

CHAPTER 9

VETERINARY SERVICE

9-1. Concept of Operations

a. Veterinary service is an integral part of HSS within a theater of operations. The US Army veterinary service provides support as required for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

b. Veterinary service in the theater includes—

- Inspection of subsistence.
- Control of foodborne disease.
- Examination of food animals.
- Control of diseases transmitted from animals to humans.
- Treatment and hospitalization for military animals.
- Examination and wholesomeness determination of food and food-producing animals in an NBC environment.
- Other veterinary preventive medicine activities as assigned.

These services are performed by veterinary service detachments and veterinary hospitals under the command and control of Team AF, veterinary service headquarters.

c. Veterinary service personnel are assigned to the TA surgeon’s staff, the MEDCOM, hospital centers, senior medical headquarters in the corps, headquarters of preventive medicine service teams, military police units, and civil affairs teams.

d. Normally, the staff veterinarian advises the commander on matters pertaining to—

- Food wholesomeness, hygiene, safety, and quality assurance to include NBC environment.
- The health of government-owned and indigenous animals of the command.

(See FM 8-55 for a detailed discussion on planning for veterinary services.)

9-2. Veterinary Service Structure

a. Unit veterinary service in a theater of operations is provided by veterinary personnel organic to nonmedical units such as the military police and military working dog platoon.

b. Area veterinary services are provided by veterinary detachments allocated to support geographic areas in both the CZ and the COMMZ. The veterinary detachments are assigned to medical command, medical brigade, or in the absence of a MEDCOM or medical brigade, they are assigned to a medical group. The current veterinary headquarters and service teams are as follows:

(1) Team AF, veterinary service headquarters, provides command and control for four to seven veterinary service, dispensary, or hospital detachments in any combination.

(2) Team JA, veterinary service (small expansion)—

- Provides food wholesomeness, food hygiene, safety, and related quality assurance inspections in support of a population of up to 20,000 personnel.
- Conducts antemortem and postmortem examinations of food animals.
- Performs procurement and surveillance food inspections.
- Inspects subsistence and food-producing animals exposed to NBC agents.
- Performs veterinary preventive medicine functions to include civic action programs.
- Conducts control programs for those diseases transmitted from animals to humans as food inspection work load permits.

- Provides minimal or emergency care for large animals as food inspection work load permits.

- Performs expedient, limited animal care treatment for approximately 25 military working dogs on an emergency or short-term basis.

- Collocates at one location up to 25 military working dogs for evacuation to Team XA.

(3) Team JB, veterinary service (large), has the same capabilities as Team JA, but it can support a population of up to 100,000 personnel. This capability may be increased to a maximum of 150,000 by augmentation with two Teams JA (one Team JA for each 25,000 personnel in excess of 100,000 to be supported). Team JB consists of four mobile service teams: two with a veterinary service officer, a food inspection NCO, and three food inspection specialists. The other two teams have a veterinary service officer, one food inspection NCO, three food inspection specialists, and one animal care specialist. The Team JB operates in 6 to 12 locations over a 140-kilometer radius. In addition to being augmented by up to two Teams JA, this unit may also be used to command and control up to two other separate veterinary teams (JA, XA, or XB), only one of which may be a Team XA or XB.

(4) Team XA, veterinary combat support hospital, provides—

- Animal medical services which include emergency-resuscitative care for up to 200 military working dogs on an area basis.

- Medical treatment, surgical treatment, and short-term hospitalization for up to 20 military working dogs.

- Consultation services for animal care specialists organic to military dog units and animal health maintenance on an area basis.

- Stabilization of military working dogs requiring long-term treatment for evacuation to Team XB.

- A triage and resuscitation element consisting of one veterinary officer and two

animal care specialists for immediate deployment to high or potentially high casualty areas.

- Emergency medical care to large animals in support of civic action programs.

(5) Team XB, veterinary general hospital, performs animal care services in the COMMZ by providing definitive and long-term treatment and hospitalization for up to 50 working dogs which require medical treatment, surgical treatment, or observation. This unit is also capable of providing similar emergency service for large animals on an area basis in support of civic action programs. It provides emergency-resuscitative care for up to 100 military working dogs on an area basis. Team XB is allocated on the basis of one per 300 to 1,000 military working dogs supported in the theater. (See FM 8-27 for a discussion on veterinary service.)

9.3. Areas of Responsibility

a. Veterinary personnel are responsible for—

- Food hygiene, safety, and quality assurance inspections.

- Sanitary inspections of food processing facilities.

- Control of zoonotic and foodborne diseases.

- Assistance in the preventive medicine program.

- Health maintenance of military animals.

- Inspecting, monitoring, and testing subsistence for contamination with nuclear, biological, and chemical agents.

- NBC contamination detection for wholesomeness of food and food-producing animals.

b. For veterinary services to be effective—

- The services, either routine or emergency, must be available as far forward as

operational requirements and the tactical situation permit.

- The veterinary personnel must concentrate on prevention by reducing the–
 - Deterioration and spoilage of subsistence.
 - Incidence of zoonotic diseases.
 - Incidence of disease and injury in military animals.

9-4. Evacuation of Military Working Dogs

The using unit is responsible for the evacuation of sick or wounded military working dogs using any

transportation means available. Use of normal evacuation assets (air/ground ambulance) is authorized and encouraged based on mission priority and availability. The veterinary unit must ensure that the location of veterinary support for military working dogs is available to units evacuating sick/wounded military working dogs.

9-5. Conversion of Veterinary Service Units

Veterinary units described in this chapter are organized under the H-edition TOE and must be presented as long as they exist in the force structure. However, units will be converted (or are in the process of conversion) to the L-edition TOE described in Appendix E.