



USAPHC

U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND

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U.S. Army Public Health Command History

Throughout the history of warfare, armies have depended on clean water, wholesome food, sanitation, disease and injury prevention, hazard-free environments and other sound public health practices to keep Soldiers in fighting form. The U.S. Army Public Health Command has broadened the scope of the public health mission to meet today's Army's needs—to prevent disease, injury and disability in Soldiers and retirees, their families and Army civilians, as well as to assure effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary services for the Army and Department of Defense.

The USAPHC reached full operational capability Oct. 1, 2011. It was created from the merger of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and the U.S. Army Veterinary Command. Through this merger, a uniquely capable military organization was born—one that embodies the “One Health” approach to public health.

One Health is the concept that health in animals, people and the environment is interrelated; that is, the health of each contributes to the health of all. The formal uniting of prevention, health promotion and veterinary missions allows for full coordination, synchronization and integration of the military public health services the USAPHC provides around the globe.

The USAPHC draws on distinguished legacies to provide that service to its Army and Department of Defense customers around the world.

The lineage of the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine can be traced back more than 70 years 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 DOD 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. 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; and USACHPPM West, Fort Lewis, 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 Regions North, South, West, Europe and Pacific.



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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 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 brought to the USAPHC more than 395 duty sites in exotic and distant locations such as Cuba, Japan, Guam, Singapore, Turkey, Italy and Spain as well as throughout the United States. It supported missions in most areas of the world, including the Philippines, Laos, Vietnam, Kwajalein, New Zealand, Australia, Africa, and Central and South America.

At the time of the USAPHC merger, 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.