



UNITED STATES ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND

Public Affairs Office

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U.S. Army Public Health Command

The U.S. Army Public Health Command is being formed from select missions of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and the U.S. Army Veterinary Command, which will be integrated to form the core of the USAPHC. This integration is occurring in phases over a two-year period that began with USACHPPM's conversion to provisional status Oct. 1, 2009, and will end when the USAPHC reaches full operational capability, targeted for Oct. 1, 2011.

The mission of this new organization is to promote health and prevent disease, injury and disability of Soldiers and military retirees, their families, and Army civilian employees; and to assure effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary service for Army and DOD.

The USAPHC brings both breadth and depth of knowledge to its Army and Department of Defense customers. Its people are experts in approximately 60 scientific and technical disciplines. They include preventive and occupational medicine physicians, public health and occupational health nurses, epidemiologists, industrial hygienists, veterinarians, food safety and quality assurance experts, entomologists, physicists, chemists, toxicologists, engineers, environmental scientists, biologists, ergonomists, nuclear medicine experts, health physicists, physical therapists, audiologists, health educators, behavioral health professionals, geologists, meteorologists and more.

USAPHC employees will be able to provide improved services to customers through standardization of policies, procedures and best practices, and through the synergy that the combined USACHPPM and VETCOM capabilities and knowledge will create. This synergy will yield many benefits for customers—some examples are improved services through a broadened capability and sharing of data in areas such as disease and injury surveillance and laboratory services; more comprehensive solutions to public health issues; a standardized suite of services across Army activities; sustainment of crucial synergy of

effort between public health and MTF assets; and more opportunities for collaboration and partnerships.

The transition to the USAPHC should cause little disruption to customer service. While the USAPHC is in provisional status, both USAPHC (Provisional) and VETCOM customers will deal with the same organizational contacts with whom they currently have business relationships.

When fully operational, the USAPHC will include a headquarters and an Army Institute of Public Health at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; five public health regional commands, three in the continental United States and two overseas; and 14 public health districts. Through this structure, the USAPHC will maintain accountability for public health, overseeing installation-level public health policies, practices and procedures and delivering veterinary services.

The USAPHC's reach is global and its focus is local—its personnel serve on the ground in support of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps installations; in medical treatment facilities and laboratories; and in deployed locations around the world.

The health of DOD military and civilian personnel and government-owned animals is essential for readiness. Preventing conditions that threaten Soldier, civilian, family member and animal health is operationally sound, cost effective and certainly better for individual well-being than providing medical treatment for sick or injured patients. Prevention—the early identification and mitigation of health risks through surveillance, education, training, and standardization and implementation of best public health practices—is crucial to the military's success. With its breadth and depth of expertise, the USAPHC is able to respond locally and project globally, providing an efficient mechanism of force health protection for Army and DOD assets around the world.