

KANSAS FOOD SAFETY REFERENCES

Agency Name: United States Army, Veterinary Corps, Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley

Areas of Responsibility: United States Army (USA), Veterinary Command (VETCOM) provides military veterinary services in support of United States Army Medical Command and Department of Defense (DOD) missions. The responsibilities of VETCOM include food safety and quality assurance, care of government owned animals, and animal disease prevention and control. VETCOM also maintains the DOD Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for the Armed Forces Procurement, see VETCOM web site. Mission priorities for food safety and security include: Intentional or unintentional contamination of food that poses an imminent health hazard; all Food/Drug Activities (ALFOODACT) or Hazardous Recalls; operational rations inspections at assembly plants, at receipt locations, and during surveillance inspections; commercial sanitation audits; Prime Vendor inspection for troop feeding at dining facilities, galleys, hospitals, etc.; Defense Commissary Agency Support; installation Morale, Welfare, and Recreation support; Army Air Force Exchange Service support; and performance of sanitary inspections of government facilities. They also provide food facility receiving and supervisory personnel training so they can ensure all food products received are from approved sources, it is not temperature abused, and it meets all contract quality requirements. Veterinary Services personnel establish and maintain liaison with appropriate local, state, and federal health authorities.

Organizational Structure: VETCOM has five Regional Veterinary Commands and 19 District Veterinary Commands or their equivalent, through which it supports the Department of Defense. VETCOM headquarters is located at Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas. Kansas USA Forts are in the Great Plains Regional Veterinary Command, also located at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Each Regional Veterinary Command is collocated with a Regional Medical Command. Each Regional Veterinary Command Commander also acts as a senior veterinary staff officer for the Regional Medical Command. Kansas USA Forts are in the North Plains District Veterinary Command located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. All Veterinary Command food safety data is linked via a worldwide computer program and can be reviewed at all levels of command.

Normal Concept of Operations (Work Process): Army Regulation (AR 40-657), Medical Services, Veterinary/Medical Food Safety, Quality Assurance, and Laboratory Service summarizes food safety and security mission requirements. The Installation Support Plans at each Kansas Fort defines USA Veterinary Command Branch support mandated at each installation. Assigned Veterinary Corps Officers, Warrant Officers, Veterinary Corps Food Inspection Specialist's, and Veterinary Corps trained civilian personnel perform all required food safety and security responsibilities.

Education/Certification of Inspectors and Agency Leadership: All Veterinary Corps Officer's are graduate Doctor's of Veterinary Medicine and upon accession attend the 13 week, Officer's Basic Course – Veterinary Corps at the Academy of Health Sciences, Fort Sam Houston. Veterinary Corps Warrant Officers are previous Veterinary Corps Food Inspection Specialists or Preventive Medicine Technicians that have attended the Warrant Officer Basic Course. Veterinary Corps Food Inspection Specialist's (91-R's) upon accession attend the 9 week, 91-R Certification Course at the Academy of Health Sciences. Veterinary Corps Officers, Warrant Officers and Veterinary Corps Food Inspection Specialist's also attend numerous career field follow-on training classes throughout their military career.

Contact Information: (Special Note: The primary job of all USA personnel is to support the primary installation mission as designated by DOD and the Department of the Army authorities. Due to this mandate, USA Veterinary Corps personnel can only be tasked by their Commander.)

Fort Leavenworth Branch, Veterinary Services, (913) 684-6506

Fort Riley Branch, Veterinary Services, (785) 239-2732

USA Veterinary Command web page: <http://vets.amedd.army.mil/vetcom/>