

APPENDIX C

VETERINARY SUPPORT IN LOW INTENSITY CONFLICT**C-1. General**

The veterinary service can contribute to the success of the MEDOLIC mission objectives by helping to improve the public health of the population with such programs as: immunizations for zoonotic animal diseases; public health and sanitation training and training in food hygiene, safety, and inspection techniques. In LIC, the interrelationship of human and animal health, disease transmission, and economics is often complex. It can affect the overall health status of the country. Livestock animals (horses, cattle, and hogs) affect both the economy and public health. The care and immunization of these important resources merit attention in the planning and resourcing of HCA operations. Consumable veterinary drugs and supplies necessary for care of livestock are not normally available through military supply channels. These supplies must be resourced and procured early in the mission planning and development phases of the operation.

C-2. Support for Counterinsurgency

The use of veterinary resources and expertise in counterinsurgency includes support to US troops, assistance to HN military forces, and the enhancement of the stability of the HN government.

a. The support of US troops is largely characterized by traditional services rendered by the veterinary service, such as—

- Treating government-owned animals.
- Ensuring the wholesomeness and safety of US military food supplies.
- Ensuring the local procurement process for food items has adequate food hygiene, safety, and quality assurance.

b. As US military medical involvement increases, the veterinary service can assist in the assessment of the HN's veterinary programs. They can provide guidance, training, and treatment of the HN's military animal care program (including pack

animals and military working dogs). Further, the veterinary service can assist in establishing a food procurement system (if one does not exist) or in enhancing an already existing system.

c. The US veterinary service's most challenging and nontraditional roles include enhancing the stability of the HN government and assisting in establishing programs that benefit the HN's populace. Veterinary service participation in HCA activities must be thoroughly coordinated, through the country team. Coordination with such agencies as the Department of State, USAID, the US Department of Agriculture, and HN counterpart agencies may be required. (The US Army veterinarian is not a member of the country team. Face-to-face coordination with relevant members of other US governmental and HN agencies, however, is indispensable if veterinary programs are to be successful.)

(1) The USAID is responsible for helping HNs improve their health care systems (including veterinary care). The US Department of Agriculture is often involved with developing these programs. Both agencies are frequently not on-site for executing programs, but rather contract with outside agencies for the actual implementation.

(2) The US military often has veterinary resources and the logistical support system already in-country to execute and effectively promote such programs. The military veterinarian (after thorough research, coordination, and assessment of his capabilities and resources) can develop courses of action to support the overall veterinary effort.

d. Well-developed veterinary programs have the ability to impact across a wide range of interests (such as public health, medical, nutritional, and economic). These programs must complement the social, religious, and political factors present in the HN. Proposed veterinary programs require the development and evaluation of programs which address the specific problem areas that tend to foster the insurgency in a given region. For example, if the principal issue underlying the insurgency is a religious one, the application of a successful program to eradicate *brucellosis* in goats

will have little impact on the HN's ability to survive the insurgency. On the other hand, if the central dilemma is an expanding population without economic growth, the insurgent may base his strategy on the HN's inability to provide for the basic needs such as food, fuel, clothes, and housing. In this situation, the use of a program to control *hog cholera* on small farms would increase pork production. This disease control will have a direct result of increased food production, increased income for the farmer, and perhaps of most importance, the ability to change the diet from one based on grain to one which includes meat. This gives the populace the perception that their status in life is improving. Changes such as these directly attack the insurgent's principal issue, defuse the insurgent's psychological operations, and at the same time bolster the credibility and popular support of the HN government.

e. In developing, coordinating, and establishing US military veterinarian support to the FID effort, several factors must be considered.

(1) The primary issue is to determine the specific veterinary support required. If the mission is a combination of activities, then priorities must be established. Once the mission is established, the level of veterinary resources and assets available is determined, then the following considerations may apply:

- Human and animal disease prevalence data.
- Status of agricultural production systems.
- Determination of the local names for common diseases.
- Climatic factors (rainfall, temperature, dry and wet seasons).
- Soil factors (pH, deficiencies).
- Agriculture economics (market systems, cooperatives, banking).
- Infrastructure (roads, rivers, electric power).

- Availability of animal foodstuffs.

(2) The programs which are designed and developed must consider all of the factors presented in paragraph C-2e(1) above. The programs which are developed should focus on long-term projects, as the *quick fix* should also be avoided in this arena. However, there are a number of programs which can be developed which could require only short-term US military involvement. These include, but are not limited to—

- Vaccination programs in which single dose application provides lasting immunity.
- Village-level external parasite control facilities (dipping vat construction projects).
- Vampire bat control programs.
- Water well and windmill construction in selected areas to improve animal grazing capabilities.
- Local control of toxic grazing plants.

(3) Long-term programs to improve animal health and increase production based on solid economics with the phaseout of US assistance are optimal solutions for changing some of the environmental conditions that insurgents focus on. Such programs must be developed after extensive evaluation by regional experts. Programs requiring active participation by local financial institutions have a tendency to be extremely successful. They provide incentive, produce tangible rewards, and succeed. An example would be a requirement by local banks for livestock production loans to have the producer feed mineralized salt and vaccinate the cattle against hoof-and-mouth disease in order to secure the loan.

C-3. Combatting Terrorism

The veterinary service should be involved in the planning to counter the terrorist threat. The veterinary service may play a key role in anti-terrorism. The terrorist threat may include the employment of NBC weapons. Veterinary service

personnel, therefore, must be alert to the potential use of these agents and report any suspected use to the appropriate authorities. Personnel, animals, and food supplies and sources (such as crops) are highly susceptible to biological agents. Veterinary personnel must be prepared to inspect suspect food-stuffs and care for affected animals.

C-4. Peacekeeping Operations

Veterinary support is required in most peacekeeping operations.

a. Due to the nature of these operations, field expedient procurement systems may be established. Veterinary assistance in ensuring that the food procured is safe is essential.

b. In these operations, military working dogs may be required to perform many tasks. Veterinary support is required to sustain the use of these and other government-owned animals.

C-5. Peacetime Contingency Operations

a. Noncombatant Evacuation Operations. The required veterinary support in NEO depends upon the planned length of the operation and whether privately-owned pets will be abandoned, euthanized, or retrograded.

(1) If privately-owned pets are retrograded with the evacuees, veterinary support is required to ensure that exotic foreign animal diseases are not transferred to the US. If the pets are to be euthanized, veterinary support is required to ensure that the process is conducted in a safe and humane manner.

(2) During NEO requiring several days to complete, the prevention of food and waterborne

diseases is important. In these operations, local food supplies are normally used to feed the evacuees while they are in the assembly area. As a result of the factors leading up to the necessity to conduct a NEO, the food supplies are often severely deteriorated. This subsistence requires careful inspection by highly trained and experienced personnel to ensure food wholesomeness, hygiene, and safety.

b. Humanitarian Assistance. Food supplies used in disaster relief operations are normally quickly procured, often without proper specifications, and usually approximate native diets. Veterinary personnel can help to ensure that only safe and wholesome food supplies are used. Further, veterinary service personnel can assist in the control of the spread of zoonotic diseases.

c. Security Assistance Surges. These operations normally consist of providing logistic support to a friendly or allied nation facing an imminent threat.

(1) *Food.* If the logistic support includes transporting subsistence, there will be an increased demand to inspect this cargo for wholesomeness. The conditions imposed by short notice operations may stress food due to the lack of refrigeration or other factors, thereby requiring additional inspections.

(2) *Animals.* The assistance provided may include government-owned working dogs or military pack animals. These animals will require veterinary support to sustain them and to ensure they remain disease free.

d. Unconventional Warfare. Veterinary personnel may provide training to indigenous guerrilla forces in establishing a food procurement system, inspecting food, caring for military working dogs and pack animals, and caring for and managing livestock.