



USAPHC

U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND

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U.S. Army Public Health Command

Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting physical health through organized, population-based efforts. The U.S. Army Public Health Command has broadened that definition in its mission statement, “to promote health and prevent disease, injury and disability of Soldiers and retirees, their family members, and Army civilians, and to assure effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary service for Army and Department of Defense veterinary missions.”

In executing its public health mission, USAPHC provides consulting services to senior military leaders, commanders both deployed and in garrison, and military medical and health professionals.

Headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., USAPHC has six subordinate elements, the Army Institute of Public Health and five regional commands.

The AIPH, also located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, standardizes and promulgates practices and procedures used throughout the USAPHC, administers and funds public health mission execution, provides one-of-a-kind and reach-back technical capabilities, and oversees quality assurance.

The five Public Health Command regions execute public health missions. They are supported by 14 Public Health Command districts that bring public health services even closer to the Army installations and deployed units who are their customers. USAPHC personnel are assigned in 14 time zones and in approximately 400 locations around the globe. Their professions include almost 70 scientific and technical disciplines, which are brought to bear on public health issues and problems in matrixed teams.

The USAPHC is a subordinate command of U.S. Army Medical Command, but it is unique among MEDCOM organizations in these ways:

- Its “patients” are populations, that is groups of people—military units, families or Army civilian employees, for example—rather than individuals.
- It emphasizes prevention of disease, injury and disability, rather than healing those who have already experienced these conditions.
- It is proactive, optimizing health by educating members of the Army population about healthy behaviors, empowering them to build and sustain their own good health.

The USAPHC’s public health responsibilities are extremely far-reaching. They extend beyond humans to include animals and the environment, where some of the causes of disease, injury and disability in people originate. Rabies, unsafe drinking water, food that has spoiled or has not been safely processed or prepared, ineffective sanitation measures in the aftermath of natural disaster, exposure to industrial chemicals, mold in the workplace—these are just a few examples of the health threats stemming from animals or the environment that Army public health professionals address.

Through its unique mission and capabilities, the USAPHC is helping Army Medicine transform to a prevention-focused system for health. Preventing conditions that threaten Soldier, civilian, family member and animal health is operationally sound, cost effective and better for individual well-being. Though care of the ill and injured will always be necessary, the demands for such care will be reduced through prevention and health promotion. Army Medicine is on the pathway to realizing this proactive, preventive vision.

Visit the USAPHC Web site at <http://phc.amedd.army.mil> for preventive health and wellness information for Soldiers and retirees, families and Army civilians.