Objectives:

1. Provide an overview and understanding of Army Veterinary Services, to include inter-service mission responsibilities and global reach
2. Inform listeners of the employment and educational/training opportunities within the Army Veterinary Corps

Executive Agent:

The Department of Defense describes an “Executive Agent” as a head of a Department of Defense service component who has been assigned to perform missions or activities for two or more other service components, usually because no other capabilities exist to perform such duties.

Veterinary Services:

The Secretary of the Army has been appointed the “Executive Agent” (EA) for the Department of Defense Veterinary Services Program. The EA authority has been further delegated to the Army Surgeon General. The Army is the Veterinary Services provider for Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines and provides limited services to other agencies.

The Army Veterinary Corps:

Commissioned Officers of the Army Veterinary Services make up the Veterinary Corps. The term “Veterinary Corps” is often used interchangeably with “Veterinary Services” to denote all veterinary personnel and activities. The Corps is led by the Veterinary Corps Chief who is responsible for the recruitment, training and retention of a highly skilled and adaptive veterinary force. The Corps Chief is the Army’s senior Veterinarian and serves as the principal adviser to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Army Surgeon General on all matters concerning the Veterinary Corps.
Veterinary Corps Chief Roles:

- Chief, US Army Veterinary Corps
- Assistant Surgeon General for Veterinary Services
- Assistant Surgeon General for Force Projection (currently)
- Uniformed Services Delegate to the AVMA

Other Veterinary Senior Leadership Positions:

- Director DOD Veterinary Service Activity and Deputy Corps Chief
- Deputy Commander, Public Health Command
- Deputy Commander, Regional Public Health Commands
- Veterinary Services Portfolio Manager, Public Health Command
- Corps Chief’s Office (San Antonio)
  - Assistant Corps Chief /Branch Proponency Office
  - Assistant Corps Chief for Reserve Affairs
- Army Medical Department Center and School
- Human Resource Command Veterinary Branch

Veterinary Corps Consultants:

- Junior Officer Council Representative: 64A
- Preventive Medicine: 64B
- Laboratory Animal Medicine: 64C
- Pathology: 64D
- Comparative Medicine: 64E
- Clinical Medicine: 64F
- Chief Warrant Officer, Food Safety: 640A

Veterinary Manpower:

- 700 Military Veterinarians (475 Active)
- 85 Warrant Officers (73 Active)
- 2,100 Enlisted (1,415 Active)
- 575 Civilians
**Primary Veterinary Services Providers:**

- Department of Defense Veterinary Services Activity (policy and oversight)
- Public Health Command (Veterinary Services Portfolio, Regional Sub-Commands)
- Combat Service Support Veterinary Units
- Medical Research and Development Command

**Veterinary Corps Mission Statement:**

Build a highly-skilled, adaptive and empowered veterinary team to support full-spectrum operations for the Department of Defense.

**Veterinary Corps Vision:**

Be America’s leading Veterinary Medical Team fully integrated with the Army, Navy and Air Force Medical Teams to save lives and foster healthy and resilient people.

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**Veterinary Command Structure**

The Veterinary Command, up until October 2011, was a separate major subordinate command of the Army Medical Command. It was subsequently consolidated with other public health assets, still providing world-wide veterinary mission coverage.
Provides support to 494 installations with personnel at over 395 duty sites and 133 attending sites, and provides support for taskers and deployments throughout the world.

**Veterinary Service Mission Areas**

**Food Safety/Defense**
- Sanitation Audits/ Approved Sources
- Special Events Food Defense Teams
- Operational Rations/DFACS/DeCA/AAFES
- Food and Water Vulnerability Assessments

**Animal Medicine**
- Military Working Dogs
- Other Government Owned Animals
- Privately Owned Animals
- Human-animal bond program support

**One Health – One Medicine**
- Veterinary Public Health Team
- Zoonotic Disease

**Military Medical Research and Development**
- Comparative Medicine
- Lab Animal Medicine
- Pathology

**Trained Soldiers**
- OIF/OEF/HOA/GWOT
- Humanitarian Assistance/Civil Affairs
- Special Taskers: Department of State, Secret Service, USDA, COCOMS
Installation Veterinary Support Metrics:

- MWDs: 3,282
- Marine Mammals: 105
- Veterinary Clinics: 188
- Outpatient Visits: 592,789
- Subsistence: $12.5 Billion
- Audits: >3,504
- Countries: 83
- Lab Animals: >340,000
- Research Facilities: 31

Veterinary Corps Priorities:

- Healthy People and Healthy Animals
- Readiness to Excel Anywhere, Anytime

Above is the Veterinary Corps Strategic Framework, used to develop and measure mission success. The Veterinary Corps uses the “Balanced Score Card” approach, a strategic planning and management tool adopted by the Medical Command and widely used by its subordinate organizations.
Emerging/Growing Missions:
- Combatant Command Support
- Stability Operations
- Food Defense
- Animal Medicine
- Live Tissue Training
- FYGV
- Public Health Command
- Inter-agency Partnership
- Defense Support to Civil Authorities

FYGV: First Year Graduate Veterinary Education:

Background
- > 40% of DVM graduates attend post-graduate education
- Assignment of new accessions to single VCO sites
- Changes in civilian veterinary college curriculum
  - Increased didactic; decreased hands-on skill training
  - Decreased Public Health Focus
- Unique Veterinary Corps mission not trained in veterinary colleges
  - Food Defense
  - Food Water Risk Assessment
  - Stability Operations
  - Leadership
- Medical Corps, Nurse Corps, Physical Therapy- have formal FYGME programs

FYGV: First Year Graduate Veterinary Education Continued:

VC FYGV Concept
- Standardized training in all aspects of veterinary services mission
- Required for all new accession VCOs
- 9 sites based on POA/GOA/Audit workload
- Instructors consist of dedicated 64B/64F

Goals
- Improve technical skills of new VCO accessions
- Formalize leadership training to create better future leaders
- Provide job satisfaction and improve retention rates
- Provide the best veterinary services support to the DOD

Animal Assisted Therapy/Activity (AAT/AAA):
- Wide variety of AAT and AAA programs within the Army
- Behavioral Health and Veterinary Services co-sponsored symposium December 2009 to begin comprehensive review
- Follow-up meetings with various NGOs, Academia, and Behavioral Health and Veterinary Services personnel
• On-site review of programs at Walter Reed Army Medical Center
• Policy guidance developed for use of animals in Combat Stress units and in Health Care facilities

Canine Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (C-PTSD):
• Anecdotal reports of combat-related behavior problems in some MWDs
• 25-30 dogs identified with these issues in retrospective review of MWDs from 2003-2007
• DoD MWD Program Manager data call in 2007 identified 25 MWDs with combat-related behavior problems
• DoD MWD VS lead with DODVSA and PHC/VETCOM support to develop STRATCOM and case definition with subsequent study

Memorandum of Understanding (DoD & Food and Drug Administration):
• Signed: 11 January 2010
• Goals
  Strengthen Global & National Food Protection
  o Improve Product Risk Identification
  o Build Interagency Infrastructure and Processes
  Enhance Information Sharing
  o Interagency expertise, technologies & tools
  o Access to FDA Databases

Specialty AOC Distributable Inventory:
• 64B (Preventive Medicine): 80 (57%)
• 64C (Lab Animal Medicine): 50 (109%)
• 64D (Vet Pathology): 42 (127%)
• 64E (Comparative Medicine): 25 (114%)
• 64F (Clinical Vet Medicine): 26 (93%)

Building Specialty AOCs:
• LTHET creates VC Specialty AOCs
• Advanced educational opportunities
• Promotion & assignment opportunities
• Board Specialty Pay
• Investment for the Future
Retention Initiatives:

- Health Profession Loan Repayment Program- Direct Accessions
- Accession Bonus- Direct Accession ($5000/4yrs)
- Incentive Pay ($2500-$5000/yr)
- Board Certification Pay ($6000/yr)
- Retention Bonus ($2500-$5000/yr)
- Increase number of HPSP scholarships (up to 3 years Veterinary School tuition)

Show video of Veterinary Corps Research and Development Career Fields (time permitting).
# List of Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAA</td>
<td>Animal Assisted Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAFES</td>
<td>Army Air Force Exchange System</td>
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<tr>
<td>AAT</td>
<td>Animal Assisted Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>AOC</td>
<td>Area of Concentration</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHPPM</td>
<td>Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>COCOM</td>
<td>Combatant Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-PTSD</td>
<td>Canine Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeCA</td>
<td>Defense Commissary Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>DFACS</td>
<td>Defense Commissary Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>DOD</td>
<td>Department of Defense</td>
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<tr>
<td>DODVSA</td>
<td>Department of Defense Veterinary Service Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>FYGVE</td>
<td>First Year Graduate Veterinary Education</td>
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<td>GOA</td>
<td>Government Owned Animal</td>
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<tr>
<td>GWOT</td>
<td>Global War on Terror</td>
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<td>MWD</td>
<td>Military Working Dog</td>
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<tr>
<td>OEF</td>
<td>Operation Enduring Freedom</td>
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<tr>
<td>OIF</td>
<td>Operation Iraqi Freedom</td>
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<tr>
<td>POA</td>
<td>Privately Owned Animal</td>
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<td>PHC</td>
<td>Public Health Command</td>
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<td>STRATCOM</td>
<td>Strategic Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAPHC</td>
<td>United States Army Public Health Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCO</td>
<td>Veterinary Corps Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>VETCOM</td>
<td>Veterinary Command</td>
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