

# ARMY VETERINARY CORPS



ARMY STRONG®



Corps, and prepare you for service in your first assignment. This is not regular Army basic training. OBLC provides basic branch orientation to newly commissioned AMEDD officers. Instruction is done in the classroom and the field environment.

In the field, you will learn to fire a weapon, evacuate casualties, navigate terrain with a map and compass, create camouflage and treat battle injuries. In the classroom, subjects include topics common to all Army officers, such as military law, map reading and subjects unique to the AMEDD, such as medical legal issues and medical evacuation. Officers must achieve passing scores on tests; pass the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT); meet weight standards; and participate in a Field Training Exercise to successfully complete OBLC.

## YOUR FIRST ASSIGNMENT

Following the completion of your OBLC, you will report to your first assignment. As a new Veterinary Corps officer, your initial tour is usually spent in the United States, for about 18 to 24 months, taking care of military working dogs and service members' pets, and ensuring the food procured for the installation and deployed service members is wholesome and secure.

Veterinary Corps officers are responsible for providing care to military working dogs, ceremonial horses, working animals of many Department of Homeland Security organizations, service members' pets, animals supporting Human-Animal Bond Programs at military hospitals and the dolphins and sea lions of the Navy's Marine Mammal Program.

As a member of the Veterinary Corps you are responsible for ensuring complete military working dog care, which includes training military working dog handlers to respond to medical emergencies. Full medical and surgical support for military working dogs and other government-owned animals begins at the installation veterinary treatment facility, extends through referral hospitals staffed with veterinary specialists at several installations around the world and culminates at an American Animal Hospital Association certified hospital with complete specialty staff at the Military Working Dog Center, Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The installation veterinary treatment facility provides service members' pets with veterinary preventive medicine, contagious and zoonotic disease control, and outpatient care; experiences at these facilities serve to enhance and extend the proficiency of our veterinarians and technicians who often are capable of providing emergency care and surgical services to ensure this goal. Many military hospitals have Human Animal Bond programs, and Veterinary Corps officers ensure the health of these very important animals. Army

## A TEAM OF DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS

An integral component of the Army Medical Department (AMEDD), the Veterinary Corps continues to distinguish itself within the veterinary profession. The Veterinary Corps has veterinarians from all of the colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States with more than 200 board certified specialists. Our veterinarians possess unique military public health and specialty skill sets rarely found in private practice.

The Veterinary Corps is a national treasure; composed of diverse engaged individuals protecting the Soldier and supporting the National Military Strategy. We provide veterinary public health capabilities through veterinary medical and surgical care, food safety and defense, and biomedical research and development. The Veterinary Corps also provides military veterinary expertise in response to natural disasters and other emergencies.

The Veterinary Corps conducts and oversees all Department of Defense veterinary service activities providing veterinary services to the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force in more than 90 countries.

## ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE

### LEARNING THE FUNDAMENTALS

You will attend a 12-week Officer Basic Leaders Course (OBLC) at Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas. This course is intended to teach you about the Army and the Veterinary

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Veterinary Corps officers can be stationed on any federal installation: Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine. For example, on the east coast we have numerous positions from Florida to Maine. In the northeast, we have numerous assignments in the Washington, D.C. area; Fort Monmouth, N.J.; Groton, Conn.; West Point and Fort Drum, N.Y.; and others. In the west we have positions from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, to San Diego, Calif., and even in Hawaii!

The Veterinary Corps offers you opportunities and challenges that you will not find anywhere else. Once you begin serving you will soon realize that you are steps ahead of your classmates. The military continually strives to develop its leaders, and you will be able to choose from several professional short courses that satisfy continuing education requirements. For example, attending the two-week Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician's Course at Plum Island, N.Y., is an option.

## YOUR SECOND ASSIGNMENT

Your second assignment is usually either overseas or in a veterinary field unit that can be deployed overseas. We are an integral part of short-term humanitarian and disaster relief deployments to developing countries. Some of us get to jump out of airplanes with Special Forces; work in submarines with the Navy or on ships with the Coast Guard; or stay in fixed facilities devoted to military working dog medicine or research.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

It is generally in this second assignment that officers apply for advanced training. Educational opportunities abound and include: doctoral level training in physiology, pharmacology, toxicology, microbiology and others. We offer residencies in pathology, internal medicine, surgery, laboratory animal medicine, radiology and emergency medicine/critical care. We also offer master's programs in public health, food technology and human animal bond. Our Pathology and Laboratory Animal Medicine programs are conducted at world renowned Army facilities. All of our clinical, doctoral and master's programs are conducted at some of the finest universities throughout the United States.

If you are interested in research, our major research and development facilities are second to none. Forty percent of our active duty veterinarians are involved in research and development activities in facilities in the United States and around the world. The chance to practice large animal medicine is very limited but there is a large animal surgery/medicine residency offered every few years. While in training you continue to receive all pay and benefits at your current rank while the Army pays 100 percent of tuition and other associated training expenses. Once you attend long-term schooling, you incur a further service obligation dependent on the length of training and program.

## U.S. ARMY VETERINARY CORPS SPECIALTIES

**Veterinary Preventive Medicine** – We offer training programs in Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Veterinary Preventive Medicine; master's and doctoral level training in Food Microbiology, Food Science/ Food Technology; Doctor of Public Health; and with the Epidemiologic Investigative Services. Specially adapted programs are available, such as Master of Humanitarian Assistance, Master with emphasis in the Human/Animal Bond, and a Master of Public Health followed by a Department of Defense (DoD) Military Working Dog Center Internship. These programs prepare you for our diverse veterinary public health mission around the world.

**Laboratory Animal Medicine** – Our Laboratory Animal Medicine residencies entail either a straight three-year program at a DoD research facility or a combined three-year program consisting of a two-year residency at a DoD research facility after completing a Master of Public Health Program at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. These programs fully prepare you to support the unique and varied DoD biomedical research programs.

**Veterinary Pathology** – The DoD Veterinary Pathology Residency Program is an intense three-year course of study designed to prepare candidates for certification by the American College of Veterinary Pathology. Areas of emphasis include diagnosis of domestic and foreign animal diseases, including zoonoses and biological threat agents, and support of biomedical research efforts for Soldier protection. Opportunities are available to conduct and support research in infectious disease, chemical and biological defense, casualty management, internal medicine, toxicology and diagnostic pathology.

**Veterinary Comparative Medicine** – This specialty area consists of the spectrum of doctoral programs from around the nation. Comparative medicine veterinarians are in high demand from all departments within DoD and the Interagency, from the Executive Office of the President to the Institute of Surgical Research. These programs prepare you to actively contribute by developing life-saving medical products for infectious diseases, combat casualty care, military operational medicine, and chemical and biological defense.

**Veterinary Clinical Medicine** – Our training programs in this specialty area consist of three-year residencies in surgery, internal medicine, critical care, and radiology. These programs prepare you to provide specialty veterinary care throughout DoD and in support of Homeland Security. The focus is on primary care, consults and referrals for vital force protection assets, the military working dog (MWD), and provision of animal medicine training to Veterinary Corps officers, animal care specialists, and MWD handlers.

## ACTIVE DUTY FINANCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVES

**Board Certification Pay** – Certified veterinarians may receive \$2,000 to \$5,000 annually based on their years of service.

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**Special Pay** – All active duty veterinarians receive a special pay of \$1,200 annually, which is paid on a monthly basis.

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

Provides up to a maximum of three years of repayment of qualified education loans for direct accessions. Payment is made in increments of approximately \$40,000 annually for each year of participation. Active duty obligation is three years

**Health Professions Scholarship Program** – As a veterinary student at any of the American Veterinary Medical Association accredited Colleges of Veterinary Medicine in the United States, you may apply for the Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP). HPSP is a great deal anyway you look at it. The criteria for the program is that applicants be U.S. citizens, meet Army physical requirements, be no older than 42 upon entry to active duty, and be selected by the United States Army Recruiting Command accessions board for the scholarship.

Your tuition and books are paid for as well as a monthly stipend of more than \$2,000 for 10 1/2 months of the school year. For the remaining six weeks of the school year, you will receive full pay as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve.

You will be in a Reserve status while in school as a second lieutenant, regardless of rank from previous service. Upon graduation, you will be commissioned as a captain and serve as an active Army officer for three years followed by five years in the Individual Ready Reserve.

Scholarship recipients also attend a 45-day Active Duty Training (ADT) tour for every year of scholarship awarded. These ADTs range from a required Officer Basic Leaders Course (OBLC) to numerous choices of rotations at military facilities. This training may be performed at an Army veterinary service facility near your school, or you could work at one of our Army facilities, such as in Washington, D.C., Hawaii, San Diego, or Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. If your academic program does not permit time away from school, arrangements may be made to allow you to continue your studies while performing annual training at school. During ADT, students serve on active duty in the rank of second lieutenant.

You may apply as a first year veterinary student for the board held in the spring of that year. The scholarships are based on leadership potential, academic performance and other factors. There are one-, two- and three-year scholarships.

## DIRECT COMMISSIONS

If you have already completed your veterinary degree, you may apply for a direct commission into the Veterinary Corps. You must be selected for appointment onto active duty and the service obligation is three years followed by five years in the Individual Ready Reserve.

## ACTIVE DUTY ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify, you must:

- ★ Meet the prescribed professional, physical and ethical standards for appointment as an Army officer. Have a favorable security investigation completed.
- ★ Be a U.S. citizen.
- ★ Be a student in your final year in an accredited school of veterinary medicine, or;
- ★ Be a graduate of an accredited school of veterinary medicine and have a current, unrestricted license to practice in any one of the United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico or a U.S. territory. Foreign veterinary graduates must have passed the Education Commission of Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) examination to be eligible.
- ★ Be 21 to 42 years of age. Veterinarians older than this may apply for an age waiver.

## ARMY RESERVE SERVICE

If you're interested in an alternative to active duty service, consider the Army Reserve. As an Army Reserve Veterinary Corps officer, you join a dedicated and diverse group of veterinarians throughout the United States that work across the full spectrum of the profession. Many Army Reserve officers are leaders in their organizations, communities, universities and states. Army Reserve officers are an elite group of highly motivated individuals; successful in the civilian world and additionally capable of meeting all military training requirements to be ready to deploy. In addition to entering the Veterinary Corps as a commissioned officer, you will also be able to earn a second income and have the opportunity for an experience of a lifetime. Plus, you'll have the opportunity to enhance your civilian career with the skills and knowledge you learn from your interactions with the diverse group of health care professionals in the Army Reserve.

Your introduction to the Army Reserve begins with the AMEDD OBLC, a two-week program that will expose you to the variety of mental and physical challenges you'll face as a member of the Army Medical Department. You'll learn the Army's approach to health care firsthand, training with other professionals and attending lectures, conferences and demonstrations that cover everything from Army customs to management of mass casualties. At this point, your military education is just beginning, and you will have numerous opportunities to continue advancing your military and medical skills.

After completing OBLC, you will typically serve with an Army Reserve unit a minimum of two days each month, and you will be required to participate in Annual Training for two weeks each year. As an Army Reserve Soldier, you also understand that you can be mobilized and deployed to provide support to our Soldiers in the Global War on Terror.

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Your duties may include everything from conducting a field training exercise with your deployable veterinary treatment sets to participating in nation-building veterinary projects around the world. In recent years Army Reserve Soldiers have completed veterinary missions around the world in countries ranging from Djibouti to Ecuador to Nicaragua to Bosnia. Another challenging opportunity available to you is to join a Civil Affairs Unit. The veterinarians in these units are highly engaged in agricultural and public health operations around the globe. No matter what type of unit you join you will be a valuable military asset to your nation.

The commitment for Army Reserve veterinarians with no prior military service is eight years.

## INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

**Special Pay** – provides up to \$75,000 paid in increments of \$25,000 to new officers who agree to serve in the Selected Reserve for three years.

**Healthcare Professionals Loan Repayment Program (HPLR)** – Provides up to a maximum of \$40,000 per year with a lifetime maximum of \$250,000 for the repayment of outstanding education loans to veterinarians.

## ARMY RESERVE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify, you must:

- ★ Meet the prescribed professional, physical and ethical standards for appointment as an Army officer. Have a favorable security investigation completed.
- ★ Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.  
Be a graduate of an accredited school of veterinary medicine and have a current, unrestricted license to practice in any one of the United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico or a U.S. territory. Foreign veterinary graduates must have passed the Education Commission of Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) examination to be eligible.
- ★ Be 21 to 42 years of age. Veterinarians older than this may apply for an age waiver.

## BENEFITS THAT GO BEYOND

By choosing to be an Army veterinarian, you'll be able to see and do extraordinary things. You'll also discover a whole new circle of friends and professional contacts who share many of your standards and goals, a fact that makes it easy to forge lifelong friendships and professional connections that will help you throughout your career.

Whether you choose to join the active Army or the Army Reserve, you'll receive all the privileges that come with being an officer, as well as many benefits. Benefits such as the freedom to use the Army's wide variety of recreational facilities, including golf courses, fitness centers, swimming

pools and theaters – and time away from work so you can take advantage of them.

Additional benefits and privileges come with being an Army veterinarian. Some of them include the following:

### Army (Active Duty)

- ★ Dental coverage: free for Soldiers; low-cost coverage for family
- ★ Low-cost life insurance
- ★ Post-DVM education fully paid
- ★ Paid continuing education courses annually
- ★ Retirement package
- ★ 30 days of leave with pay earned annually
- ★ Paid moving expenses
- ★ Pride gained from serving your country
- ★ Opportunity to travel
- ★ Uniform allowance
- ★ Time for physical fitness during your duty day
- ★ Training opportunities such as Airborne, Air Assault and Expert Field Medical Badge
- ★ Leadership and veterinary practice management opportunities
- ★ Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) – a flexible, portable retirement savings and investment plan similar to a 401(k)

### Army Reserve

- ★ Medical coverage for Soldiers during training or when mobilized
- ★ Low-cost dental insurance
- ★ Low-cost life insurance
- ★ Paid continuing education courses annually
- ★ Retirement package
- ★ Pride gained from serving your country
- ★ Opportunity to travel
- ★ Uniform allowance
- ★ Change of pace
- ★ Networking opportunities
- ★ Training opportunities such as Airborne, Air Assault and Expert Field Medical Badge
- ★ Leadership and veterinary practice management opportunities
- ★ Experiences rarely encountered in civilian life which directly create a positive impact on people of other countries
- ★ Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) – a flexible, portable retirement savings and investment plan similar to a 401(k)

# ARMY VETERINARY CORPS

## HOW TO JOIN

Your first step in joining the Army Veterinary Corps is to contact your local Army Health Care recruiter. You can find the recruiter in your area by calling 1-800-USA-ARMY or visiting our Web site at [healthcare.goarmy.com](http://healthcare.goarmy.com).

Your Army Health Care recruiter can answer questions about the application process; help you understand the responsibilities and privileges of an officer; and impart, from personal and professional experience, important information about the Army way of life. Once your Health Care recruiter has met with you and determined your eligibility, he or she will schedule a routine physical examination and an interview with an AMEDD officer. A board of AMEDD officers reviews the documents and makes a selection decision.

An applicant officially accepts the offer by taking an oath of office and accepting a commission as an officer in the Army. The entire process, from the first meeting with an Army Health Care recruiter to the commissioning ceremony, usually takes about three months.

The decision to join the Army Veterinary Corps is an important one. But the experience is like no other, and the rewards are immeasurable.

To apply to become an Army veterinarian or to ask further questions, contact your local Army Health Care recruiter at 1-800-USA-ARMY or visit our website at [healthcare.goarmy.com](http://healthcare.goarmy.com).