

Public Health Activity -Japan History



The Army Veterinary Detachment in Japan had its start on August 7, 1945, when Veterinary Corps personnel were included in the Civil Affairs Division by U.S. Armed Forces Pacific as part of the invasion contingency force. Between 1945 and 1959, Veterinary Table of Organization and Equipment (TO&E) units were scattered throughout Japan providing nation assistance and performing the same food safety and animal medicine functions as the Veterinary Command of today. In carrying out their postwar mission, these veterinary units played a key role in advising and assisting with the revitalization of many of Japan's veterinary public health programs. By 1959, TO&E units were phased out. Veterinary Detachment then became a subordinate Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) unit under U.S. Army Medical Command, Japan, and a functional part of U.S. Army Japan. Veterinary Detachment was briefly designated a separate command in 1969 and again in 1983, and was known as Veterinary Detachment, Japan.

In December 1995, Veterinary Service Support District-Japan was activated as a subordinate command of the Pacific Veterinary Service Support Area of U.S. Army Veterinary Command. PHCD-J provides quality veterinary services to all DOD installations and facilities in Japan and Okinawa and maintains a strong working relationship with Government of Japan public health and regulatory agencies.

In March 1997, Veterinary Service Support District was re-designated as Japan District Veterinary Command.

Effective July 22, 2011, the former U.S. Army Veterinary Command combined with the former U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine to create the new U.S. Army Public Health Command and Japan District Veterinary Command was re-designated as Public Health Command District - Japan. This decision was made to combine and enhance the ability to deliver public health services to the U.S. Army and DOD.

Effective 17 August 2016, the former Public Health Command Region – Pacific transitioned into Public Health Command – Pacific (Provisional) under Regional Health Command – Pacific. Then effective October 01, 2016, Public Health Command – Pacific went into effect and the former Public Health Command District-Japan was re-designated as Public Health Activity-Japan. This decision was made in order to better align support through the local MTF and thus enhancing the ability to deliver public health services to the U.S. Army and DOD.

On November 28, 2011, the former Japan District Veterinary Command was awarded the Army Superior Unit Award for contributions made across Japan following the natural disaster in on March 11, 2011.

The mission of the Public Health Activity – Japan remains unchanged: Conserve the fighting strength by ensuring safe, wholesome, high quality food and water; safeguarding the public from zoonotic health threats; provide world class veterinary medical and surgical care for military working dogs; delivering exceptional veterinary medical services to U.S. military communities in Japan; and supporting the maintenance of international peace and security in the Far East by providing expert veterinary support to stability operations.