

## Military Veterinary Medicine

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MILITARY VETERINARY MEDICINE began with the origin of the U.S. Army and rather closely parallels the development of the profession of veterinary medicine in the United States. Between 14 June 1775 and 3 June 1916, or until congressional legislation created a commissioned officers' corps of veterinarians in the Army, much of the history of military veterinary medicine must be gleaned from the histories of the mounted combat arms and medical and supply services. These histories include references to veterinary affairs which in chronologic sequence present a fairly clear-cut picture of the development of military veterinary service.

### EVOLUTION: 1775–1916

Cavalry, frequently known by other names, the combat arm formed in 1777, became the birthplace of military veterinary medicine in 1792. Congressional legislation of 1792 provided that each of the four troops of light dragoons (cavalry) would have one farrier to care for the ailments of horses. The heritage of the Veterinary Corps officer is specifically traced to horseshoers and farriers who acted as animal nurses in the "old, old Army." In fact, the horseshoe-shaped insignie of the farrier was once carried into the design of the veterinarian's distinctive insignie which, for a few years before World War

I, included the undersurface of a shod horse's foot.

In 1798, the number of farriers had increased from four to a total of ten, and the original pay of \$8 had been increased to \$10 per month. Cavalry and farriers were not a part of the Army from 1802 to 1808, but in the latter year Congress provided for a regiment of cavalry for which eight farriers were authorized. Farriers were first included in horse artillery in 1812. Due to reduction in the horsed combat arms following the War of 1812, the farrier disappeared from the military scene until 1833, when a regiment of cavalry was formed with a complement of ten farriers. Ten additional farriers appeared when a second cavalry regiment was organized in 1836.

The 1834 and 1835 editions of General Regulations for the Army described the annual report of the Inspector General as including a discussion of the "Veterinary Department of Cavalry," noted "whether the Veterinary Surgeon is competent to the duties of his station. . . whether the farriers are properly instructed and expert in their business." This is likely the first use of the term "veterinary surgeon" in official Army publications, but it is fairly probable that it may have been used interchangeably with "farrier" as it has not been established that there were any veterinarians in the Army at that



**Support for Knox:** Ox-drawn sleds guided by soldiers of the Continental Army leave Ticonderoga for siege of Boston (1775). Few horses were used during the Revolutionary War, and many of those that were suffered more at the hands of their users than from enemy action. U.S. Army Photograph

time. Pay tables did not list a veterinary surgeon.

It appears that the Quartermaster's Department may have contemplated the hiring of civilian veterinarians as early as 1837, but there is no evidence of congressional appropriation for such purpose prior to the appropriation act for the fiscal year 1849. That few veterinarians were hired might be evidenced by the fact that, during the fiscal year that marked the beginning of the Civil War, the Quartermaster's Department expended only \$168.50 for services of civilian veterinarians.

During the war with Mexico and through the period of Indian fighting before the Civil War, the number of farriers varied with the number of mounted units

authorized, but their general status remained more or less unchanged. With the beginning of the Civil War, a veterinary sergeant was authorized for each of the three battalions in a cavalry regiment. It may be presumed that he had the duty of supervising farriers with companies of the battalion. He received \$17 per month and ranked with a sergeant of cavalry. This grade of veterinary sergeant was dropped in 1862, but under the act of 3 March 1863 each regiment of cavalry was authorized a regimental veterinary surgeon with the rank of regimental sergeant major and pay of \$75 per month. Appointments were made by the Secretary of War following selection by the chief of the Cavalry Bureau upon nomination by regimental commanders. The increased grade and pay



**Battle of Resaca de la Palma (Texas — 1846), climaxed the opening campaign of the Mexican War and marked the first outstanding use of Cavalry in a major American war. Army regulations recognized the need for veterinary services which, however, were supplied by farriers. U.S. Army Photograph**

was likely provided as a result of the Army's terrific animal loss due to disease and in an effort to obtain better qualified personnel to provide veterinary service. There were apparently no fixed standards of education and experience, and it seems probable that not more than a very few graduate veterinarians applied for or received appointment. During the Civil War, the Quartermaster's Department spent \$93,666.47 for the hire of civilian veterinarians.

After the Civil War, the total of six Regular Army cavalry regiments was augmented by four additional regiments. Unlike each of the six older regiments which were authorized one veterinary surgeon, each of the newly formed regiments was authorized two veterinary surgeons, one of whom was designated "Senior Veterinary Surgeon" and received pay of \$100 per month. This disparity in personnel authorization persisted until 1899.

One of the important milestones in the improvement of military veterinary service was the requirement set forth in Army General Orders of 1879 and first included in Army Regulations of 1881 that thereafter all appointed as veterinary surgeons with Cavalry were to be graduates of established and reputable veterinary schools or colleges. The regulations also provided that the veterinary surgeons would have rank and precedence comparable to those of a sergeant major. The 1881 appropriation act provided for fourteen veterinary surgeons with Cavalry, but it appears that there were actually twelve on duty. The Quartermaster's Department was at that time employing one full-time veterinarian for the care of animals, and in the later 1880's several more were employed for this purpose.

At the beginning of the Spanish-American War, the Cavalry was authorized fourteen veterinary surgeons (four seniors and

six juniors) for its ten regiments. Artillery reentered the evolution of the Army Veterinary Service where each battery of field artillery was authorized a veterinary sergeant; previously, in 1812, horsed artillery had farriers and after 1861 was provided with artificers who very likely performed the duties of farriers.

The end of the investigation of the "embalmed meats" of the Spanish-American War marked the start of the Army's veterinary food inspection service. In July, 1901, a veterinarian was transferred from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and appointed Meat Inspector, Subsistence Department at Large, U.S. Army, for the purpose of making receipt inspections of meats in addition to inspections made prior to delivery by veterinary inspectors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By 1906, the number of Army subsistence veterinary inspectors had been increased to six, and War Department Orders had directed post commanders to use veterinarians to conduct ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections of beef purchased locally. Dr. C. W. Johnson was the original appointee, followed by Dr. W. H. McKinney for duty in Kansas City, Mo. Drs. G. A. Lytle, D. A. Hughes, and C. J. Loveberry, in 1906, were stationed at Chi-

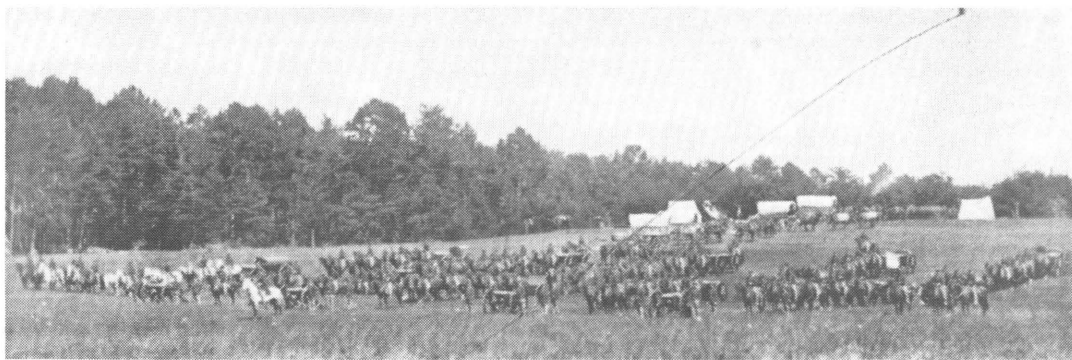
cago, Illinois, Omaha, Nebraska, and San Francisco, California, respectively.

Congressional legislation in 1899, after the beginning of the Philippine Insurrection, greatly improved the lot of Army veterinarians with Cavalry. It provided that every regiment of cavalry would be authorized two veterinarians, one to have the pay and allowances (not the rank) of a second lieutenant of Cavalry and the other the pay of \$75 per month and the allowances of a sergeant major. Later, the senior veterinarian was accorded a rank between that of a cadet and second lieutenant, the highest rank achieved by veterinarians prior to the authorization of a corps of commissioned officers in 1916.

The so-called Army Reorganization Act of 1901 made further improvement in the status of the Army veterinarian by providing that all veterinarians (two for each regiment of cavalry and one for each regiment of artillery) would have the pay and allowances of a second lieutenant. The number of such veterinarians was 42. The act also provided that veterinarians employed as civilians by the Quartermaster should receive pay of \$100 per month. The Quartermaster's Department became the Army's largest user of veterinarians, and at one time it had more than 60 veterinarians em-



Civil War farriery unit, Army of the Potomac. With inadequate veterinary service there was an appalling wastage of horses in both the Union and Confederate armies. Library of Congress Collection



**Civil War Quartermaster Supply Company. Procurement of animals, as well as veterinary services, were Quartermaster responsibilities, and the few veterinarians in service were hampered by ill-advised regulations. Library of Congress Collection**

ployed as civilians in the Philippine Islands. The pay of veterinarians employed as civilians (contract veterinarians) remained at the \$1,200 per year level in spite of repeated efforts of The Quartermaster General to obtain a pay status more nearly comparable with that of Army veterinarians with Cavalry and Field Artillery. The pay of veterinarians of Cavalry and Field Artillery was increased in 1908 from the previous \$1,500 to \$1,700 per year (pay of second lieutenant, mounted). Retirement of veterinarians with Cavalry and Field Artillery was first authorized under the provisions of the appropriation act of 1911.

During the 124 years between 1792, when the farrier was first authorized, and 1916, when the commissioned Veterinary Corps was authorized, the military veterinary service moved forward nearly in pace with the progress being made by veterinary medicine in the United States at large. The progressive improvement in military veterinary service was due to (1) increasing appreciation by the military and legislative branches of the real need for such service, (2) the inherent desire of nearly every individual veterinarian in the service to provide better service and to improve his personal status, and (3) the unceasing effort of civilian veterinarians through the American Veterinary Medical Association to improve military veterinary service and the status of their professional

brothers in the service of their country. Although much improvement in veterinary service had been effected, there was still much room for improvement. The service was being provided by separate groups of veterinarians — two fully militarized groups, the veterinarians with Cavalry and Field Artillery, and two civilian employee groups, the meat inspection and animal service veterinarians working for The Quartermaster General. Proper coordination in and between groups was lacking, pay rates were not uniform, and the over-all service did not have an Army-wide organization to exercise administrative, functional, and policy control. These shortcomings were overcome when the National Defense Act of 1916 made provision for a Veterinary Corps of commissioned officers and wisely made the corps a component of the Medical Department.

#### **DEVELOPMENT: 1916–1940**

The history of the development of the Army Veterinary Service during the period between 1916 and World War II devolves on such a large number of subjects that it will be considered by major topical subjects and each will be discussed in chronologic order.

#### **Legislation and Major Administrative Directives**

The congressional legislation authorizing the Veterinary Corps was section 16 of



the National Defense Act, approved 3 June 1916. This important historical document is quoted [ in part ]:

Sec. 16. VETERINARIANS. — The President is hereby authorized, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint veterinarians and assistant veterinarians in the Army, not to exceed, including veterinarians now in service, two such officers for each regiment of Cavalry, one for every three batteries of Field Artillery, one for each mounted battalion of Engineers, seventeen as inspectors of horses and mules and as veterinarians in the Quartermaster Corps, and seven as inspectors of meats for the Quartermaster Corps; and said veterinarians and assistant veterinarians shall be citizens of the United States and shall constitute the Veterinary Corps and shall be a part of the Medical Department of the Army.

Hereafter a candidate for appointment as assistant veterinarian must be a citizen of the United States, between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-seven years, a graduate of a recognized veterinary college or university, and shall not be appointed until he shall have passed a satisfactory examination as to character, physical condition, general education, and professional qualifications.

An assistant veterinarian appointed under this Act shall, for the first five years of service as such, have the rank, pay, and allowances of second lieutenant; that after five years of service he shall have the rank, pay, and allowances of first lieutenant; that after fifteen years of service he shall be promoted to be a veterinarian with the rank, pay, and allowances of captain, and that after twenty years' service he shall have the rank, pay, and allowances of a major: *Provided*, That any assistant veterinarian, in order to be promoted as hereinbefore provided, must first pass a satisfactory examination, under such rules as the President may prescribe, as to professional qualifications and adaptability for the military service; and if such assistant veterinarian shall be found deficient at such examination he shall be discharged from the Army with one year's pay.

Little had been accomplished toward implementation of the provisions of the above-cited act before the entry of the United States in World War I. The Selective Service legislation (Overman Act) of 18 May 1917 gave the President full authority for expanding the Veterinary Corps beyond the provisions of the National Defense Act. Under this authority, War Department General Orders No. 130

(section III), 4 October 1917, established the Veterinary Corps, National Army, as follows:

1. The President directs that under the authority conferred by section 2 of the act "To authorize the President to increase temporarily the Military Establishment of the United States" approved May 18, 1917, there be organized for the period of the existing emergency a Veterinary Corps, National Army, to consist of the commissioned and enlisted personnel herein-after specified.

2. The total number of commissioned officers and enlisted men may be approximately equal to, but shall not exceed, 1 commissioned officer and 16 enlisted men for each 400 animals in service; the veterinarians and assistant veterinarians of the Regular Army, National Guard, drafted into the Federal Service, and Officers' Reserve Corps in active service, shall be considered as a part of the total commissioned personnel herein authorized.

3. The commissioned personnel shall consist of veterinarians and assistant veterinarians and the grades and the ratios in grades shall be as follows:

Seven veterinarians with rank of major to 20 veterinarians with rank of captain, to 36 veterinarians with rank of first lieutenant, to 37 assistant veterinarians with rank of second lieutenant.

In no case shall original appointments or promotions be made so as to make the ratio between any of the grades above that of second lieutenant to the grade next below it above the ratio specified.

4. The enlisted personnel shall consist of men of the grades indicated below and the proportions of these men shall not exceed those indicated. In each 200 enlisted men there may be 5 sergeants first class, 10 sergeants, 10 corporals, 40 farriers, 2 horseshoers, 1 saddler, 3 cooks, 43 privates first class, 86 privates.

5. The Surgeon General will submit recommendations to the Secretary of War for the commissioned and enlisted personnel now required for the organization authorized above, which, upon approval by the Secretary of War, shall be put into effect. The organization of the Veterinary Corps will be subsequently increased or decreased as the needs of the service require upon recommendations by the Surgeon General after they have been approved by the Secretary of War.

A Veterinary Corps, National Army, having been provided, the principles and policies for its operation were provided in SR (Special Regulations) No. 70, 15

December 1917, Special Regulations Governing the Army Veterinary Service. This regulation contained the first comprehensive description of the administrative and functional organization of the Army Veterinary Service. Additional implementing instructions were contained in a series of circular letters which were promulgated by the Surgeon General's Office during World War I and thereafter until late in 1920. Special Regulations No. 70, supplemented by the Surgeon General's circular letters, provided administrative and technical guidance until supplanted by 52 numbered Army Regulations which were published in 1921–1922. These Army Regulations, with minor changes from time to time, were in effect at the beginning of World War II.

After World War I, the wartime military establishment was replaced by a more permanent peacetime organization under the provisions of the act of 4 June 1920 which amended the National Defense Act of 1916 to the degree that a new law seemed to emerge. This act, as further amended or modified by the appropriation act of 30 June 1922, the act of 14 July 1932, and the act of 31 July 1935, markedly influenced the development of the Army Veterinary Corps. The effect of these acts will be discussed in their relation to the subject headings which follow.

### **Administration and Organization**

When the National Defense Act of 1916 came into existence, there was no veterinary service organization above the regimental, camp, and depot level and no professional supervision or coordinating control over the separate local activities. The act did nothing to change this situation as it contained but little above the specific provisions for forming a corps of commissioned officers within the Medical Department. The Surgeon General, in early 1917, invited certain civilian veterinarians to confer with him on planning the organization and expansion of a wartime veterinary service. According to Merillat and Campbell conference mem-

bers included Maj. Gen. W. C. Gorgas, The Surgeon General; Maj. C. G. Furbush, MC; Maj. G. E. Griffin, VC; Lt. A. L. Mason, VC; and the following civilian veterinarians: V. A. Moore, dean of the New York State Veterinary College, Cornell University; C. J. Marshall, of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania; D. S. White, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Ohio State University; J. R. Mohler, assistant or acting chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture; and C. E. Cotton, president, American Veterinary Medical Association. Of these, Marshall, White, and Cotton were commissioned into the Veterinary Corps, National Army, on 3 October 1917. A special committee of the American Veterinary Medical Association submitted a recommendation to the Surgeon General's conference group for the organization of a veterinary service patterned after that of the British Army's veterinary service. The conference group accepted this proposal, and a recommendation was submitted to the War Department on 14 July 1917. This recommendation resulted in the publication of General Orders No. 130, 4 October 1917, which established the organization of the Veterinary Corps, National Army. Prior to the issuance of this general order, the Surgeon General, anticipating its publication, had replaced his original conference group with a veterinary advisory board of five prominent civilian veterinarians to formulate plans for the more detailed organization and administration of the veterinary service. The recommendations of this board resulted in the publication of SR 70 which, together with the Surgeon General's circular letters, provided administrative and technical direction until 1921.

After the appointment of a civilian veterinary advisory board, a Veterinary Division was established in the Surgeon General's Office in October 1917 when a number of the original veterinary advisers were commissioned in the Veterinary Corps, National Army, and were assigned to duty

in the Veterinary Division. Under the directorship of Medical Corps officers from 1917 to 1922 and Veterinary Corps officers thereafter, the Veterinary Division continued through World War I and thereafter as the office at War Department level responsible for the operation of the Army Veterinary Service.

During World War I, practically all of the veterinary officers were assigned to combat divisions, remount depots, and other units within the Zone of Interior which were exempt from control of the six departments within the United States. For this reason, veterinary officers were not assigned to department headquarters. The Surgeon General's Office exercised direct coordination and supervision of the veterinary service at the many exempted installations. This was accomplished through five senior veterinary officer general inspectors who traveled from camp to camp within each of five established geographic areas. These inspectors were of great value in advising the many young and inexperienced veterinary officers and in keeping The Surgeon General informed on all matters pertaining to the newly-organized service. Various required reports were submitted directly to The Surgeon General from all exempted stations.

After World War I, more and more of the formerly exempted units and installations were placed under the control of the departments in line with a general policy of decentralization. With this change, the need for traveling general inspectors no longer existed, and the assignment of a veterinary officer to the office of each department surgeon to supervise the Veterinary Service within the area became desirable. The first such department veterinarian was assigned in 1919; others were assigned later. The military departments were discontinued in 1920 but were replaced by nine numerically designated corps areas. Thus, the former department veterinarian became a corps area veterinarian. His duties were first completely outlined in Army Regulations in 1920. The number of corps area headquarters to which a vet-

erinary officer was assigned varied from year to year. After mid-1938, each corps area had an assigned corps area veterinarian and the onset of World War II saw veterinary activities well coordinated within the corps area commands.

Reference to the responsibilities of the Army Veterinary Service when outside of the Zone of Interior and to the office of chief veterinarian in an expeditionary force was first contained in SR 70. At variance with the more commonly accepted concept of subordination to the chief surgeon, this SR 70 provided that the chief veterinarian report direct to the commander in chief. Under this concept, the Chief Veterinarian, American Expeditionary Forces in France, was assigned to the office of the force's Chief Quartermaster where he became veterinary technical adviser to the theater's remount service rather than a central administrator of the veterinary service. The veterinary service was in fact under the direct control of the Quartermaster Corps instead of the Medical Department. This arrangement was wholly unsatisfactory from every standpoint, but it was not corrected until August, 1918, when the Army Veterinary Service was finally placed under Medical Department control and the Chief Veterinarian was assigned to the Chief Surgeon's Office.

Department veterinarians were assigned to the Hawaiian, Philippine, and Panama Canal departments in 1918. From the office of the department surgeon, they supervised and coordinated the veterinary services in these departments in the same manner as the veterinary service was supervised by department or corps area veterinarians in the Zone of Interior.

## Personnel

### REGULAR ARMY OFFICERS

It was not until the spring of 1917 that anything was materially accomplished to provide a commissioned veterinary corps as authorized by the National Defense Act of 1916. Before that time, a board of officers, composed of three Medical Corps



TABLE 1  
YEARS OF SERVICE REQUIRED FOR PROMOTION OF VETERINARY CORPS, REGULAR ARMY, OFFICERS,  
AS DESCRIBED BY LAW, 1916-40

Rank	Act of 3 June 1916	Act of 4 June 1920	Act of 31 July 1935
Second lieutenant . . .	Original appointment . . . . .	Original appointment . . . . .	Original appointment . . . . .
To first lieutenant . . .	After 5 years . . . . .	After 3 years . . . . .	After 3 years . . . . .
To captain . . . . .	After 15 years . . . . .	After 7 years . . . . .	After 12 years . . . . .
To major . . . . .	After 20 years . . . . .	After 14 years . . . . .	After 20 years . . . . .
To lieutenant colonel .	Not authorized . . . . .	After 20 years . . . . .	After 26 years . . . . .
To colonel . . . . .	Not authorized . . . . .	After 26 years . . . . .	After 26 years . . . . .

officers and two veterinarians, was appointed to examine the physical and professional qualifications of veterinarians then in Cavalry, Field Artillery, and Quartermaster Corps for appointment into the Veterinary Corps, Regular Army. Later, the examinations were extended to civilian veterinarians. By 6 April 1917, 58 officers with previous military service had been commissioned. By July, 1918, the corps had been filled to its authorized strength of 118. The authorization remained at this level until, under the 1920 amendments to the National Defense Act, it was increased to 175. The vacancies thus created were partially filled (to a total strength of 163 by December 1920) by integration into the Regular Army of selected Veterinary Reserve officers who had seen active military service during World War I. The appropriation act of 30 June 1922 provided that, effective 1 January 1923, pay would be restricted to 126 regular Veterinary Corps officers. The cut-back from the then actual strength of 158 to the authorization of 126 was accomplished in part by normal attrition, but the appointments of 22 officers were forcibly terminated by "pink ticket." The National Defense Act was never amended to reflect the reduced authorization, but the restriction was repeated in successive appropriation acts so that the authorization and actual strength was still 126 at the beginning of World War II. Subsequent to the integration program noted above, vacancies within the authorized strength were filled only in the lowest grade by appointment from an eligible

list established after examination of candidates for appointment.

Temporary promotions of Regular Army Veterinary Corps officers were made under authority of the provisions for the National Army during World War I. Permanent promotions were made upon completion of a fixed number of years of service and successful completion of physical and professional examinations (Table 1).

RESERVE OFFICERS

With the onset of World War I, it was evident that the demand for veterinary officers would have to be met by the appointment of veterinarians in the Veterinary Section, Officers' Reserve Corps, under authority of the Officers' Reserve Corps section of the National Defense Act of 1916. In the spring of 1917, The Surgeon General authorized the deans of veterinary colleges and some few leading practitioners to conduct professional examination of veterinarians who might apply for appointment as second lieutenants, Veterinary Officers' Reserve Corps. After the fall of 1917, candidates for appointment were examined by Medical Department boards of officers at Army camps. During the wartime period, a total of 1,596 veterinarians were commissioned in the Reserve and served on active duty. Like the veterinary officers of the Regular Army and those of the National Guard, Veterinary Corps Reserve officers were integrated into the National Army on 4 October 1917, under the provisions of General Orders No. 130. On 7 August 1918, all officers were transferred into the

U.S. Army. This latter personnel action was interpreted as one of outright discharge from the Officers' Reserve Corps, so the demobilization of the Army resulted in the unconditional release of all former Reserve Corps veterinary officers from further military obligation. The Veterinary Officers' Reserve Corps then comprised only the few who had not been called to active duty and those who had been discharged prior to 7 August 1918.

The Veterinary Section of the Officers' Reserve Corps was reestablished on 1 January 1919 and by the end of that year had 92 members. Many former veterinary officers who had rendered satisfactory service during the war were reappointed in the Reserve in the grades held when relieved from active duty. Later, the majority of new appointments were veterinarians who had completed their training under the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program which was started in four veterinary colleges in 1920. The number in the Reserve, which from 1925 to 1938 averaged about 1,000, had increased to over 1,500 in 1940, providing an adequate source of supply of veterinary officers when needed during World War II. After mid-1930, over 100 Reserve Corps veterinary officers were, on their own applications, ordered to active duty with the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) for which certain administrative and supply functions, including the inspection of food by veterinary officers, were being performed by the Army. These officers were relieved from active military duty in late 1939, but many were reemployed as civilian employees of the CCC to perform meat inspection duties.

#### NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS

During World War I, 74 officers with the National Guard were inducted into federal service. These, like all other veterinary officers, were integrated into the National Army on 4 October 1917 and into the U.S. Army on 7 August 1918. These were discharged from military service following the war. Later, veterinarians again became a part of the National Guard, and,

by 30 June 1941, 34 National Guard veterinary officers were in active Federal service. Also included among the 2,313 veterinary officers who saw active military service during World War I were 17 originally appointed in the National Army, 207 appointed in the U.S. Army after 7 August 1918, and 2 retired Regular Army Veterinary Corps officers. The peak active strength was 2,234; this peak was reached on 30 November 1918. The peak active strength in Europe during World War I was 890 officers on 28 December 1918.

#### ENLISTED MEN

The National Defense Act of 1916 did not provide for veterinary enlisted personnel. The first provision for enlisted men was contained in General Orders No. 130, which established a National Army Veterinary Corps consisting of commissioned and enlisted personnel. It provided for a strength not to exceed 16 veterinary enlisted men for each 400 animals in the Army. The number of enlisted men rapidly increased, and a wartime peak of 18,007 men was reached on 31 October 1918. About two of every three enlisted men saw oversea service. Demobilization after World War I saw the rapid release of wartime or Selective Service enlisted men from the Veterinary Service. During the spring of 1919, the War Department authorized enlistment or reenlistment with the Medical Department, Regular Army, for immediate assignment to duty with the Veterinary Corps. War Department General Orders No. 127, 17 November 1919, augmented the Medical Department enlisted strength by 1,500 personnel spaces with the expressed contingency that personnel "will be enlisted in the Medical Department but will be assigned to duty with the Veterinary Corps." By 30 June 1920, there were 965 enlisted men, "Medical Department (Veterinary Service)," on duty. Under the 1920 amendments to the National Defense Act, a reduction in overall Medical Department enlisted personnel authorization was effected, and this was reflected in the decrease of the veterinary

suballotment to 800 in 1922. Further reduction in authorization followed, and the average authorization through the years to 1940 was approximately 600, while the average actual strength was very close to this figure. Both the authorized and actual enlisted strengths were generally below that necessary for operation of a fully efficient veterinary service.

Training and Instructional Services

TRAINING IN WORLD WAR I

The most discouraging situation in the beginning wartime expansion of the Army Veterinary Service was its inadequate training. Practically all veterinary officers were lacking in military experience, and there was a very serious shortage of trained men to help the untrained, as there was no corps of commissioned officers before 1917. Training of individual officers and enlisted men was necessary as was also the training of units. Many officers were of necessity self-trained. On-the-job training was conducted in unit schools at regimental, depot, division, and camp level wherever possible, but the quality of training was too often poor due to lack of trained instructors. Most of the few experienced officers who were available as instructors were assigned to Medical Department special training facilities or schools.

Only about one-half of the Veterinary Corps officers serving during World War I received military veterinary training in Medical Department or other training installations giving formal instruction. Approximately the same proportion of enlisted men received this type of training. The school at Camp Lee, Virginia, was concerned principally with the organization and unit training of 36 hospital and replacement units for the American Expeditionary Forces in France; 6,500 of its students were sent overseas with organizations. The school at the General Supply Depot in Chicago supplied specialized training in food and forage inspection.

TRAINING AFTER WORLD WAR I

The end of World War I brought the early closing of all of the wartime veteri-

nary training schools or facilities other than the Course in Meat and Dairy Hygiene and Forage Inspection in Chicago and the veterinary laboratory course in Philadelphia. The latter was transferred to Washington, D.C., in 1920 and later became a part of the Army Veterinary School.

The course of instruction at the Chicago General Supply Depot was designated as the Veterinary School of Meat and Dairy Hygiene and Forage Inspection in 1920, as an Army special service school under the Medical Department for the training of veterinary officers and enlisted personnel. The school was reorganized in early 1922 and was renamed the Army Veterinary School. Pursuant to War Department authorization of 7 July 1923, the school was transferred to Washington, D.C., where it was integrated into the organization of the Army Medical Center. The school conducted the basic course for Veterinary Corps officers and the technicians' course for enlisted personnel throughout the peacetime period. The Army Veterinary School graduated 162 officers and 196 enlisted men between 1920 and 1941.

In 1920, the Medical Field Service School for the field training of Medical Department personnel was established at Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Groups of Veterinary Corps officers first regularly attended this school in 1923; a total of 113 Veterinary Corps officers had graduated before 1941.

The following tabulation shows the number of Veterinary Corps officers graduating from Army schools, other than Medical Department schools, during the peacetime period.

Army War College .....	1
Command and General Staff School	2
The Cavalry School .....	12
The Chemical Warfare School ....	8
Quartermaster Corps Subsistence	
School .....	3
Total .....	26

During the same period, 15 Veterinary

Corps officers completed courses in civilian educational institutions.

Some of the most important peacetime training was the training conducted in veterinary ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) units in four veterinary colleges between 1920 and 1935. During this period, nearly 500 veterinary ROTC students received their professional degrees and were commissioned as second lieutenants in the veterinary section of the Officers' Reserve Corps.

### Equipment and Supplies

Shortly after becoming a part of the Medical Department, the Army Veterinary Service was equipped and supplied in common with the Medical and Dental Corps. However, at the beginning of World War I there was practically no veterinary equipment or supply on hand. The relatively small holding of veterinary supplies in the hands of the Quartermaster Corps was transferred to the Medical Department, and veterinarians who were then entering active military service were asked to bring their equipment with them for purchase by the Army. In addition, the Secretary of War granted authority to civilian animal humane organizations to furnish gift donations so that Army animals would not suffer from the lack of veterinary equipment and supplies.

Donations of considerable amounts of equipment and supplies were made by the Blue Cross Society, sponsored by the American Red Cross, and by the Red Star Animal Relief, organized as a part of the American Humane Association. The appropriations act of 12 May 1917 provided funds for the Medical Department expressly "for the purchase of veterinary supplies," but it was late 1917 before nearly adequate stocks were available in the Medical Supply Depot, St. Louis, Mo. Supply tables revised in early 1918 provided new wallets, chests, and unit assemblies, largely patterned after British Army equipment, for veterinary detachments, hospitals, and other field units. Before 22 April 1918, nearly \$4½ million

had been expended for veterinary equipment and supplies, which by that time were on hand in adequate amounts.

After World War I, the Medical Department supply tables were subjected to various revisions, but the classification of veterinary supplies remained more or less the same after 1928. During the peacetime period, the Medical Field Service School and the Army Veterinary School, working with the Veterinary Division of the Surgeon General's Office and selected test units in the field, did much to improve and develop the veterinary equipment and supply, particularly the various assemblies for field use.

### MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

With an understanding of the beginnings in military veterinary medicine and of developments in the Army Veterinary Service since its formation pursuant to the National Defense Act of 3 June 1916, the objectives and accomplishments of the 2,116 veterinarians who served in the Veterinary Corps of the Army during World War II became more real. At this point, it must be emphasized that the wartime expansion of the Army Veterinary Service was generally orderly, even showing increasing efficiency in answer, or partial response, to the seemingly imponderable problems and questions which then arose. This was not true during World War I when the newly created Army Veterinary Service was necessarily expanded even before its fundamental principles or nuclei were fully developed. The onset of World War II found the Army Veterinary Service with a tested definition of its mission and responsibilities and with a central administrative agency in operation—two factors which were essential to orderly expansion. Their existence was a credit to the Veterinary Corps which had actively continued and repeatedly reevaluated them once they had been developed in the years past.

The mission and responsibilities of the Army Veterinary Service in World War II were generally no different from those which were defined soon after the Veterinary Corps was created and was made a

component of the Medical Department. Only the words were changed after World War I, and time had brought about some refinements in these definitions as well as a more firm establishment of the relationship of the corps in Medical Department organization. Special Regulations No. 70, 15 December 1917, described the objects of the Veterinary Corps as follows: "to protect the health and preserve the efficiency of the animals of the Army," and "also provide for the inspection of meat-producing animals before and after slaughter and of dressed carcasses; and for the inspection of dairy herds supplying milk to the Army." Parts of the definition originated with the National Defense Act of 3 June 1916, which had created the Veterinary Corps to include veterinarians, veterinarians with mounted units, veterinary inspectors of horses and mules, and veterinary inspectors of meats. On 25 January 1922, AR (Army Regulations) No. 40-2005, Medical Department—Veterinary Service, General Provisions, provided: "The Veterinary Service as a part of the Medical Department . . . is charged in peace and war with duties falling under two definite heads: First, those in connection with the animals of the Army; second, those concerned with the food supplies of troops that are of animal origin." This was restated in the 15 September 1942 edition of the same regulation and was continued throughout the remaining period of World War II.

### Animal Health

With reference to animals, the Army Veterinary Service was responsible for (1) investigating animal hygiene and sanitary conditions and making recommendations with respect thereto; (2) advising on those methods of animal management concerned with animal health and efficiency; (3) instructing military personnel on military animal sanitation and management and on horseshoeing; (4) examining animal feeds and forage when procured, in storage, and at issue; (5) evacuating and caring for sick

and wounded animals; (6) physically examining animals; (7) managing and controlling veterinary hospitals and all other veterinary units; (8) investigating and controlling those diseases of animals which were known or suspected to be transmissible to the human being; and (9) controlling, training, instructing, and assigning to duty of the commissioned and enlisted personnel of the Medical Department who belonged to the Veterinary Service. These responsibilities expressly meant that the Army Veterinary Service in World War II—

1. Applied the principles of veterinary sanitary science to maintain animals in a correct environment with regard to their shelter, restraint, handling, feeds and feeding, grooming, work and exercise, shoeing, clothing, and equipment with the purpose of eliminating, so far as practicable, the causes of physical inefficiency.

2. Initiated suitable measures for the control of communicable diseases.

3. Reduced animal losses and inefficiency by the prompt discovery of the sick and wounded, their separation from the well, their evacuation, their segregation in veterinary hospitals, and the application of curative measures.

4. Physically examined animals prior to purchase and at other times with a view to insuring the acquisition of only serviceably sound animals and the prompt and economical disposal of the unsound.

5. Reduced the incidence among military personnel of diseases transmissible by animals by the application of veterinary public health measures applicable to military animals and civilian animals in the vicinity of troop areas.

### Food Inspection

Regarding food supplies, the Army Veterinary Service in World War II was responsible for (1) the procurement and surveillance inspections of meats, meat foods, milk and dairy products used by the Army; (2) the determination, by inspection or other means, of the sanitary condition of

food establishments, warehouses, and shipping conveyances and of the methods used in manufacturing, storing, shipping, and handling food products; (3) the submission of recommendations with respect to the food supply; and (4) the instruction of veterinary food inspection personnel. These responsibilities meant that the Army Veterinary Service—

1. Applied the principles of sanitary control over the condition and methods used in the production or manufacture, shipping, storage, issue, and other handling of food products, including food establishments, warehouses, freezing plants, refrigerators, railroad cars, ships, and airplanes as well as milk herds and dairies.

2. Reduced or eliminated the hazards to troop health that existed in diseased, contaminated, or deteriorated food supplies, by sanitary inspections and reinspections of food products.

3. Assured that the quantity and the sanitary, nutritive, and grade qualities of food products were delivered by contractors in accordance with the requirements of specifications and purchase instruments.

By the operations listed, the veterinary food inspection service assured that the food supplies of animal origin which were purchased by the Army were produced in establishments maintaining acceptable standards of sanitation, that they were sound and of the required quality when procured, and that the food products at time of issue to troops were wholesome and fit for human consumption. The operations also were important in the conservation of the Army food stockpiles against unnecessary deterioration or outright losses due to spoilage.

### **Relation With Medical Service**

In the conduct of this service with Army animals and the inspection of the Army food supply, the Veterinary Service was administered, under the direction of The Surgeon General, by a Veterinary Corps officer who was selected by The Surgeon General and assigned to duty in his office as

chief of the Veterinary Division. Below the level of the Surgeon General's Office in the organizational structure of the Army, these services in a theater of operations, territorial department, corps area (later service command), camp, airbase, or other station, or in a field army, army corps, division, air force, or other unit were the responsibility of, and were conducted by, the senior Veterinary Corps officer, whose official designation was "veterinarian." His basic title was, for example, chief veterinarian, department veterinarian, corps area (or service command) veterinarian, station veterinarian, depot veterinarian, base veterinarian, port veterinarian, army veterinarian, corps veterinarian, division veterinarian, brigade veterinarian, or regimental veterinarian. At these levels of the military organizational structure, the dual nature of responsibilities of the Army Veterinary Service—concerning animals on one hand and troops on the other—involved a close and definite relationship in Medical Department organization and administration. The veterinary service with animals and the general medical service with troops proceeded along parallel lines. Their problems of sanitation, preventive medicine, control of preventable diseases, professional care and treatment of the sick and injured, and the administration of hospitals were precisely analogous, as were the procedures prescribed and the means provided for their solution.

### **Staff Duties**

While appropriately united in one department and administered under one head—The Surgeon General—the veterinary and medical services were, in a technical sense, separate except as they met on the common ground of an animal disease which might possibly be communicable to man. On the other hand, the veterinary service with troops or operations concerned with the examination of the food supply was a matter of sanitation and, thus, a direct extension of the sanitary service of the Medical Department, which was



charged with responsibility in all matters concerning the protection of the health of troops. Proper coordination of these activities of this service branch of the Army was assured only when there was but one representative of the Medical Department on the staff of the commanding officer. Since all considerations involving the health of troops were paramount, such staff duty logically devolved upon the senior Medical Corps officer present with the command. This principle, however, was construed as placing the veterinary officer of the command as a subordinate of, or assistant to the surgeon only in a staff capacity. In his staff relations, the veterinarian furnished the surgeon with such technical information as was necessary in properly representing the affairs of the Medical Department. In addition to their staff functions as surgeon and veterinarian, respectively, the medical officer commanded the medical detachment and the veterinary officer commanded the veterinary detachment, and in such command capacity each was directly responsible only to the commanding officer. Accordingly, at posts, camps, and stations, such matters as reports and returns relating exclusively to the veterinary detachment or to veterinary technical operations not involving the health of troops were not transmitted by the veterinarian through the surgeon.

In the absence of a veterinary officer, the ordinary staff duties of the surgeon were expanded to include direct responsibility for the command's veterinary service, including its administration. Where there were no veterinary personnel — officer or enlisted — the surgeon represented the Medical Department in matters pertaining to the Veterinary Service, utilized such facilities as were at his disposal, and kept the commanding officer advised as to the veterinary requirements. To the extent that veterinary personnel were available, these situations were avoided by the assignment of specially trained and selected veterinary noncommissioned officers to the surgeon's offices of commands, by the authorization to employ civilian veteri-

narians, or by the naming of an attending veterinarian who performed at such stations the same duties as were required at his regularly assigned station.

### Professional Duties

In addition to the duties and responsibilities devolving upon him as a doctor of veterinary medicine, the Veterinary Corps officer inherited certain duties and responsibilities which were commensurate with his commissioning as an Army officer and were proper to the performance of the mission assigned to the Army Veterinary Service. These may be classified as professional, advisory, and administrative. The professional duties were typical of those which were performed by the veterinary surgeons and employed veterinarians who saw service with Cavalry, Field Artillery, and the Subsistence and Quartermaster's Department before 1916; they had no advisory duties and no personnel to assist them. The advisory duties may be compared with the activities of professional consultants or civilian experts, but only the Veterinary Corps officer could perform all three classes of duties and be responsible for them, including that of command. The duties and responsibilities, in general, of the veterinary officers when acting in a professional capacity were to —

1. Practice preventive veterinary medicine by recommending suitable measures for the prevention and control of animal diseases and injury, including physical examinations of animals.

2. Provide treatment and hospitalization for animals analogous to that provided to troops by medical and dental officers.

3. Conduct sanitary inspections of establishments producing, storing, issuing, or otherwise handling foods of animal origin which were used by the Army and to conduct procurement and surveillance food products inspections.

### Advisory Duties

When acting in an advisory capacity, or as a staff veterinary officer, his duties were —

1. To keep informed of existing conditions having any bearing upon the health and physical efficiency of the animals of the command and, especially in a moving command, to anticipate the occurrence of such conditions.

2. To keep informed of conditions affecting foods of animal origin which might have a bearing upon the health of troops.

3. To transmit to the commanding officer such of this information having a bearing upon the military administration and to submit appropriate recommendations.

4. To transmit to the surgeon such of this information having any bearing upon the health of troops.

5. To make prescribed reports and returns and to take appropriate action on reports and returns received from subordinates.

6. To perform such other duties as directed by superior authority.

These advisory duties did not mean that the veterinary officer took corrective action to minimize a defect — that being the direct responsibility of the commanding officer. If, however, the commanding officer expressly authorized the Veterinary Corps officer to give orders in his name for the correction of such defects, then the duties and responsibilities of the latter were correspondingly increased. In advising, it became necessary for the veterinary officer to remember that when any veterinary necessity of the moment conflicted with a purely military necessity, the former was ranked secondary in importance, unless the veterinary officer was convinced that the responsible military authority was not aware of the far-reaching results from a veterinary point of view, in which case, it was necessary to again present the matter to the military authority, who alone possessed all of the facts bearing on the decision of action for which he alone was responsible.

### **Administrative Duties**

In his administrative duties, the Veterinary Corps officer was directly responsible for the condition and efficiency of the veterinary service of his command — this

being comparable to the duties of administrative officers of the line units of the Army. More specifically, the veterinary officer was responsible for —

1. The training, discipline, efficiency, and assignment to duty of the personnel which he commanded and the supervision of the internal economy of the veterinary organization or unit.

2. The maintenance of equipment in proper condition by requisitioning the needed supplies and by properly caring for the property on hand.

3. The keeping of prescribed reports and the making of prescribed reports and returns.

4. The performance of such other duties as were required by superior military authority, such as the conduct of veterinary instructional services in horseshoeing schools.

### **Changes in Emphasis**

The mission and responsibilities of the Veterinary Service during World War II were not materially different from those of World War I. However, during the war, there were some changes in the emphasis on parts of the mission and responsibilities and in the way that they were fulfilled. For example, World War II saw the definition of Army animals, so far as the Army Veterinary Service was concerned, expanded to mean not only horses and mules but also Army dogs and signal pigeons and even laboratory animals. However, this change in meaning did not add to, or detract from, the mission of the Army Veterinary Service to protect and preserve animal efficiency; nor did changes in animal strength have an influence on this mission. Similarly, the newer threats to troop health which came with leptospirosis and rabies of dogs or with psittacosis and salmonellosis common to pigeons — diseases which are infectious for the human being — had little influence on the basic concept of the mission of veterinary public health and its relationship in the Medical Department. In regard to the Army food supply, which was many times the volume of any past

TABLE 2  
VETERINARY SERVICE TO HORSES AND MULES IN THE U.S. ARMY, BY YEAR, 1941-46  
(Rate expressed as number per annum per 1,000 average strength)

Year	Average Strength	Admissions		Deaths		Days of Treatment
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	
1941.....	46,520	44,696	960.8	2,528	54.3	918,553
1942.....	49,701	33,424	672.5	2,181	43.9	706,794
1943.....	56,287	31,784	564.7	2,987	53.1	853,481
1944.....	43,334	25,471	587.8	2,364	54.6	610,916
1945.....	35,200	19,939	566.4	2,856	81.1	486,652
1946.....	7,717	3,119	404.2	275	35.6	59,210

Source: Reports, Veterinary Division, Surgeon General's Office, for the annual reports of The Surgeon General, 1942-45. (Official record.)

period, the increasing emphasis on centralizing food procurement, on conducting inspections at food establishments, and on conserving Army stockpiles by surveillance inspections involved changes and expansion of the administrative organization of the Army Veterinary Service in the Zone of Interior and theaters overseas in lieu of amendment to the statement of mission and responsibilities.

Table 2 shows the number of animals treated, and Table 3 shows the amounts of foods of animal origin that were inspected. These tables present a picture of the magnitude of the mission and responsibilities of the Veterinary Service during World War II.

ADMINISTRATION

The Army Veterinary Service was administered as a component of the Medical Department under the direction of The

Surgeon General by a Veterinary Corps officer who was selected by The Surgeon General and assigned to duty as chief of the Veterinary Division of his office. Pursuant to the regulations of the Army, his title was that of chief of the Veterinary Division and not chief of the Veterinary Corps. His recommendations and actions were first subjected to review and approval by The Surgeon General, but on certain matters of primary veterinary concern these recommendations were accepted so regularly that, from a practical viewpoint, the chief exercised a varying degree of direct control over the Veterinary Corps.

In 1939, the chief of the Veterinary Division, then a veterinary officer with the rank of lieutenant colonel, was advising The Surgeon General directly on the administration of the Army Veterinary Service. The Veterinary Division at the time included one other veterinary officer

TABLE 3  
INSPECTIONS OF FOODS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN, PROCURED, HANDLED, AND ISSUED BY THE U.S. ARMY VETERINARY SERVICE, BY YEAR, 1941-46  
(In millions of pounds)

Year	Grand Total	Procurement Inspections		Surveillance Inspections	
		Passed	Rejected	Passed	Rejected
1941.....	2,715.71	1,292.38	58.41	1,364.44	0.49
1942.....	11,004.71	4,296.24	242.33	6,962.77	3.36
1943.....	25,055.21	9,714.47	307.96	15,015.30	17.49
1944.....	47,028.41	13,522.40	374.20	33,091.65	40.17
1945.....	55,583.92	13,885.78	246.35	41,411.26	40.53
1946.....	9,680.26	1,873.11	42.02	7,749.95	15.17

and four civilian employees. During the pre-World War II emergency period, the veterinary personnel strength was augmented by three officers — the first increase in their numbers since mid-1925. With this change, the peacetime Veterinary Division was reorganized to include, as of 7 December 1941, the chief of the division, the assistant chief, the officers in charge of the animal service and the meat and dairy hygiene subdivisions, and the liaison officer to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Quartermaster General's Office. A few months later, this internal arrangement was replaced by one more or less contemplated in the mobilization plans which had been developed in the preceding peacetime years. The Veterinary Division was divided into four subdivisions: (1) Personnel, Statistical and Training; (2) Inspection; (3) Animal Service; and (4) Meat and Dairy Hygiene. Probably the most important part of the change at this time was that mobilization planning had provided for the rank of the chief of the

division to be that of brigadier general. Thus, on 17 March 1942, this officer, Col. Raymond A. Kelser, VC, was advised by The Adjutant General of his temporary appointment as brigadier general in the Army of the United States (with date of rank, 9 March 1941). He was the first in the history of the Army Veterinary Service to attain general officer rank. The other parts of the mobilization plans were not as rigidly carried out, though a Veterinary Corps officer was assigned to the Personnel Division (for the period, 9 February 1943–11 April 1944), and, in lieu of the veterinary subdivision in the planned Inspection Division, the position of traveling veterinary consultants was established.

On 26 March 1942, the Veterinary Division was elevated to the status of a "service" within the organizational structure of the Surgeon General's Office and was internally organized to include the director of service and three divisions (each with three subdivisions).

