

FM 4-02.18 (FM 8-10-18)

VETERINARY SERVICE
TACTICS, TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES

DECEMBER 2004

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HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

VETERINARY SERVICE
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PREFACE

This publication outlines the functions and operations of each veterinary element within an area of operations (AO). It provides tactics, techniques, and procedures for veterinary support. The information provided in this publication will assist veterinary commanders and staffs to operate efficiently in the corps and echelons above corps (EAC) arenas. It may be used by medical planners to supplement Field Manual (FM) 4-02, FM 8-42, and FM 8-55. The recently approved Force Design Update and approved table(s) of organization and equipment (TOEs) provide two newly designed veterinary units. The medical detachment, veterinary service (MDVS) has subcomponents that include a headquarters section, a food procurement team, and veterinary service support teams (5). Each of these subcomponents has their own A-Series TOE/ Standard Requirement Code (SRC) as well as their overall unit TOE and SRC. This means that planners can put any of the subcomponents into a Time-Phased Force Deployment List (TPFDL) or an operation that they feel is needed, to include the whole unit if desired. The medical detachment, veterinary medicine (MDVM) was designed to deploy as one unit. This manual also provides doctrine for veterinary units organized under the L-Series TOEs.

The organizational structures presented in this publication reflect those established in the current A-Series and L-Series TOEs effective as of this publication date. The staffing and organization structures presented in this FM reflect those established in the base TOE and are current as of this publication's print date. Such staffing is subject to change in order to comply with manpower requirements criteria outlined in Army Regulation (AR) 71-32. Those requirements criteria are also subject to change if the modification table(s) of organization and equipment (MTOE) is significantly altered. The most current tables are available either by mailing a request to: Authorizations Documentation Directorate, 9900 Belvoir Road, ATTN: MOFI-FMA, Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060-2287; or by contacting that office at the Website: <https://webtaads.belvoir.army.mil/usafmsa>. An account must be established before you will be permitted to log on.

This manual is in consonance with FM 7-15, Army Universal Task List (AUTL) and supports the Army Tactical Task (ART) 6.5.4.4, Provide Veterinary Service. Commanders should use the AUTL as a cross reference for tactical tasks. The AUTL provides a standard doctrinal foundation and catalogue of the Army's tactical collective tasks.

The proponent of this publication is the United States (US) Army Medical Department Center and School (AMEDDC&S). Send comments and recommendations on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028, Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms, or in a letter format directly to the **Commander, AMEDDC&S, ATTN: MCCS-FCD-L, 1400 East Grayson Street, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-5052.**

Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for illustrative purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the Department of Defense (DOD).

CHAPTER 1

VETERINARY SUPPORT IN MILITARY OPERATIONS**Section I. MISSION****1-1. Veterinary Mission Statement**

a. The veterinary mission is to execute veterinary service support essential for force health protection (FHP) and to project and sustain a healthy and medically protected force; train, equip, and deploy the veterinary force; and promote the health of the military community.

b. This is accomplished by the following functions:

(1) *Food safety, food security, and quality assurance.* Food safety, food security, and quality assurance during all stages of procurement, storage, and distribution require that veterinary personnel—

- Ensure food safety, wholesomeness, and related quality assurance standards.
- Perform surveillance inspections of operational rations.
- Perform sanitation audits of commercial facilities that produce such items as dairy products, seafood (fish), red meats, poultry, eggs, pork, baked goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, bottled water, and block or packaged ice. See AR 40-657 and the most current version of Military Standard (MIL-STD) 3006A for definitive information on sanitation audits of commercial food establishments.
- Perform surveillance inspections of all Service-owned subsistence received, stored, issued, sold, or shipped from/to military installations (including those items received from depots and supply points). See AR 40-656 for definitive information on veterinary surveillance inspections.
- Conduct basic food screening and microbiological laboratory procedures to ensure adherence to food safety standards and to identify potential foodborne pathogens.
- Advise theater logistics units (corps support battalion [CSB], main support battalion [MSB], division support battalion [DSB], forward support battalion [FSB], and brigade support battalion [BSB]), ration breakdown point (RBP), and dining facilities (DFACs) on storing subsistence to minimize the threat of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) contamination.
- Inspect, monitor, and submit laboratory samples of subsistence or food-producing animals that are contaminated or suspected of being contaminated by CBRN agents.
- Provide units with guidance and instructions for the proper handling or decontamination of subsistence. See Chapter 5, Section II of this manual and Appendix J of FM 4-02.7 for definitive information.
- Protect the financial interests of the government as it affects the use and disposition of wholesome, government-owned subsistence.

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- Participate in civic, humanitarian, or disaster relief actions as directed.
- Provide food surveillance inspections of DFACs for security and storage of food products.

(2) *Veterinary medical care.*

- Provide complete veterinary care for all military working dogs (MWDs) in the AO.
- Provide limited veterinary care to other DOD-owned animals and other government-owned animals (GOA) when time and resources permit and to indigenous animals, as directed.

(3) *Veterinary preventive medicine.*

- Support prevention and control programs to protect soldiers from foodborne diseases.
- Evaluate zoonotic disease data collected in the AO and advise PVNTMED elements and higher headquarters on potential hazard(s) to humans.
- Establish animal disease prevention and control programs to protect soldiers and their families and other DOD and Allied personnel from zoonotic diseases.
- Assess the presence of animal diseases that may impact the continental US (CONUS) agriculture system if contaminated equipment or personnel are allowed to redeploy.
- Perform investigations of unexplained animal deaths to include livestock and wildlife.

1-2. **Veterinary Services and Support**

a. The US Army Veterinary Corps under the direction of Secretary of the Army and supervision of The Surgeon General of the Army is the DOD Executive Agent for veterinary service for all the Services (US Army, US Navy, US Marine Corps, US Air Force, and the US Coast Guard). Veterinary services are also provided upon request and subject to availability of resources for GOA of other federal agencies. In some instances animal care is provided to allies/coalition partners and/or host-nation (HN) agencies. The US agencies that may be provided this support include:

- Department of Agriculture.
- Department of Commerce.
- Department of Transportation.
- Department of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Agency, US Coast Guard, US Customs, US Border Patrol, and US Secret Service).