SUBJECT: DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services

References: See Enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE. This directive:

a. Reissues DoD Directive (DoDD) 6400.4 (Reference (a)) to establish policy and assign responsibilities for veterinary public and animal health services in accordance with the authority in DoDD 5136.01 (Reference (b)).

b. Designates the Secretary of the Army as the DoD Executive Agent (EA) for DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services in accordance with DoDD 5101.1 (Reference (c)).

2. APPLICABILITY. This directive applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (referred to collectively in this directive as the “DoD Components”).

3. POLICY. It is DoD policy to:

a. Provide, in support of military planning, operations, and force health protection, veterinary and public health services focused on:

   (1) Food protection to ensure wholesome subsistence.

   (2) Veterinary clinical medicine and diagnostic laboratory capabilities in support of DoD working animals; military communities and families; and DoD Components’ research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) and training.

b. Provide Army veterinary service personnel (including veterinarians and veterinary food safety officers) with relevant training and specialization to plan and deliver food protection,
animal health and welfare, veterinary public health, training, and RDT&E across the range of military operations.

c. Integrate installation veterinary public and animal health services with installation medical services, including support from the installation commander and senior medical commander for common services, supply, logistics, facilities, and communication.

4. **RESPONSIBILITIES.** See Enclosure 2.

5. **RELEASABILITY.** **Unlimited.** This directive is approved for public release and is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Website at http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives.

6. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This directive:


   b. Must be reissued, cancelled, or certified current within 5 years of its publication to be considered current in accordance with DoD Instruction (DoDI) 5025.01 (Reference (d)).

   c. If not, it will expire effective June 27, 2023 and be removed from the DoD Issuances Website if it hasn’t been reissued or cancelled in accordance with Reference (d).

Ashton B. Carter
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures

   1. References
   2. Responsibilities

Glossary
ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

(a) DoD Directive 6400.4, “DoD Veterinary Services Program,” August 22, 2003 (hereby cancelled)
(b) DoD Directive 5136.01, “Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)),” June 4, 2008
(d) DoD Instruction 5025.01, “DoD Directives Program,” September 26, 2012, as amended
(f) DoD Instruction 6490.03, “Deployment Health,” August 11, 2006
(g) DoD Directive 3235.02E, “DoD Combat Feeding Research and Engineering Program, DoD Combat Feeding Research and Engineering Board, and DoD Nutrition Committee,” May 21, 2004
(i) DoD Directive 6200.04, “Force Health Protection (FHP),” October 9, 2004
(j) DoD Instruction 6200.03, “Public Health Emergency Management within the Department of Defense,” March 5, 2010, as amended
(n) DoD Instruction 3216.01, “Use of Animals in DoD Programs,” September 13, 2010
(o) DoD Instruction 1000.13, “Identification (ID) Cards for Members of the Uniformed Services, Their Dependents, and Other Eligible Individuals,” December 5, 1997
(q) DoD Instruction 3000.05, “Stability Operations,” September 16, 2009
(t) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum, “Implementation of Base Realignment and Closure Requirements Concerning the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology,” November 16, 2006
ENCLOSURE 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS. Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs:

   a. Serves as the Principal Staff Assistant for DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services.

   b. Oversees Manages the activities of the DoD EA for DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services and monitors and evaluates the implementation of the program.

2. DIRECTOR, DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY. Under the authority, direction, and control of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Director, Defense Health Agency:

   ea. Issues guidance on veterinary public and animal health services in accordance with Reference (b) and this directive.

   db. Supports the development and sustainment of mission essential information technology to support DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services and allocates Defense Health Program funding, based on funding availability, for those systems.

23. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS. The Secretaries of the Military Departments:

   a. Coordinate with the other Secretaries of the Military Departments at joint bases to delineate Service responsibilities for installation food service sanitation and food protection programs.

   b. Provide food and water risk assessments for deployed forces during initial entry, exercises, and other short-term operations conducted outside the continental United States.

   c. Support installation veterinary services for common services, supply, logistics, facilities, utilities, and communication.

34. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY. In addition to the responsibilities in section 23 of this enclosure, in his or her capacity as the DoD EA for DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services, the Secretary of the Army:
a. Ensures the uniform use of veterinary services throughout the DoD, in accordance with this directive and DoDD 5530.3 (Reference (e)).

b. Delegates authority to the Surgeon General, U.S. Army, to act on behalf of the DoD EA for the DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services to:

(1) Develop, support, and evaluate food protection measures (food safety and food defense) to ensure food ingredients and food products are safe, wholesome, meet quality standards, and are free from unintentional or intentional contamination and adulteration, in accordance with DoDI 6490.03, DoDD 3235.02E, DoDI 2000.12, DoDD 6200.04 (References (f) through (i)), and during emergency response in accordance with DoDI 6200.03 (Reference (j)).

(2) In collaboration with the Military Services’ public health and preventive medicine authorities, develop policy for:

(a) Standardized installation food vulnerability assessments in accordance with Reference (j), DoDI 6055.17 (Reference (k)), and DoDI 2000.16 (Reference (l)), and provide veterinary support for completion of installation food vulnerability assessments on Army and Navy installations.

(b) Standardized food and water defense support and provide veterinary support for completion of food and water defense at Army and Navy sponsored or supported off-installation special events in accordance with Reference (l).

(c) Standardized food and water risk assessments and provide veterinary support for completion of food and water risk assessments for deployed forces during initial entry deployment, exercises, and other short-term operations conducted outside the continental United States.

(3) Develop military sanitary standards for commercial food (including bottled water) plants providing products to the DoD Components.

(4) Maintain and publish approved lists of food suppliers used by all DoD Components.

(5) Maintain laboratories or contract the capability for laboratory examinations (organic or purchased) for wholesomeness and quality of food products and diagnosis of animal diseases.

(6) Inspect food products and provide food protection programs at all food procurement, operational ration assembly facilities, and subsistence and war reserve stocks storage facilities under the control of the Defense Logistics Agency.

(7) Inspect troop support food products on all installations under the control of the Departments of the Army and Navy.
(8) Provide food inspection and food protection and, in collaboration with Army and Navy Surgeons’ General preventive medicine or public health authorities, provide food service sanitation programs at all Defense Commissary Agency and Exchange Service retail convenience stores (e.g., shoppettes and mini-marts) associated with the Departments of the Army and Navy.

(9) In coordination with the Military Services’ public health and preventive medicine authorities, develop and maintain the tri-Service Food Code used by all DoD Components.

(10) Coordinate with the Secretaries of the Navy and Air Force at joint bases to delineate Service responsibilities for installation food service sanitation and food protection programs.

(11) Provide clinical and regulatory veterinary services, through appropriated and nonappropriated funds, for:

(a) Comprehensive care for DoD-owned animals supported by appropriated funds, in accordance with DoDD 5200.31E and DoDI 3216.01 (References (m) and (n), respectively).

(b) Comprehensive care for DoD-owned animals supported by nonappropriated funds on a reimbursable basis as resources permit.

(c) Comprehensive care for animals owned by individuals enrolled in the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System and who are authorized medical care in DoD medical facilities in accordance with DoDI 1000.13 (Reference (o)), on a reimbursable basis, in accordance with DoDI 1015.15 (Reference (p)). This care will consist of measures to prevent, control, and treat animal diseases and conditions that present a public health, safety, or animal health threat to a DoD installation or the surrounding community, and to maintain veterinary clinical skills proficiency.

(d) Comprehensive care for non-DoD owned government animals in accordance with interagency agreements on a reimbursable basis.

(12) Operate facilities and establish equipment standards for and monitor standard of care at installation veterinary facilities.

(13) Operate the Veterinary Services Central Funds Supplemental Mission Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentality in accordance with Reference (p).

(14) Provide veterinary public health guidance, consultation, and clinical support regarding zoonotic diseases, including veterinarian participation in installation and command rabies advisory teams or boards, and in conducting the animal rabies control program.

(15) Advocate for and provide consultation for animal welfare on DoD installations.
(16) Provide advocacy, veterinary consultation, and support for DoD Human-Animal Bond Programs, DoD animal-assisted activity/therapy programs, and service/assistance animals owned by authorized beneficiaries described in paragraph 3b(11)(c) of this enclosure.

(17) Provide veterinary coordination, manning, and support to plan and conduct agricultural, veterinary public health, and animal health activities across the range of military operations, to include:

(a) Support of DoD Stability Operations and Medical Stability Operations in accordance with DoDI 3000.05 (Reference (q)).

(b) Defense Support to Civil Authorities in accordance with DoDD 3025.18 (Reference (r)).

(c) Global Health strategic goals, to include veterinary and public health support of the National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats (Reference (s)).

(18) Train and equip Army veterinary service personnel, including veterinarians and veterinary food safety officers with relevant specialty training, to enable food protection, animal health and welfare, veterinary public health, and, when required by the DoD Components, for RDT&E and training. Select and assign veterinarians to the DoD veterinary pathology residency program in accordance with Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Memorandum (Reference (t)) and DoDD 5154.24 (Reference (u)).

(19) Identify requirements for veterinary services information systems.

45. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY. In addition to the responsibilities in section 23 of this enclosure, the Secretary of the Navy:

a. Establishes and provides food service sanitation programs for the Department of the Navy. Collaborates on all food service sanitation programs with Army veterinary services at Defense Commissary Agency and Exchange Service retail convenience stores in accordance with paragraph 3b(8) of this enclosure.

b. In collaboration with Army veterinary services, supports installation food vulnerability assessment support to naval installation commanders.

c. In collaboration with Army veterinary services, supports food and water defense at Navy sponsored or supported off-installation special events.

56. SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE. In addition to the responsibilities in section 23 of this enclosure, the Secretary of the Air Force:
a. Establishes and provides food inspection, food protection, and food service sanitation programs on Air Force installations.

b. Develops, when required, locally approved lists of food suppliers from which food products are procured only for individual Air Force installations.

c. Supports installation food vulnerability assessments on Air Force installations.

d. Supports food and water defense at Air Force sponsored or supported off-installation special events.
GLOSSARY

PART I. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DoDD    DoD Directive
DoDI    DoD Instruction

EA      Executive Agent

RDT&E  research, development, test and evaluation

PART II. DEFINITIONS

These terms and their definitions are for the purposes of this directive.

food and water defense. A program normally conducted jointly by veterinary and public health personnel to identify and mitigate food safety hazards for special events held off installation.

food and water risk assessment. A program conducted under specific circumstances by veterinary or public health personnel to assess food operations to identify and mitigate risk from intentional and unintentional contamination. Circumstances under which an assessment is conducted include short term deployments, for deployed forces during initial entry deployment, and exercises and other short-term operations conducted outside the United States or its territories.

food defense. Protection measures necessary to identify and mitigate the threat of intentional contamination of food.

food emergency response. A rapid food protection response to unexpected, imminent hazards, natural or manmade, that affect DoD feeding systems or affect those feeding systems with which DoD has written support agreements for response.

food inspection. The hands-on sensory and, when indicated, laboratory evaluation of food and food products for wholesomeness, condition, tampering, and quality. Food inspection encompasses source, delivery, storage, processing, sale and issue. It excludes food-service meal preparation.

food protection. Overarching term that includes both food safety and food defense.

food safety. Protection measures necessary to identify, mitigate, or eliminate the risk from unintentional contamination.
food service sanitation inspections. The application of food safety principles to ensure safe food handling, preparation, and storage of prepared food in establishments that serve meals to DoD patrons.

installation food vulnerability assessment. A program conducted by DoD veterinary or Military Services’ public health personnel to determine the vulnerability of an installation’s food and food service operations to natural or intentional contamination or destruction, including terrorist attacks. Assessments identify areas of improvement to withstand, mitigate, and deter such hazards. They are conducted on installations or in facilities associated with a DoD installation.

retail convenience stores. Small retail facilities under the control of DoD where the primary items for sale are packaged foods purchased for consumption outside the facility. Convenience stores may include shoppettes, mini-marts, or retail outlets. They may be equipped for minimal food processing operations.

veterinary services. The DoD veterinary services capability encompasses animal health and welfare and veterinary public health. Veterinary public health focuses on the animal health interface with human health and environmental health and is an essential part of public health. More specifically, veterinary services consist of the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery, including: diagnosis and treatment of sick or injured animals; animal health and zoonotic disease surveillance, epidemiology, control and prevention of zoonoses; food protection; management of health aspects of laboratory animal facilities and diagnostic laboratories; biomedical research; health education and extension; production and control of biological products and medical devices; management of domestic and wild animal populations; protection of drinking water and the environment; and shared management of public health emergencies.