

ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL

ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER (APHC)

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The Army Public Health Center (APHC), through the Veterinary Services Portfolio, provides veterinary services to U.S. military branches and the Department of Defense (DoD). By providing reach-back support and technical expertise, APHC veterinary personnel ensure food safety and defense and comprehensive veterinary medical care for the 2,800 DoD-owned military working dogs and approximately 300 other government-owned animals and supporting laboratory analysis.

The food-safety mission protects DoD food and bottled-water supplies from unintentional contamination with biological, chemical, physical or radiological agents. Food-safety experts conduct audits of DoD commercial suppliers and inspect food delivered to dining facilities and restaurants on DoD installations.

The food-defense mission protects DoD food and bottled water from intentional contamination with biological, chemical, physical or radiological agents. Experts from the Veterinary Services Portfolio work with other agencies to conduct food vulnerability assessments and other monitoring of DoD installation food and bottled-water sources.

On average, Army veterinary personnel conduct more

than 3,000 commercial food audits per year, including assessing food-defense risks at commercial food establishments that want to sell food or bottled water to the DoD. In addition, installation food-vulnerability assessments are performed at more than 4,000 food facilities across 376 different military installations.

Clinical animal care allows Army veterinarians to perform the public health function of surveillance to identify diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans. In addition, Army veterinary experts train dog handlers in first-aid, and advise installation commanders on veterinary care and animal disease prevention and control to prevent injury or disease to DoD personnel, pets and wildlife. They also provide clinical care to privately owned animals of eligible DoD families in both stateside and deployed locations.

Clients of Army veterinary personnel include DoD leaders, Army commanders and organizations, Army medical leaders, veterinary treatment facilities and deployed units. Some food safety and animal care services are also provided to other U.S. government agencies.

—GFS