in, but it was quite a few. He was issued one of our M9 pistols when he was deployed and he called me from a faraway land and reported the M9 had been seized by customs and he wasn't sure if he would be able to get it back. I said, don't worry, just don't come home without it, he finally did return safely with the pistol in tow.

The 248<sup>th</sup> received its first request for forces (RFF) for ten pax that was for two VCOs, a mix of 68 Rs and Ts, and a cook. We loaded them up with other Soldiers from the 44<sup>th</sup> and the 528<sup>th</sup> Special Operation Support Battalion (we would meet up with the 528<sup>th</sup> in another theater later), they were off to K2. This team was led by MAJ David Fletcher, as the mission expanded into Afghanistan, he would become the first VCO in Afghanistan. MAJ Fletcher was whisked away under the cover of night in a C130 when Bagram Air Base was being seized and a military working dog (MWD) apparently suffering from a gastric dilatation volvulus (GDV) needed veterinary attention. It turned out not to be a GDV and both patient and veterinarian survived. This small team would later expand their mission from K2 to both Bagram and Kandahar. The 248<sup>th</sup> HQ at Bragg received its next RFF for 24 pax in support of OEF for a mixture of VCOs, 68Rs, 68Ts, no cook this time. As I briefed the 44<sup>th</sup> Commanding General (CG) Brigadier General Bill Fox, I've got 24 Soldiers to send, but it will be a mix of VCOs, Rs, Ts, mechanics, and administrative Soldiers, I personally guaranteed that we could easily accomplish the mission with these Soldiers. The CG didn't buy it and the mission was passed back to Forces Command and tasked to another unit. When the new unit arrived in theater, we had planned on signing over our equipment but were instructed to collect our gear and have our Captain ride the pallet home, took some time but he got it done.

With our initial involvement in OEF complete, the training calendar returned to almost normal at Bragg. With our Air Ops NCO back and the senior NCO from our 10 pax, MSG Axel Torre back from Afghanistan, and after one year in command, all of my airborne qualified Captains PCSed (Permanent Change of Station, it's a verb in the Army). I had sport parachuted during college at Washington State University with the Palouse Parachute Club and had always wanted to complete the Basic Airborne Course (BAC), but had never been assigned to an airborne unit so was denied attendance until the ripe old age of 42. When I was selected to command the 248<sup>th</sup>, I had asked the Human Resources Command (HRC) about attendance in the course and was told I would have the opportunity to attend TDY enroute when I PCSed to Fort Bragg. Being concerned that my advanced age would make me prone to breakage and fearing having to accept the guidon during the change of command on crutches, I convinced the Chief of the Department of Veterinary Science, where I currently was assigned, to send me to the BAC in September of 2000. Just in case I got broken, I would have time to heal and return to the BAC TDY enroute the following summer. BAC was the most professional military school I would attend during my career thanks to the awesome Black Hat NCO instructors, thankfully I passed. My roster number was A411, you never forget your roster number, I was the Alpha info officer.

## US Army Veterinary Corps History (cont.)

Our next adventure would take us to Iraq. Even though we were at Fort Bragg, we somehow got assigned under the 62<sup>nd</sup> Med Brigade out of Fort Lewis who was supporting the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (ID). The mission of the 4<sup>th</sup> ID was to enter Iraq during the initial phases of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) by a land route thru Turkey in the north. We line hauled our vehicles and equipment to marry up with the 4<sup>th</sup> ID in Corpus Christi, Texas. It was then placed on ships headed to the eastern Mediterranean. We watched our ships circle the eastern Med while Turkey decided whether or not we could transit their country, they ended up saying no thank you and our equipment was sent to Kuwait.

The Soldiers of the 248<sup>th</sup> were to deploy in two movements, the first 30 pax was to be led by me and the second element of 18 was to be led by our Executive Officer, the second movement would later be turned off due change in mission. The first 30 departed on a contract carrier Boeing 777, I was asked to be the troop commander for the 14 hour flight from Pope AFB to Kuwait. The combined Soldiers were from our unit, two Combat Stress Control units (being sent over to deal with the capture of PFC Jessica Lynch), some infantry, and some engineers. It was a nice plane and while talking to the airline Captain, I found out he had also attended Washington State University, Go Cougs! In Kuwait we were in-processed and transported to lovely Camp Virginia and got about our business of locating our equipment. We went searching at one of the equipment lots at the port facility during a sand storm but did eventually locate all of our equipment. When we returned to Camp Virginia we found we had been reassigned from the 62<sup>nd</sup> Med with the 4<sup>th</sup> ID to the 30<sup>th</sup> Medical Brigade supporting V Corps. We later learned that we would report to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Medical Battalion under the 30<sup>th</sup>. The 93<sup>rd</sup> was a dental unit and had command and control of the dental, combat stress, preventive medicine, and the veterinary detachments under the 30<sup>th</sup>. The other veterinary detachment under the 93<sup>rd</sup> was the 72<sup>nd</sup> from Germany commanded by LTC Tim Adams who would go on to be the 24<sup>th</sup> Chief of the US Army Veterinary Corps and me as the 25<sup>th</sup>. Small world considering Tim and I had not met during our careers until Kuwait. We initially agreed that as Iraq was secured by coalition forces, the 248<sup>th</sup> would take northern Iraq and the 72<sup>nd</sup> would take the south.

As the coalition forces crossed the berm from Kuwait into Iraq, we watched from our tents in the 114 degree daily heat. As our forces seized Baghdad and even before the city was secured, we received an urgent phone call from Baghdad requesting to purchase local fresh fruit and vegetables from the market. LTC Adams being the senior veterinarian took the call and explained that was not going to happen. When he received push back from the caller, he turned a little red and loudly affirmed his decision and if that was not good enough he would drive up there and put him in a hurt locker. Apparently the message was received and it was quite some time before we received another such request.

As we prepared to push north across the berm into Iraq and one evening at the 30<sup>th</sup> Med battle update brief (BUB), the 30<sup>th</sup> informed us that they had disestablished the motor pool earlier that day without prior notification. We rushed out of the tent, it was already dark outside, when we arrived at the former motor pool we quickly counted our Humvees each marked on the windshield with a green cross for easy identification as a Veterinary Service vehicle, all ten were there. We counted our trailers one thru nine, counted again nine, when there should have been ten. We swept out and searched the remainder of Camp Virginia, a one mile by one mile square patch of sand enclosed by a berm. One of our Captains burst back into our tent later exclaiming that he had found our missing trailer. He had spotted a trailer in the motor pool of one of our sister units from Fort Bragg a Military Police Battalion. It was probably 2300 by now and we went over to the motor pool and met with their Company Commander to inspect the trailer, which he allowed. The ID plate had been recently removed evident by the brightly snapped off rivets and there was fresh paint over the bumper numbers leaving the trailer without any identification. After waking their Battalion Commander, he instructed a 100% inventory for the next morning which revealed an additional trailer, it was returned to us later that day, case closed.

This ends my first installment on OEF and OIF, since then, multitudes of veterinary detachments and veterinary personnel have deployed in support of OEF and OIF. Thank you all for your service to your Nation and the great sacrifices. For the real story of veterinary service support of the OEF and OIF you'll need to read the first chapter of the much anticipated Borden Institute Textbook of Military Veterinary Service to be published later this year, this is my story, and I'm sticking to it.



# US Army Veterinary Corps History

## Noncommissioned officers, My Veterinary Experience

By Brigadier General (Retired) John Poppe

This month's edition was scheduled to be a part two of my OEF/OIF experience, but a good friend of mine passed away last week, Lance O'Brien. He served as a 91R (Veterinary Service Food Inspection Specialist now 68R) and was my detachment sergeant as a Staff Sergeant (SSG) in my first command at the 73d Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service) Fort Lewis, Washington. He was an exceptional noncommissioned officer (NCO) and a good person, I was fortunate to know and serve with him, I learned so much from this outstanding NCO.

I have had the great honor and privilege to have served with many great NCOs over my career, but this article is dedicated to SSG O'Brien and all Veterinary Service NCOs.

The 73d was a veterinary service small detachment or JA team. At full strength it was comprised of six Soldiers, a Captain Veterinary Corps Officer, a SSG detachment sergeant 91R, three junior enlisted 91Rs, and a 91T Animal Care Specialist (now 68T). The 73d had served in World War II, Vietnam, and Desert Storm before Lance and I got there. I will call him Lance which I would have never done when I was assigned there, it was always SSG O'Brien.

Being a detachment sergeant of a six Soldier detachment may sound easy, but the administrative duties are the same for a detachment as that of an Army company. A company has a commander, an executive officer, S1-4 officers, as well as a First Sergeant. All the duties of these officers just mentioned were completed by the JA's commander and detachment sergeant with the detachment sergeant being two grades below the company's First Sergeant. Not many NCOs could pull this off, but Lance excelled. I had previously served in two JB teams (veterinary service large) and one XB team (veterinary hospital), but had never served at a headquarters unit. Lance taught me how to complete and brief the Unit Status Report (USR) and the Quarterly Training Brief (QTB). But more importantly I learned a great deal about leadership from Lance.

In my short two years in command, we would take the 73d on two rotations to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), spend a month at the Yakima Training Center (YTC) with I Corps, support Cobra Gold in Thailand, and plan and execute Operation Green Cross in Grenada.

# US Army Veterinary Corps History (cont.)

Here are just a few of the things I learned from Lance:

1. Discipline – The 73d shared an old barracks building with a ground ambulance company of the 62d Medical Brigade. Lance as our detachment sergeant would usually take care of most of the disciplinary actions prior to them rising to my level as NCO business. I would find our Soldiers buffing the floors in my office and the first time I asked about the Soldiers indiscretion that led to this corrective training, Lance grinned and gently reminded me that this was NCO business...enough said. One case that did rise to my level was when we were preparing for Operation Green Cross in Grenada. At the time we were blessed to have two 91Ts, or at least we thought we were blessed. We would later learn this 91T had been reassigned from Sasebo Japan to the 73d for allegedly conducting surgeries on his own. We found him packing bibles and used clothing to be sent to Grenada as medical equipment. We pulled him from the operation and tried to explain to him that if he had been up front we would have all chipped in to ship these items separately and that using government funds would be illegal. Our battalion commander at the 18th MASH just claimed we had shot Robin Hood.
2. Accountability – All of I Corps went to the YTC during Cascade Sage in 1995. We were forward located with a Class I support battalion. When it finally came time for us to redeploy to Fort Lewis, Lance was wise enough to post a guard around our vehicles and equipment to keep Soldiers from other units from pilfering our equipment to make their equipment road worthy. We chased off a number of thieves and returned with all of our equipment, this lesson as well as marking your equipment thoroughly was worth its weight in gold in Iraqi Freedom.
3. And lastly, the only bad coffee is no coffee. Lance and I were the only two in the 73d who drank coffee. We always had plenty of coffee, but we always seemed to run out of coffee maker filters. I would find Lance in our training room brewing coffee using paper towels or whatever we had at hand, most of the time unsuccessfully with usually a large mess. These incidents would later become known as just another caffeine related incident.

This is the real story of a veterinary service NCO and it won't be included in our Borden Institute Textbook of Military Veterinary Service, but needed to be documented. VS NCOs thank you for what you do each and every day, probably the only reason I had a successful career was because of NCOs like Lance. Lance you'll be missed, thank you and your Family for your service to our Nation.

# Marijuana Toxicity

By CPT Colleen Mans, Fort Carson FYGVE Intern

The legalization of marijuana has brought up many hot topics for discussion, including a myriad of public benefits and consequences. Employment rates have risen and the number of arrests has dropped, while at the same time, our neighboring states (Nebraska and Oklahoma) are suing Colorado. More concerning is the lack of quality control processes in place for marijuana products, meaning that there is no regulation for what can and cannot be used in these items, nor standards of safety for their use. These are all 'people problems'; created by people and affecting people. But what about our pets?

A study published in 2012 by Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care found a direct correlation between the number of medical marijuana licenses and increased numbers of marijuana toxicity cases in household pets. Between the years of 2005 and 2010, practicing veterinarians in the state of Colorado reported that the number of these cases had increased 146-fold!

To make matters worse for our furry friends, the wide variety of products containing THC can also include other ingredients that are toxic to your pets. THC butter, also known as 'Cannabutter' is a product made with marijuana that is then substituted for regular butter in numerous bakery-type product recipes; Hence, the creation of 'magic brownies', 'pot-cookies', and 'stoner scones'. Should your pet ingest these tasty treats, they will likely end up with multiple toxins in their system, including chocolate, caffeine, raisins, and macadamia nuts – each with additional medical consequences. To prevent your pet from becoming one of these statistics, here are some things to help you protect your pet and respond appropriately should they ingest or inhale marijuana.

1. The active ingredient in marijuana is a compound called tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC Toxicosis is the condition that results when your pet ingests product or inhales smoke that is laced with THC. THC has a wide margin of safety – meaning the lethal dose is extremely high – but only a low dose is necessary to cause toxicosis.
2. Response to THC Toxicosis can vary greatly between individual animals.
3. The most common clinical signs of THC Toxicosis include incoordination and stumbling, mental dullness and disorientation, dilated pupils, muscle tremors, noise sensitivity, excessive drooling, and vomiting. Death has been reported in rare, severe cases.
4. THC Toxicosis is often concurrent with exposure to other toxins, such as chocolate and caffeine, which can sometimes make treatment more complex. Be as specific as possible when speaking with your veterinarian.
5. Treatment for your pet can include intravenous fluid support, oxygen therapy, and symptom management as determined by the veterinarian. In more severe cases, the animal may need to be hospitalized for further monitoring and supportive care. There is no antidote for THC.
6. If you know or suspect that your pet has been exposed to THC, do not panic! Take them to a veterinarian right away. Be honest with your veterinarian about your concerns – we are not there to judge you, we are there to help your pet, and the more information we have, the sooner we can take the correct course of action.
7. For additional information, we recommend the Pet Poison Helpline, a 24/7 animal poison control center. You can visit them online at [www.petpoisonhelpline.com](http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com), or speak to your veterinary office. The Fort Carson Veterinary Center is available to assist you at (719) 526 3803.

**Reference:** Meola, S. D., Tearney, C. C., Haas, S. A., Hackett, T. B. and Mazzaferro, E. M. (2012), Evaluation of trends in marijuana toxicosis in dogs living in a state with legalized medical marijuana: 125 dogs (2005–2010). *Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care*, 22: 690–696. doi: 10.1111/j.1476-4431.2012.00818.x

## Global Veterinary Engagements: Operationalizing a New Directive

By MAJ MATTHEW LEVINE and  
MAJ PAUL HOLLIER

“Plan and conduct agricultural, veterinary public health, and animal health activities in support of...stability operations...civil authorities...global health”

-DOD Directive 6400.04E



Food Protection Branch, Department of Veterinary  
Science, AMEDDC&S CCC Class (162)

The U.S. response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa highlighted the linkage between human health and national security. Operation Unified Assistance, as it came to be called, demonstrated the power of global health (GH) activities in support of America’s national security, diplomatic, and development objectives. In light of this, global health is increasingly viewed as a strategic U.S. interest, capable of addressing the root causes of terrorism and instability. The U.S. military contributes to this whole-of-government effort by leveraging its expeditionary health service support capability as a means to achieve security cooperation and build partner capacity. Coined Global Health Engagements (GHEs), these activities are occurring in every U.S. Geographic Command and include international disaster response, military-to-military exchanges of expertise, and military-to-civilian collaboration.

Veterinary Services (VS) has a long and storied history of contributions in the global health field. To remain relevant in today’s complex operational environment, VS is adapting to meet the rapidly evolving GHE mission set. As the paradigm shifts away from direct patient care, the Veterinary Corps is embracing new opportunities and priorities by designing and conducting animal health activities which go beyond the traditional Veterinary Civil Action Program (VETCAP). While the provision of direct veterinary services provides tactical value (i.e., access and local support), it often fails to achieve long-term positive health outcomes or command objectives at the strategic level.

As veterinarians, we are keenly aware of the relationship between animal health and human health. From zoonotic disease transmission to food-borne illnesses, One Health principles are tailor made for GH interventions. Global health security, disease surveillance, and biological threat reduction are obvious arenas where veterinary expertise can add value. Moreover, across the globe, a huge number of people rely on livestock as a fundamental part of their livelihood strategies. Improving livestock health and productivity for smallholder producers through expanded veterinary services has the potential to impact millions of people teetering on the edge. By increasing economic opportunities, veterinary services can improve food and health security, move people out of poverty, and create a pathway to stability for our partner nations.

## **Global Veterinary Engagements: Operationalizing a New Directive (cont.)**

To move forward, VS should ask some critical questions: What actions can we, as veterinarians, take to mitigate the global burden of disease, address complex GH issues, and meet the specific health sector needs of partner nations? How can VS acquire the competencies, doctrine, and resources to successfully transition from the free delivery of veterinary services to population-centric Global Veterinary Engagements (GVE) which build local capacity? How can VS plan and coordinate meaningful and sustainable activities that complement the interagency and civilian-led global health effort?

Thanks to a concerted effort within VS, the institutionalization of Global Veterinary Engagements (GVE) is progressing rapidly with the goal of establishing GVEs as a core function of VS. DOD Directive 6400.04E “DOD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services”, revised in 2013, and ATP 4-02.42 “Army Health System Support Stability and Defense Support of Civil Authorities Tasks”, released in 2014, outline roles and responsibilities for VS in a population-centric context.

In response to the updated policy and doctrine, the Department of Veterinary Sciences (DVS) at AMEDDC&S is integrating “global animal health” competencies into the 64A curriculum. Formal GH training at DVS has already begun with the introduction of a GHE/GVE training module within the Captains Career Course (CCC) Veterinary Track and introductory classwork planned for the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC). Elsewhere, the Veterinary Support to Stability Operations (VSSO) course offers an Assessment and Production Systems Course and a Global Veterinary Medicine Course for early- to mid-career VCOs deploying in support of Stability Operations. Long Term Health and Education Training (LTHET) is another source of advanced GH training for interested VCOs.

To conclude, VS is actively working to develop competencies and training packages that meet our new requirements; but significant work remains. We should document our workload in the GH space in terms of inputs, outputs, and outcomes, replacing “vaccine-count” measures of impact with outcome-based metrics that align with strategic ends. We should generate a repository of significant activities, AARs, and information briefs to guide dispersed VCOs and avoid the needless replication of work. By monitoring and evaluating our GVE activities, we can establish best practices, standardize procedures, and capture lessons learned. Finally, VCOs directly involved with planning and/or conducting GVEs should continue to reach out and communicate, coordinating with other VCOs to create a unity of effort and informing non-VS military commanders on the optimal use of the Army veterinary capability.

Though small by DOD standards, Veterinary Services has the potential to make meaningful and outsized contributions in the field of global health; but we must be able to demonstrate our value to validate our involvement in today’s resource-constrained environment. Otherwise, we will be relegated to the role of “technical expert” rather than sought for our leadership and forward-leaning capabilities.

## C.J. Reddy Leadership Course

By CPT Teresa Vaughn

The C.J. Reddy Leadership Course is a five-day leadership development symposium named in honor of Army COL (Ret) Charles J. Reddy, an Army Nurse Corps Officer recognized for his leadership qualities and enthusiasm for mentoring and developing junior leaders. The conference was first held in June of 1992, with the goal of encouraging junior officer leadership development in the Army Nurse Corps. The theme of the 2016 course was “Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders through Interprofessional Collaboration and Innovation,” as the course was open to members of all AMEDD Corps, Army Medicine civilians, and medical professionals in sister services for the first time. Applicants were selected for attendance by their respective Corps Chief Office; ten Army Veterinary Corps Officers (VCOs) from various backgrounds of both Active Duty and Active Army Reserves were selected. The course was hosted by the Defense Health Agency in Falls Church, Virginia and provided participants with an exposure to key leaders across the AMEDD, an opportunity to network with other military medical professionals, and a window into the AMEDD’s strategic thinking.



**Veterinary Corps Chief with Veterinary Corps Captains attending the C.J. Reddy Leadership Course**

Attendees gained an understanding of how to support strategic level initiatives at a tactical level. Surgeon General, LTG Nadja West, shared her four strategic priorities: “Readiness and Healthcare (Current Fight), Healthcare Delivery (Current Fight), Force Development (Future Fight), and Take Care of Soldiers for life, DA Civilians, and Families (Always).” We learned the importance of understanding the mission two levels up and the interpretation at our level. As VCOs this translates first and foremost to the readiness and deployability of Military Working Dogs. Equally important is the readiness of our teams and our ability to support operational units to accomplish their missions. We must know our capabilities, be able to effectively describe them to others, and when asked for help, we must be ready to respond. To develop our force, it is critical to ensure junior officers receive mentorship at key stages through their career. A need for mentorship has been identified as a common theme in the Veterinary Corps throughout recent years. When mentorship is performed successfully, it accelerates leadership development, builds morale, creates cohesive teams, improves retention, and facilitates organizational growth. The Army Veterinary Service provides care for our beneficiaries not only through our care for the pets of Service members, but also through engaging our installations as a subject matter expert on zoonotic disease, foodborne disease, policies regarding the human animal bond, and assistance in emergency management planning. It is our responsibility to educate leaders on our installations on what the Army Veterinary Corps can offer and demonstrate how what we do each day on a tactical level can have strategic impact. In addition, it is critical to develop interagency and interprofessional partnerships to increase care coordination, increase teamwork, optimize the workforce, and enhance efficiencies. At isolated locations, we must educate and work with human providers to ensure we are establishing relationships that will support our Military Working Dogs in the event of emergency or simply when help is needed. Our diverse knowledge of zoonotic disease and epidemiology provides us with the tools to work alongside Public Health and Preventive Medicine to identify, assess, and mitigate risks for public health threats in our areas.

The C.J. Reddy Leadership Course is an excellent opportunity for junior officers in the Veterinary Corps who are eager to build relationships with others, grow as professionals and leaders, and gain new perspective into Army Medicine.

# Army Public Health Center (Provisional) Veterinary Service (VS) Products

**1) Veterinary Connections** - Veterinary Connections is a new quarterly publication written by Army Veterinary Services personnel and published by the Army Public Health Center (Provisional) to inform and educate Service Members, beneficiaries, and retirees about Animal Health, Food Safety, and One Health, where One Health refers to the intersection and overlap between animals, humans, and the environment.

The premiere edition includes information beneficiaries can use to protect themselves from *Salmonella* infection resulting from contaminated pet food, keep their dogs safe from xylitol toxicity, learn about egg safety, and learn about the benefits and special safety considerations when shopping at Farmers Markets.

[On the back page of each edition are a QR code and a web address to help readers locate their local Army Veterinary Treatment Facility, and an e-mail address for reader feedback. There is also a space for each veterinary facility to add a stamp or sticker with the contact information for their own clinic.](#)



Veterinary Connections is currently available for download from the APHC(P) Periodic Publications page <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/whatsnew/Pages/PublicationDetails.aspx?type=Veterinary%20Connections>. Print copies are being sent directly to the Army Veterinary Treatment Facilities for their customers to read while waiting for their veterinary appointments. Look for these to be at the VTFs by the end of April 2016. Additional copies of the print edition may also be ordered from the APHC(P) e-Catalog at <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/viewItem.aspx?id=751>.

**2) Animal Health Brochures** – A new line of animal health brochures for pet owners is now in development. These brochures are divided into 7 color-coded subcategories: Behavior, Pet Safety, Prevention, Toxicology – Pet Poisons, Vector-borne Diseases, Zoonotic Diseases, and Infectious Diseases (pet-to-pet). There will be over 30 brochures in this series to help inform and educate pet owners.

The first brochure, “Traveling with your Pet,” is currently available for download from the APHC(P) e-Catalog at <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/viewItem.aspx?id=747>. A small number of printed copies will be sent directly to the Army Veterinary Treatment Facilities to have available for their customers.

On the back page of each brochure are a QR code and a web address to help readers locate their local Army Veterinary Treatment Facility, and an e-mail address for reader feedback. There is also a space for each veterinary facility to add a stamp or sticker with the contact information for their own clinic.

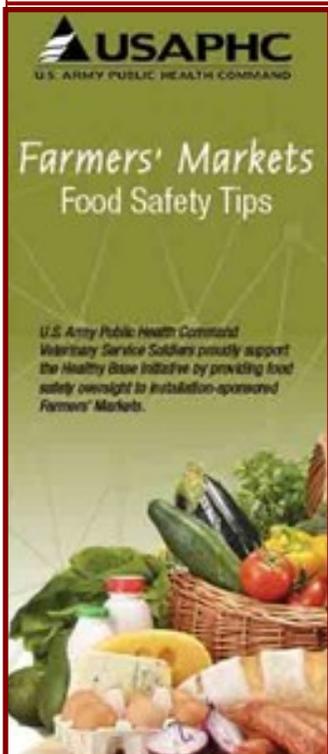
As each brochure becomes available, it will be added to the APHC(P) e-Catalog for download. [Printed hard copies may also be ordered from the APHC\(P\) e-Catalog.](#)

NOTE: Due to printing constraints, there may be a lag time of about 4-6 weeks between when brochures first become available for download versus VTFs receiving print editions.



The VS Product brochures are written by Army Veterinary Services personnel, and (where applicable) will be tailored for the military pet owner.

## APHC (P) Veterinary Service Products (cont.)



### 3) Food Safety Brochures – Currently under development.

Food Safety: Farmer's Market Table Top Display (download available now):

<https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/viewItem.aspx?id=664>

Food Safety: Farmers' Markets Food Safety Tips Guide (download available now; print copies available for order soon):

<https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/viewItem.aspx?id=646>

### 4) Posters – Free posters are currently and soon to be available for print order or download on the APHC(P) e-Catalog.

14 Performance Triad: Pet Posters ([in stock now](#))

<https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/searchResults.aspx?hotlist=58>

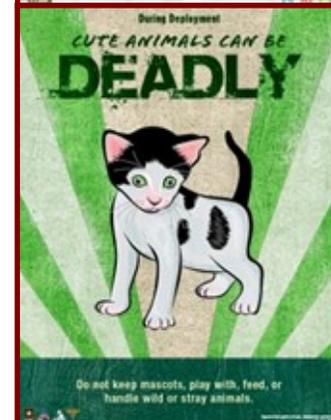


### 8 Rabies Posters

<https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/searchResults.aspx?c=0&s=0&f=0&l=0&t=rabies>



**No Show Poster** (currently available for download; print edition soon to be available for order) <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/HIOShoppingCart/viewItem.aspx?id=748>



Additional Animal Health Posters will be available soon.!!

**5) App** – Over the next few months, an app for the Veterinary Connections newsletter and the Animal Health Brochures will be in development.

For these and future VS products, check out the “Animal Health” Hot List link in the left sidebar of the APHC e-Catalog webpage: <https://usaphcapps.amedd.army.mil/hioshoppingcart/> First time use may require registration for a free account.

These VS Products are available at NO COST to the unit.

NAF funds may be used to purchase poster frames and brochure display racks for VTFs, using the routine GVMP purchasing request process. [Posters available for order on the e-Catalog are 18 x 24 inches in size.](#)

**Get the word out about the availability of these great new resources!!!**

## Official Veterinary Corps Chief Facebook Page and Unaffiliated Veterinary Service Facebook Pages

VC Chief: [https://www.facebook.com/armyvetcorpschief/?ref=aymt\\_homepage\\_panel](https://www.facebook.com/armyvetcorpschief/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel)

### 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

