The Food Protection Branch, Department of Veterinary Sciences, AMEDDC&S HRCoE, conducted the first pilot course for Veterinary Senior Captain Development Course (VSCDC) this spring. Instruction included discussion-based training with AMEDDC&S Cadre as well as guest lectures from Human Resources Command, the Army Public Health Center, and Medical Education and Training Campus (METC).

Senior company-grade Veterinary Corps Officers (VCO) were provided with experiential training in coordination with the Captains Career Course (CCC). Participants discussed multiple topics to include Global Health Engagements, Food & Water Risk Assessments, advanced clinical management practices, management of food protection programs, NCO life cycle and development, behavioral health in veterinary medicine, structure and support of the MDVSS, and the role of Veterinary Services in DSCA and public health incident response and preparedness.

The course supported AMEDDC&S HRCoE LOEs to develop AMEDD Leaders to be versatile, adaptive, and respected within the Army profession, and to improve operation professional readiness.
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Veterinary Services personnel in Korea are recognized for their efforts in winning the Brigade Best Warrior Competition by their command team.

Need information on where to find access to a Veterinary Treatment Facility near you?

The Army Public Health Center has developed the milPetED APP for use by Service members, beneficiaries, and retirees can go to obtain animal health information, tips, and resources. The milPetED App is available for both Apple and Android platforms.

Please send any needed milPetED updates for the “Find a Veterinary Treatment Facility,” section to the VS Publications mailbox: usarmy.apg.medcom-aphc.mbx.vspublications@mail.mil
Snapshots Around the Service

As recognition for their support of the Department of Defense Pentagon Force Protection Agency’s (PFPA) Working Dog Program, the Ft Belvoir FYGVE group received a personalized tour of the Pentagon. Highlights of the tour included the 9/11 Memorial, the Secretary of Defense’s office area, Secretary of the Army’s office area, the Pentagon Briefing Room, and the Hall of Heroes room honoring Medal of Honor recipients. The Pentagon Force Protection Agency provided a demonstration of the typical working conditions and schedule of the PFPA working dogs. The Ft Belvoir VETCEN provides routine GOA care, 24-hour emergency services, and semiannual site visits for 24 PFPA working dogs as well as new-handler training and annual handler training for the PFPA Working Dog Program. Ft Belvoir VETCEN staff also provide on-site mission support for the PFPA Working Dog Program during special events at the Pentagon such as the 4th of July Celebration, the Army 10-Miler and the Marine Corps Marathon.

A Veterinary Services junior soldier attended the Basic Leader Course at Fort Campbell, KY. She made the Commandant’s list, graduating in the top 20% of the class.

Veterinary Corps Officers and NonCommissioned Officers stand on the steps in front of the US Capital building during the Junior Officer Leadership Week.
In October 2017, the 218th MDVSS deployed Soldiers to Puerto Rico in support of the Hurricane Maria Response. “The destruction was pretty significant; many businesses were closed due to flooding, power outage, and home destruction. There was garbage and debris all over the streets. Power lines were just dangling with some power poles across the streets,” said a 218th Veterinary Corps Officer on the damage seen when arriving in Puerto Rico.

During the deployment, the team conducted sanitary food audits of facilities that were affected by the storm, inspected operational rations as well as Food and Water Risk Assessments of facilities in order to ensure safe subsistence was provided to over troops on ground. The squad commander provided the 3rd Expeditionary Support Command with preventative medical expertise to assist with the investigation of a human fatality suspected to be caused by leptospirosis. The team also assisted the local veterinary treatment facility in removing debris, reopening the clinic and treating a military working dog. “Seeing the devastation of the island motivated us even more to provide the needed assistance to the people of Puerto Rico,” said a veterinary services specialist.

The Soldiers talked strongly on how unit training was vital to the success of the Puerto Rico mission. The 218th MDVSS’s deployment readiness exercises ensured successful rapid deployment of personnel and equipment to and from Puerto Rico. Overall, the 218th MDVSS Soldiers excelled and completed their mission, spending over a month deployed in support of the Army’s Hurricane Maria relief efforts. Viper Vets!
In February 2018, the Public Health Activity-San Diego Food Safety Officer, hosted the PHA-San Diego NCO Food Inspection Summit with all NCOs within the command at the Presidio of Monterey, CA.

The objectives of the summit were to: 1) standardize inspection procedures across the Activity; 2) develop a cohesive and collaborative team of highly trained NCOs; 3) provide the training and tools necessary for NCOs to train their Soldiers; and 4) develop a high performing team.

Food Safety Officers, NCOs, and guest speakers provided comprehensive didactic and hands-on training on various topics to include: Operational Rations Inspections, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), Food Deterioration, Bioluminescence Swabbing, Preventive Medicine and Veterinary Service Collaboration, Response Procedures for Foodborne Illness Outbreaks, and much more. The training culminated with a final exam of all topics covered and the results were used as a self-assessment for all attendees.

The key take-aways from the summit included that PHA-San Diego has a highly technically trained team that is prepared to execute the mission; inspection and reporting procedures are standardized across the Activity; and Leaders are engaged and have identified key areas of leader development for the themselves and their personnel.
The Fort Campbell FYGVE team, HQ staff, and 72nd MDVSS Vets attended a PMO course in-February at Middle Tennessee State University. The trip yielded a wealth of knowledge that will be essential for audits at dairy facilities in the future. Activities included dairy plant/farm inspections, HTST equipment testing, and discussion of PMO guidelines. Of course they all loved being around the cows!
PHA-ITALY Trains Critical Tasks for Animal Care Specialists

In mid-February, Animal Care Technicians (68T) from each Branch of Public Health Activity—Italy attended 68T Training and Credentialing at the Vicenza Branch Veterinary Treatment Facility. During the week, PHA-Italy Soldiers underwent a series of didactic 68T critical tasks. Much of this training was hands-on, to include emergency ultrasound exams on the incredibly patient POA “Nacho” Silvers, and culminated in a day of emergency medicine tasks. PHA-Italy is grateful for the expert instruction by team members from the 64th MDVSS, Germany.

Although MWD “Hero,” the newly acquired canine medical trainer, sustained numerous life-threatening injuries, the 68Ts acted promptly and ensured a great outcome. Before sunrise, PHA-Italy’s First Sergeant ensured that the 68Ts completed each of the Army Warrior Tasks, where PHA-Italy Soldiers enjoyed the comradery and expert instruction by Vicenza Branch and Headquarters NCOs. Soldiers also participated in applied activities involving food inspection, an important competency for the 68Ts that are co-located with 68R-Food Inspection Specialists.
We enter 2018 stressing the importance of safety, in our case, children’s behavior around unfamiliar dogs. According to For Kids’ Sake article on safety around dogs, “over eighty seven percent of dog bite fatalities involving children occurred when the child was left unsupervised with a dog or the child wandered off to the location of the dog.” This statistics demonstrates potential for a simple program that we can implement in the classroom could significantly reduce the number of dog bite related incidents with younger children. It is important to emphasize teaching children to never forget that our man’s best friends are still dangerous animals and demand to be respected and handled with care. Therefore, the University of Tennessee-College of Veterinary Medicine’s Human Animal Bond (HABIT) program created an easy, crawl, walk, run teachable program on dog bite prevention for younger children in a school setting.

Soldiers from 438th Medical detachment and Public Health Activity-Fort Carson came together to teach the second RUFUS class at Abrams Elementary on Fort Carson to 30 1st grade students. R.U.F.U.S. stands for: Respect, Understanding dogs, Friendly dogs, Unfriendly dogs and Staying away from some dogs. We began the session with our VCOs initiating an ice breaker Q and A and an instructional video. Next, the students patiently and politely waiting for the instructional portion to be completed, two very well trained dogs were waiting in the wings to put what the children have learned to test. One-by-one each student lined up eager to ask their question, “May I pet your dog?” as they each got to assess the situation on how they would approach preventing a dog bite and maybe give an extra pet or two for the dogs. This interaction provides an aid to demonstrate the principles of assessing behavior and was a success for these 1st grade students.

438th MDVSS’ goal for the upcoming months of 2018 and so forth is to create a sustainable program with the elementary school, and ensure all students receive the dog-bite prevention education.

You can find the RUFUS teaching materials at:
http://www.vet.utk.edu/dogbiteprevention/parents/teachingmaterials.html#activities
Public Health Activity-Italy Increases Access to Care

Who: PHA-I Vicenza Branch and NAF Staff:

What: Performed wellness and sick call appointments on a Saturday to increase access to care for members of the Vicenza Military Community.

Where: Vicenza Veterinary Treatment Facility, Longare, Italy.

Why: Increase access to care for members of the Vicenza Military Community.

Priority: Increased access to care for Service Members and their families and increase OPVs for VCO.

Results: Increased access to care to Service Members and their families. Providing extra opportunities to 64A and 68Ts to hone clinical skills, while maintaining proficiency and completing OPVs.

1. Two satisfied patients “Cole” and “Atticus” for a wellness appointment and vaccinations.
2. An NCO draws blood for annual Heartworm test.
3. Team members scanning patient for microchip, which identifies patient with a unique number.
4. The Veterinarian vaccinating “Obi-Wan”, while a 68T holds patient.
5. Auscultating the heart and lungs.
6. Team members discuss patient care for “Louis” with his owner.
DVS Updates

The AMEDDCS HRCoE Chief of Staff recognized the hard work of the Department of Veterinary Science team member.

Captains Career Course Class 181-18 graduated from AMEDDCS HRCoE in March.

The Uniformed Veterinary Medicine Association (UVMA) provides recognition for the top performing Veterinary Corps officer of each Captains Career Course class.

CCC Class 181 poses in front of the Veterinary Corps monument at the AMEDD Museum at JBSA Fort Sam Houston.
DVS Graduates

Veterinary Services Operations (C9) Graduates
At the MWD memorial on JBSA-Lackland (above) and with Malinois puppies in the Puppy Program (right).

A newly graduated class of 68T Animal Care Specialists.
Official Veterinary Corps Chief & Unaffiliated Veterinary Service Facebook Pages

VC Chief:  https://www.facebook.com/armyvetcorpschief/?fref=ts

Unaffiliated:
1. UVMA (Uniformed Veterinary Medicine Association)
2. AREVP (Association of Retired Enlisted Veterinary Personnel)
3. The mighty 68R club
4. R.E.S.T. NCO Global Support Community (formerly the 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

Soldiers demonstrate the capabilities and skills of military working dogs on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va,. The 947th Military Police Detachment, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard), is the second largest MWD kennel in the Continental United States. The unit has assigned 24 MWDs with a variety of skills from Patrol Explosive Detection Dog, Patrol Narcotic Detection Dog and Specialized Search Dog.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Gabriel Silva

The Unclassified VS News Notes newsletter is published quarterly and is available for download at:

http://veterinarycorps.amedd.army.mil/newsletters2.htm

Archived quarterly newsletters are also available at this site.