



UNITED STATES ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND

Public Affairs Office

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U.S. Army Public Health Command History

A new chapter is being written in the histories of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and the U.S. Army Veterinary Command. The two formally merged to form the U.S. Army Public Health Command on Jan. 4, 2012.

As the U.S. Army Public Health Command, they share a mission 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 veterinary missions. Together, their Soldiers and civilians will draw on distinguished legacies to provide service to Army and DOD customers around the world.

The lineage of the USACHPPM can be traced back to the Army Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, which was established at the beginning of World War II under the direct jurisdiction of the Army surgeon general.

AIHL originally was located at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health; it had a staff of three and an annual budget of \$3,000. Its mission was to conduct occupational health surveys and investigations within the Department of Defense industrial production base, a mission that proved beneficial to the nation's war effort.

In October 1945, AIHL was transferred to what was then known as the Chemical Warfare Center, Edgewood Arsenal, Md., now Aberdeen Proving Ground–Edgewood Area. At that time, Army Regulation 40-220, Industrial Medical Program, was published as the first regulation on industrial hygiene. This document turned out to be a milestone in preventive medicine in the Army. From 1940 to 1960, AIHL's mission and personnel continued to expand, and AIHL became the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency.

In 1973, USAEHA became a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Health Services Command (the latter later became U.S. Army Medical Command). The following year, USAEHA was given command of the health and environmental resources of the Army medical laboratories. These assets became USAEHA subordinate commands and

later USACHPPM subordinate commands: USACHPPM North, Fort George G. Meade, Md; USACHPPM South, Fort Sam Houston, Texas (now named Joint Base San Antonio); and USACHPPM West, Fort Lewis (now renamed Joint Base Lewis-McChord), Wash.

USAEHA remained an internationally known agency with its mission expanded to support the worldwide preventive medicine programs of the Army, DOD and other federal agencies. On Aug. 2, 1994, USAEHA was redesignated USACHPPM, with provisional status and a general officer leadership; USACHPPM became fully functional on Oct. 1, 1995.

In addition to its continental United States regional commands, USACHPPM also had two subordinate commands outside the continental United States. In 1994, the 10th Medical Laboratory, located at Landstuhl, Germany, came under the operational control of USACHPPM. In 1995, the 10th Medical Laboratory was inactivated, and USACHPPM Europe was activated. Also in 1995, the Environmental Health Engineering Agency, Sagami, Japan was redesignated USACHPPM Pacific. In 1997, USACHPPM Pacific relocated from Sagami to Camp Zama, Japan.

On Oct. 1, 2009, USACHPPM changed its name to the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional). The former USACHPPM subordinate commands became Public Health Command Regions North, South, West, Europe and Pacific. In a July 11 ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the USACHPPM colors were cased, and the organization was formally reflagged as the U.S. Army Public Health Command.

The U.S. Army Veterinary Command was activated Oct. 2, 1994, as a major subordinate command of U.S. Army Medical Command. The Army is the DOD Executive Agent for Veterinary Services, and VETCOM executed this mission by supporting Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps installations and units throughout the world. Responsibility for installation veterinary service as well as command and control of veterinary service



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personnel for all of Europe was added in July 2007, and mission responsibility for Korea, minus command and control of its personnel, was added in November 2007.

VETCOM headquarters was located at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, with six subordinate Regional Veterinary Commands and 21 District Veterinary Commands or equivalents supporting almost 500 DOD installations worldwide. VETCOM also included two DOD-level activities, the DOD Veterinary Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory and the DOD Military Working Dog Veterinary Service, a state-of-the-art referral center for military and federal working dogs and a training center for military veterinary interns and residents.

The command had more than 395 duty sites, 133 attending sites, and 168 veterinary clinics in exotic and distant locations such as Cuba, Japan, Guam, Singapore, Turkey, Italy and Spain as well as throughout the United States. It also supported missions in most areas of the world, including the Philippines, Laos, Vietnam, Kwajalein, New Zealand, Australia, Africa, and Central and South America.

VETCOM's approximately 2,000 personnel included veterinarians, warrant officers, enlisted Soldiers, and appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilians who provide a variety of services, including the following:

- * Food protection and quality assurance,
- * Medical and surgical care to government-owned animals such as working dogs and ceremonial horses for the DOD and other federal agencies,
- * Surveillance and control of zoonotic and transmissible animal diseases, and care of pets owned by active-duty and retired service members, and
- * Trained and ready Active and Reserve Component personnel.

Throughout its short history, VETCOM vigorously addressed the veterinary service issues facing the MEDCOM, the Army and the DOD, continuously improving and refining its capabilities to support a wide diversity of needs and challenges to include the increased threat of intentional food contamination, an unparalleled expansion of the numbers and types of military working dogs, and the significantly increased support required for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. VETCOM cased its colors in a July 22, 2011, inactivation ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, combining forces with the former U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine to create the U.S. Army Public Health Command.