



**U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND**

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## Creating space for healthy change

**T**he U.S. Army Public Health Command, headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., is Army Medicine's single point of responsibility for public health. 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.

The USAPHC brings both breadth and depth of knowledge to its Army and Department of Defense clients. Our people are experts in more than 65 scientific and technical disciplines. They maintain high levels of expertise and training in their fields and use their combined knowledge to support our mission. The quality and types of services we are able to offer—Army wellness centers, behavioral health surveillance, health risk assessments, injury prevention, food safety and more—employ evidence-based public health practices supported by some of the best and brightest public health experts in their fields.

The USAPHC's reach is global and its focus is local: our personnel serve the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps at installations; at sea ensuring safe and wholesome food for our Navy; in medical treatment facilities and laboratories; and in deployed locations around the world.

We continue to have the Soldier as our first priority, and have expanded our mission to include retirees, families and Army civilians. We also care for the DOD's working animals and, in many locations, for family pets.

The USAPHC addresses primary prevention issues in the "life space" of military health system beneficiaries—those places where they work, play, eat, exercise, sleep and build the relationships that help make them resilient participants in Army life. ▲

## Symbolism & meaning of the USAPHC crest



The USAPHC distinctive unit insignia, often referred to as a unit crest, was approved by the Army Institute of Heraldry on March 11, 2013.

The design includes a shield representing protection of the health of Soldiers and retirees, their families and Army civilians. The green in the shield reflects the color associated with the Medical Corps during the last of the 19th century, and the maroon represents the current color associated with Army medicine.

Within the shield is a triangle, indicating strength and stability and representing the "One Health" concept of the interrelated health of people, animals and environment. The spear tip within the triangle represents the organization's mission in peace and war, often preceding the first combat Soldier in a combat zone.

The serpents entwined around the spear represent the Rod of Asclepius, Greek god of medicine and healing. The rod is symbolic of the medical arts and humanitarianism. The cog wheel and torch are elements honoring the legacy of the predecessor organizations of the USAPHC. The torch also signifies the light of learning and education.

The motto, *Una Sanitas*, translates to "One Health." ▲

# A history of excellence

**T**hroughout 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 DOD customers around the world.

The lineage of the USACHPPM 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.

The 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, the 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, the AIHL's mission and personnel continued to expand, and the AIHL became the U.S. Army Environmental Hygiene Agency.

In 1973, the 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, the 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.

The 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, the USAEHA was redesignated USACHPPM, with provisional status and a general officer leadership; the USACHPPM became fully functional on Oct. 1, 1995.

In addition to its continental United States regional commands, the 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 the USACHPPM Pacific. In 1997, USACHPPM Pacific relocated from Sagami to Camp Zama, Japan.

On Oct. 1, 2009, the 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.

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 the 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.

The 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. The 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, the 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,
- ▶ 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, the 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. ▲



**Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.**  
*USAPHC photo*

# MISSION STATEMENT

Promote health and prevent disease, injury and disability of Soldiers and military retirees, their families, and Department of the Army civilian employees; assure effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary service for Army and Department of Defense veterinary missions.

# USAPHC

## VISION

World-class provider of public health services across the Army and DOD.

### THE USAPHC BALANCED SCORECARD SUPPORTS:

- ▶ **Healthy People**—Soldiers (Active, Army Reserve and Army National Guard), Army civilians, family members and retirees will attain high-quality, longer lives free of preventable disease, disability, injury and premature death.
- ▶ **Healthy Animals**—Military working dogs and government-owned animals will be mission capable. Well-being of Soldiers and beneficiaries will be improved by healthy, longer-living pets.
- ▶ **Healthy Workplaces**—Soldiers and Army civilians will work in locations free of hazards and in compliance with all applicable standards.
- ▶ **Healthy Communities**—Soldiers and family members will live on military installations with air, land and water meeting environmental standards and with facilities that enhance health and well-being.

### THE USAPHC OBJECTIVES ARE:

- ▶ Optimize Public Health Programs and Practices
- ▶ Ensure Safe DOD Food and Water
- ▶ Improve Disease & Injury Surveillance and Control
- ▶ Integrate Delivery of Health Promotion and Wellness Services
- ▶ Minimize Risk from Occupational & Environmental Health Hazards
- ▶ Ensure High-Quality Veterinary Clinical Services

For nearly 10 years, the balanced scorecard has been the tool Army medicine uses to focus U.S. Army Medical Command organizations at the strategic level. The USAPHC's balanced scorecard aligns with that of the MEDCOM, as do the scorecards of other MEDCOM organizations, cascading ultimately to all levels of the command.

The balanced scorecard tracks performance and, through its focus on goals and associated measurements, it helps improve operational and fiscal effectiveness. The USAPHC's balanced scorecard is a changing document, adjusting to the needs of the USAPHC's DOD, Army and medical clients. Updating and adjusting it is the USAPHC's disciplined approach for prioritization, decision-making, communication, organizational improvement, accountability and best-practice identification.

Our balanced scorecard succinctly captures the USAPHC's strategy. It is built on the USAPHC's mission (why we exist), vision (where we want to be) and "Strategic Themes" (pillars of excellence around which the strategy focuses). It then aligns strategic objectives (what we need to do to ensure success) across four interdependent levels: Patient/Customer/Stakeholder ("Ends"—healthy people, animals, workplaces and communities), Internal Processes ("Ways"), Learning and Growth ("Means") and Resources (also "Means"). ▲

# Army public health: Building and sustaining individual & community health

**P**ublic health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting physical health through organized, population-based efforts. The USAPHC has broadened this definition to include the mission to prevent disease, injury and disability in Soldiers and retirees, their family members, and Army civilian employees, as well as to assure effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary services for Army and DOD veterinary missions. Since disease, injury and disability do not recognize geographical borders, the USAPHC's mission is global. Its almost 3,500 employees are stationed in 14 time zones around the world.

The USAPHC's public health responsibilities encompass the "One Health" concept, extending beyond humans to animals and the environment, where some of the causes of disease, injury and disability originate. The idea of One Health is that health in people, animals and the environment individually contributes to the health of all. Conversely, poor health may be caused by or transmitted from each to the others. Rabies, unsafe drinking water, spoiled food, ineffective sanitation measures, reactions to industrial chemicals, and mold in the workplace—these are just a few of the health threats that Army public health professionals address.

Following are some examples of how the USAPHC, through the Army Institute of Public Health and its regional commands, executes its public health mission and proactively works to build and sustain good health.

Practicing what they preach, USAPHC employees exercise together at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., home of the headquarters and the Army Institute of Public Health.  
USAPHC photo

**Epidemiology and disease surveillance** personnel identify emerging epidemics, spikes in medical conditions that may need medical intervention, and longer-term disease trends. This helps medical providers take action to stop the spread of disease, prioritize resources to address diseases that are most dangerous or costly, and identify health issues that may be specific to communities. Coordination with the USAPHC's veterinary epidemiologists increases the USAPHC's ability to discover and combat zoonotic diseases as well.

In response to Army leaders' concerns about post-traumatic stress and negative behaviors such as suicide, sexual assault and substance abuse, the USAPHC conducts surveillance of behavioral health issues. Results are reported to Army leaders and used to prioritize actions to address contributing factors. The USAPHC also conducts field investigations to gather data and assess events within a specific community where behavioral health issues occur at unusual levels.

**Injury prevention studies and surveillance** have shown that injuries are the leading health problem in the military, resulting in over two million visits to medical treatment facilities a year. These injuries mean duty time lost to recovery, which in turn affects unit readiness. The USAPHC's injury prevention experts have done multiple studies to learn the causes of injuries during basic training. These studies directly contributed to the implementation of new physical fitness training programs and guidance that optimize fitness while minimizing injuries and resultant lost-duty days.

USAPHC **ergonomists** have launched a program to train Soldier and civilian nurses in safe patient-handling methods. By lessening back and other musculoskeletal injuries to nurses and others who need to move patients, the program ultimately reduces workers compensation expenses and lost or lessened workdays due to patient-handling injuries.

The USAPHC also works to prevent injuries to **hearing and vision** across the DOD. Hearing and vision experts conduct surveillance through medical databases while working to institute improved coding of these injuries, collaborate with acquisition and research partners to establish hearing and vision protection products and provide training. The training ranges from use of hearing protection to training medical providers about high-incidence injuries, equipment use and testing.

**Health hazard assessment** experts at the USAPHC identify, assess and provide recommendations to eliminate or control health hazards associated with weapons platforms, munitions, equipment, clothing, training devices, or other materiel systems. Through reports, participation on product teams and document reviews, they ensure health-based requirements are included and identified health hazards are addressed as part of the system engineering process. Systems recently assessed include the Paladin Integrated Management System, Stryker Double V Hull, Soldier Protection System, and the Ground Combat Vehicle.

**Environmental health risks** in garrison and in deployed environments are also addressed by the USAPHC's programs and regional commands. An example: To ensure Soldiers always have access to safe water in deployed environments, the USAPHC's water quality experts assessed the effectiveness of commercial off-the-shelf, or COTS, water treatment systems made for individual use, as well as larger, portable systems that can support small units. In collaboration with water experts within the Army and other military services, the USAPHC identified and published the capabilities of these COTS systems so that Soldiers and unit commanders can make sound operational and engineering selections for their specific missions. The USAPHC has become the recognized lead agency within DOD for evaluating small water treatment systems, and it continues to support numerous combat development and acquisition efforts across all services.

Throughout U.S. Central Command, dust from the desert, industrial operations and burning is widespread. The dust can cause a number of short-term health effects (the potential for chronic health effects is still not known). Working with other DOD partners, the USAPHC's **environmental medicine** and **health risk management** experts assess, report and document the nature and possible risks to operations posed by dust and particles from industry, sulfur fires and burn pits. These questions are of interest to individual Soldiers, line leaders and healthcare professionals.

In addition to sampling, assessing reporting and archiving air, water and soil samples taken in garrison and deployed environments, the USAPHC develops chemical and biological **military exposure guidelines** to help decision-makers in identifying, evaluating and managing these types of occupational and environmental risks.

**Industrial hygienists** from the USAPHC evaluate possible hazardous occupational exposures in the workplace and other garrison environments. An example of their work was assessment of range officer and Soldier exposures during live-fire training scenarios at Forts Polk, Carson and Leonard Wood shoot houses. The surveys identified the lack of adequate ventilation systems, personal protective equipment, and hygienic work practices required to effectively control exposures to lead.



**A preventive medicine detachment  
Soldier takes water samples  
in Shindand, Afghanistan.  
USAPHC photo**



The USAPHC's **occupational health** specialists also include experts in radiation, laser, radio-frequency and ultrasound safety. They monitor occupational exposures and recommend preventive measures.

The addition of **veterinary service** capabilities has strengthened the USAPHC's preventive capabilities in the areas of food protection. Veterinary service personnel routinely conduct sanitation audits and inspections of food production facilities, dining facilities and retail establishments on posts. They audit food and bottled water procurement sources off-installation and overseas and conduct food and water vulnerability assessments on and off installations. Veterinary service personnel annually conduct more than 3,000 commercial food audits, more than 4,000 installation food vulnerability assessments, and almost 30 food defense assessments for special events. The synergy produced by the collaboration of veterinary assets and garrison preventive medicine personnel will standardize monitoring functions and coordinate efforts resulting in optimized services.

Veterinary service personnel also protect the health of DOD's military working animals and beneficiary pets worldwide.

The USAPHC's **laboratories** provide analytical testing for trace chemical compounds and pollutants. They perform complex chemical, immunological, and molecular extractions and analysis of biological samples. They conduct disease surveillance and diagnostics in food, serum (rabies), mosquitoes and ticks in support of U.S. military deployments. Analyses are performed using standard, accredited methods. The Laboratory Sciences Portfolio also performs special projects; analyzes military-unique chemicals; and provides technical consultations, training and quality assurance assessments.

**Toxicology** professionals at the USAPHC test and evaluate the toxicity of military-relevant compounds and the risks they pose to Soldiers, civilians and the environment. Toxicologists at the USAPHC are considered experts in the toxicology of energetics including explosives, pyrotechnics, and propellants. Recent examples of toxicology projects include testing of new fire extinguishing agents for use in Army vehicles, several new explosive formulations, and support of the release of permethrin-treated uniforms.

A focus on **health promotion and wellness** also helps in the prevention of disease, injury and disability. USAPHC health education experts have a leading role in public health support to Army Medicine's top prevention initiative, the Performance Triad of healthy activity, nutrition and sleep. They also assess existing health and wellness programs, identify redundancies and voids in Army programs and services, and coordinate interventions that will enhance health and wellness in our populations.

The USAPHC works with **Community Health Promotion Councils** to synchronize services at a given installation so that issues such as suicide, substance abuse, financial problems, and marital/family problems are addressed holistically. This means ensuring that all service providers work together to make the services a given Soldier, family or civilian needs easily available and mutually supportive.

The USAPHC's **Army Wellness Center** model provides services designed to promote and sustain healthy lifestyles. Army Wellness Centers address fitness and wellness testing, nutrition counseling, stress management, tobacco cessation, general wellness education and other services depending on needs determined by the CHPCs in the community in which they are located. By standardizing AWC services, Soldiers and their families will have access to consistent programs at any AWC.

**Health education** is addressed through program and product development for healthcare providers and health promotion personnel in the areas of suicide prevention, sexually transmitted disease, post-partum fitness and parenting, nutrition, tobacco, obesity and female Soldier health. Health education efforts extend to installations, for which techniques and assessment methods for creating environments where healthy changes can take place.

In addition to these ongoing missions and services, the USAPHC provides rapid response to emerging public health threats through its three **Specialized MEDCOM Response Capability–Public Health** teams.

Through its unique mission and capabilities, the USAPHC is helping Army medicine transform to a prevention-focused system for health. Protecting Soldiers and retirees, family members and Army civilians from conditions that threaten their 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. Through its public health organization, Army medicine is on the pathway to realizing this proactive, preventive vision. ▲

## Serving through science

**S**taffed with experienced professionals familiar with the military's special needs, the USAPHC's five public health command regions and the USAPHC's Army Institute of Public Health are uniquely able to respond to emergencies and support projects with unusual and military-specific requirements.

The public health command regions provide public health and preventive medicine services to customers in their areas of operations across the globe. In the continental U.S., regional commands are located at Fort Meade, Md.; Joint Base San Antonio, Texas; and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Two additional regional commands are located in Landstuhl, Germany, and Camp Zama, Japan.

The AIPH, co-located with the USAPHC headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., consists of nine technical public health portfolios. The AIPH technical portfolios provide military-unique operational and strategic services and expertise used to develop public health programs. The AIPH also provides technical services and supervision in collaboration with the five public health command regions around the world.

Nationally recognized experts in public health fields are located at the institute along with technical personnel in many specialized fields such as ergonomics and health physics, and their expertise will be available as needed across the Army public health enterprise. ▲

**A medical laboratory  
Soldier tests the  
pH of a water sample  
at the USAPHC  
headquarters.  
USAPHC photo**



# Regional operations: Service delivery close to our customers

**R**outine installation work, including environmental and occupational health, preventive medicine, health risk assessments and entomology for active-duty, Reserve and National Guard units, is performed by the personnel at the public health command regions. If additional technical assistance is needed in these or other public health disciplines, the regions have reach-back capability to the resources of the Army Institute of Public Health. Each public health command district within the regions also supports three major missions. Districts provide oversight of food safety through detailed, routine inspections of food processing plants that sell food to the military and inspect operational food rations, like Meals Ready to Eat. Districts also provide veterinary care to military working dogs and government-owned animals within their region and routine and emergency care for the pets of eligible tri-service beneficiaries.

**Public Health Command Region–Europe** based in Landstuhl, Germany, provides public health services to forward-deployed bases to maximize force health protection and meet joint medical surveillance requirements. Occupational health nurses coordinate the medical surveillance of local national workers and perform worksite visits to ensure compliance with applicable standards for personal protective equipment. Local laboratory services generate public health surveillance-related biological, environmental and veterinary diagnostic laboratory data. The region's 400 Soldiers and civilians are stationed in six different countries. In addition to two district veterinary commands, PHCR–Europe also includes the Dog Center Europe and a veterinary laboratory.

**Public Health Command Region–Pacific** is headquartered at Camp Zama, Japan. Through its seven divisions and four districts, it provides public health and veterinary services to Pacific combatant commanders, major commands, major subordinate commands and medical treatment facilities.

The PHCR–Pacific area of responsibility encompasses approximately 50 percent of the earth's surface and more than half the world's population. Its personnel are assigned across sev-

en time zones. Its laboratories provide analytical chemistry and vector-borne disease surveillance services to installations and units in its area of operations. Veterinarians ensure the safety, security and wholesomeness of food and water for all service members, civilians and family members serving in the Pacific. Services include providing veterinary medical care and veterinary public health, food safety and food defense in support of all DOD agencies within U.S. Pacific Command.

**Public Health Command Region–North** provides regionally focused, direct veterinary, preventive medicine and health promotion support in a 22-state area of responsibility from Maine to North Carolina and as far west as Minnesota. It provides comprehensive, full-spectrum public health services to protect, enhance and sustain our forces. PHCR–North promotes preventive medicine and health protection and provides veterinary services from districts and branches located across the Northeast region.

PHCR–North has five divisions: Environmental Health Engineering, Occupational Health Sciences, Laboratory Sciences, Health Risk Management and Veterinary Services. Each division has a separate mission within the unit, but all divisions collaborate as needed to respond to customer requirements.



(Clockwise from top left) Installation water connection inspection; first-year veterinary student preparing slides; decontamination procedures during training; veterinary food inspection. USAPHC photos

**Public Health Command Region–South** headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas, provides evidence-based preventive medicine programs and veterinary services to optimize the health of military units, installation personnel and animals within 11 Southeastern states, the Caribbean and Central America. Its military and civilian personnel work in technical divisions that collaborate to provide a wide range of technical services to support its regional customers.

PHCR–South includes the added capabilities of the DOD Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory and the DOD Military Working Dog Veterinary Service. The FADL is DOD's accredited public health laboratory, including Diagnostics, Food Microbiology and Chemistry, and a Cholinesterase Reference Laboratory. The Cholinesterase Reference Laboratory and its database serve the DOD Chemical Surety Program. The DOD Mili-

tary Working Dog Veterinary Service's Holland Military Working Dog Hospital is a one-of-a-kind referral center providing primary and specialty care and consultative services for all DOD MWD programs and those of other federal agencies.

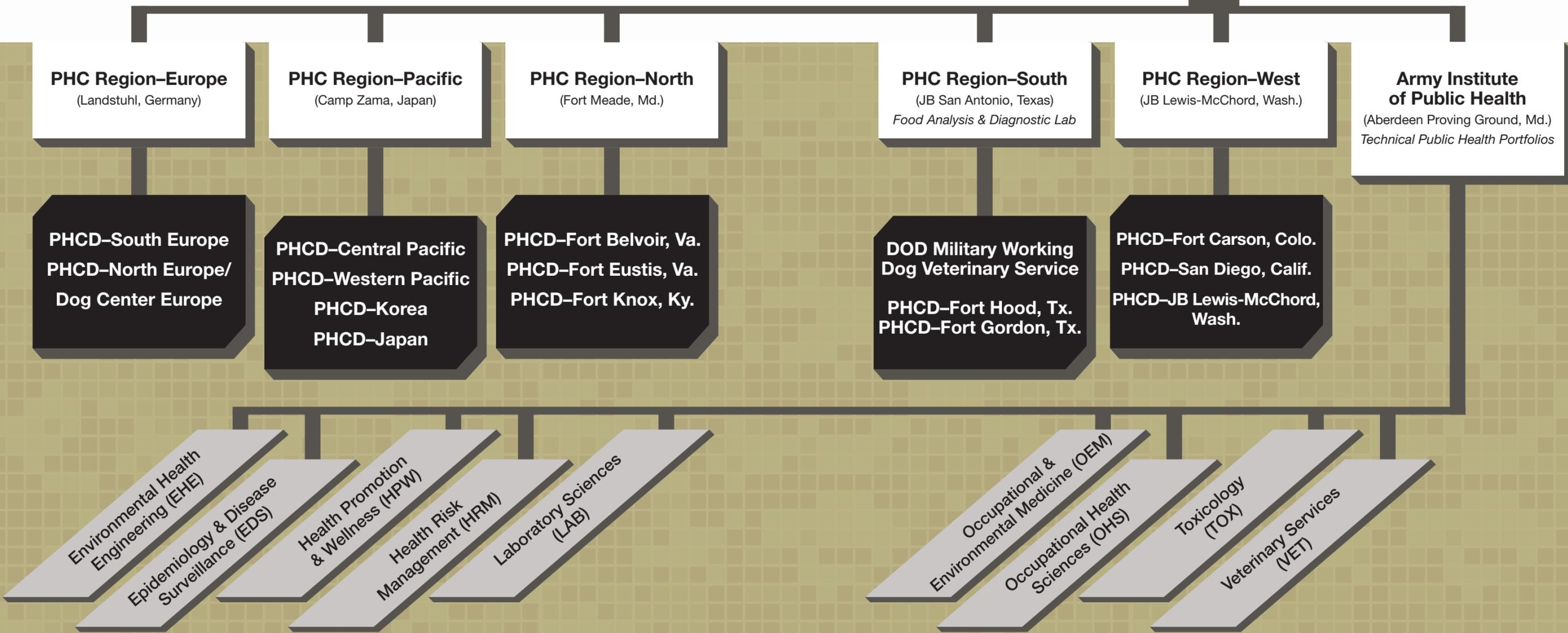
**Public Health Command Region–West** with the headquarters located at Joint Base Lewis–McChord, Wash., provides public health, veterinary consultation, and technical services to more than 200 installations across 19 Western states, including Alaska. It currently includes six technical divisions and three districts. Additional services by PHCR–West personnel include evaluating and reducing noise and lead contamination at indoor firing ranges at Army Reserve centers and training deploying personnel on the use of the latest air sampling and deployment exposure surveillance equipment. ▲

# USAPHC organizational structure

This chart includes the USAPHC's headquarters, regional public health commands and their districts, and the Army Institute of Public Health.

## Color Legend - Level of PH Services

<b>Burgundy</b>	MEDCOM Major Subordinate Command (V)
<b>White</b>	Regional Command/AIPH (IV)
<b>Black</b>	Public Health Command District (I-III)
<b>Gray</b>	Portfolios (IV)



# Portfolio operations: Oversight and quality control

**P**ortfolio directors and program managers at the Army Institute of Public Health oversee and ensure the quality of the work in their scientific and technical areas. Their oversight extends from the level of the institute to the regional level all the way to the point-of-service level. They collaborate with the USAPHC's service providers to ensure that they are trained, credentialed and resourced to perform services within their technical areas, set mission priorities and fund mission activities.

- ▶ **The Environmental Health Engineering Portfolio** assesses, maintains and improves Soldier environments to advance readiness, health and sustainability. The portfolio has environmental capabilities in the areas of air and water quality, solid and medical waste, operational noise hazards, and entomology and pest management.
- ▶ **The Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Portfolio** studies disease and injury and the risk factors associated with them. Its work represents the founding element of public health—disease prevention and control. In addition to more traditional epidemiological capabilities, the portfolio has added surveillance and field study capabilities in the areas of behavioral and social health.

- ▶ **The Health Promotion and Wellness Portfolio** advocates for global force fitness through developing, integrating, standardizing and evaluating health promotion and wellness services. The portfolio standardizes and replicates Army Wellness Centers; provides advisors to manage and integrate installation health and wellness services through Community Health Promotion Councils; develops standardized, evidence-based health and behavioral health initiatives; and evaluates and advocates for evidence-based health promotion practices at Army locations.
- ▶ **The Health Risk Management Portfolio** provides health risk management and expertise to military commanders, decision-makers and military preventive medicine personnel worldwide, to ensure and enhance their readiness. Health risk management is the science and art of identifying, evaluating, selecting, documenting, and implementing measures to reduce or prevent risk to human health. Members of the HRM portfolio “go anywhere troops go” to help examine, assess and report the environment and associated health risks from potential and known exposures and assist researchers and health professionals in assessing and evaluating veterans’ health problems as a result of these exposures.

▶ **The Laboratory Sciences Portfolio** provides a full spectrum of environmental, occupational, radiological and disease surveillance laboratory support services for Army, DOD and other government customers. Laboratory experts provide chemical analysis of air, water and soil samples from various locations in order to identify potential contaminants that pose a threat to public health in the workplace or the environment. As well, the portfolio operates two one-of-a-kind laboratories—the DOD’s Food Microbiology Laboratory and the Cholinesterase Reference Lab, which provides medical surveillance for workers with potential exposure to nerve agents.

Health educator performing a body composition analysis using the BOD POD.  
Army photo



(From top) Attending veterinarian reviewing slide samples; headquarters off-site working group; training in water sampling.  
USAPHC photos

▶ **The Occupational and Environmental Medicine Portfolio** provides professional consultative services to medical providers about military occupational and environmental medicine. Its services also include tri-service vision conservation, hearing protection, and prevention of injury or illness from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive materials. Elements of the portfolio serve the Army and the DOD with the goal of preventing illness and injury that occurs in the workplace or work environment, both deployed and in garrison.

▶ **The Occupational Health Sciences Portfolio** fosters the prevention of workplace exposure-related injury, disease and death by providing a wide range of occupational health and injury prevention services for Soldiers and the civilian workforce, commanders, policy-makers, and the Army’s medical leadership. This is accomplished through the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, and control of exposure to chemical, physical and biological stressors.

▶ **The Toxicology Portfolio**, in collaboration with other DOD and government agencies and private entities, provides expert consultation in understanding the potential for adverse effects from the use and subsequent exposure of Army materials. It specializes in identifying the toxicology of military-unique chemicals and compounds to determine the safety of those proposed for use by the Army and DOD in such things as explosives, ammunition, equipment and other materiel. The work performed has a significant impact on operational readiness and sustainment because it continually evaluates emerging products and compounds to keep DOD employees and their environment safe.

▶ **The Veterinary Services Portfolio** works with the USAPHC’s human disease surveillance experts to monitor and control diseases transmitted from animals to humans. The portfolio performs this mission through preventive care, animal handler/owner education, and animal treatment. Its second mission is protecting military personnel and their families from food-borne disease through surveillance, auditing and assessing vulnerabilities. Through its animal medicine and food safety and defense programs, the Veterinary Services Portfolio strengthens the USAPHC’s ability to monitor, assess, mitigate and control human disease threats from military working animals, beneficiary pets and the environment. ▲



# Regional laboratories: Extending analytical capability

In addition to the Army Institute of Public Health, laboratories are also located at the USAPHC's regional public health commands. They provide a variety of services to support specific needs of customers in their areas of operation. Several USAPHC laboratories around the world also provide veterinary laboratory services for the DOD.

**The Public Health Command Region–Europe** Department of Laboratory Sciences is a full-service laboratory specializing in drinking water compliance, environmental quality, industrial hygiene, occupational health, radiation protection, food safety and veterinary diagnostic services. Its primary mission as a forward-deployed public health laboratory is to support public health programs of the U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command and U.S. Central Command theaters of operations.

The laboratory has a highly trained professional staff and a proven history of quality and leadership in the analysis of food, water, sediment, sludge, soil, biological, veterinary and industrial hygiene-related matrices. It provides comprehensive services through its modernized facilities and network of accredited contract laboratories.

**The PHCR–Pacific** Division of Laboratory Sciences is a full-service, accredited laboratory specializing in environmental analytical chemistry. Its primary mission is to support programs in the U.S. Pacific Command area of operations. The division consists of the Environmental Laboratory that specializes in drinking water analysis compliance testing and the Disease Surveillance Laboratory, which monitors disease throughout the Pacific. For those analyses that cannot be performed in-house, reach-back capability to the AIPH or other continental U.S. laboratories or local contract laboratories is available.

At PHCR–Pacific, the newly established Presumptive Radiological Analysis Laboratory performs a presumptive spectroscopy analysis of water, soil and food product samples. The presumptive laboratory identifies possible radionuclides in each sample. Any sample containing radionuclides above set action limits is sent to the AIPH laboratory or another accredited laboratory for further analysis.

After the Japan earthquake and tsunami, the Public Health Command District–Japan Food Surveillance Laboratory at Camp Zama conducted microbiological testing of audited plant products, in addition to increased testing of other food products throughout the area of operations due to concern about increased microbial contamination. Working weekends and most evenings, the laboratory produced 456 results of microbiological indicators of potential contamination. Of these, 29 test results exceeded action limits, indicating the need for immediate sanitation improvements to the identified facilities or facility areas. Collaborating with the PHCR–Pacific laboratory ensured safe food and water were available for military personnel during this emergency.

**PHCR–North Laboratory Sciences** employs state-of-the-art molecular techniques to identify and analyze samples for a worldwide suite of vector-borne diseases of human and veterinary importance. Samples are received and analyzed from the continental U.S. as well as foreign locations where troops are deployed. Analysis results are intended to help facilitate force health protection decisions. Target organisms include but are not limited to viruses like West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis, bacterial agents like those that cause Lyme disease, and parasites like those causing malaria. The laboratory is accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation.

**The DOD Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory**, is an accredited public health laboratory that provides services to support force health protection through scientifically sound, timely and accurate testing. The laboratory also provides technical consultation to the DOD on integrating laboratory testing and food safety into science-based inspection systems. The FADL is composed of the Diagnostics section, Food Microbiology and Chemistry sections, and Cholinesterase Reference Laboratory.



**An Army Institute of Public Health chemist operates equipment that identifies organic compounds in drinking water samples.**  
*USAPHC photo*

The Diagnostics section supports the health and combat readiness of military working dogs worldwide and the international travel of pets belonging to military families. The Food Microbiology and Chemistry section ensures food safety, fitness for consumption and contractual compliance through microbiological, chemical and toxicological testing of food and bottled water. Samples include dairy products, meat and fish products, prepared salads and sandwiches, operational rations, animal feeds, canned/packaged foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, cosmetics, vitamins and drugs.

The CRL provides occupational health medical surveillance and a database repository in support of the DOD Chemical Surety Program. It also ensures cholinesterase-testing standardization within the Cholinesterase Monitoring Program. The program ensures proper occupational health monitoring of personnel engaged in chemical agent stockpile/demilitarization operations,

chemical agent defense research and installation pest management. Quality assurance oversight, comparative analysis, proficiency testing and on-site compliance inspections are provided to 10 satellite laboratories engaged in red blood cell-cholinesterase testing.

**The PHCR–West Laboratory Sciences** employs molecular biological testing in support of the largest region within the USAPHC. Laboratory Sciences Division West supports 20 states in order to determine the presence and prevalence of vector-borne diseases of public and military health significance within the Western region. Target organisms include but are not limited to Rickettsia spotted fever group, human monocytic ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, West Nile virus, hantavirus, Leptospirosis and Bartonella. The lab is accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation. ▲



# Crunching the numbers

**792** Persons deployed to 109 different countries

**86** Oral/poster presentations

**138** Peer-reviewed publications

**2,500+** Technical survey reports for customers

**10** Toxicology technical reports

**26** Toxicity clearances

**604** Epidemiological consultations/field investigations

**70** Disease and health conditions of military interest monitored

**20,000** Diseases/health conditions monitored and reported

**509,860** Privately owned animal care visits

**2,908** Number of military working dog patients

**1,956** Commercial sanitation audits

**5,000+** Installation food activities supported

**\$7 million+** Value of operational rations inspected

**3,500+** Ectoparasites (ticks, fleas, etc.) identified

**7,220+** Tests for disease pathogens (viruses, bacteria, etc.)

**50,000+** Arthropods identified

**13** Army Wellness Centers

**21,272** Fitness assessments

**12,968** Metabolic assessments

**12,608** Wellness education classes

**9,636** Blood pressure screenings

**2,736** Biofeedback sessions

## Unique in Army Medicine

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

- ▶ Its “patients” are populations, that is, groups of people—military units or the families on an installation, for example—rather than individuals.
- ▶ It emphasizes prevention of disease, injury and disability, rather than healing these conditions after they occur.
- ▶ 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 “Crunching the numbers” chart at right highlights some of our unique mission capabilities as performed in the last year.*



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