

~~TOP SECRET~~

g. Re: ~~VS~~, ~~VS~~, and ~~VS~~ role of VS in field army.

Professional responsibilities of military veterinarians warrant the use of their medical skills and services as may be required in ~~VS~~, ~~VS~~ or disaster situations. This extends beyond inspections and room conditions in connection with possible biological, chemical and radiological contamination of food supplies, or protecting and caring of food-producing and other animals of military importance against these hazards systems.

It appears evident that ~~VS~~ personnel may be called upon to perform many tasks and accept responsibilities considerably beyond those required in conventional warfare. Professional assistance should be provided the Medical Service in the triage, medical and surgical treatment, and handling of human casualties immediately following an attack, when the number of casualties exceeds that which the available human medical capability can cope with.

h. Re: Veterinary laboratory capabilities in combat.

More informed opinions are available.

i. Re: Qualified Veterinary parachutists.

Independent task forces and STRAC units may need veterinary support in a given area during wartime. In these cases, entry of veterinary personnel will probably be effected by airborne means other than by parachute. However, isolated and special tactical situations may be visualized where a veterinary specialist or specialized team may be required to parachute.

These instances would be limited. Being unexpected and unconventional to normal functions, they are difficult to plan for the veterinary service. At most only a few selected and willing veterinary personnel could be jump-trained. Perhaps it is feasible to have these individuals assigned to the peacetime installations of STRAC units. There they could perform the usual peacetime VS functions, undergo voluntary jump-training for qualification (probably without continuing hazard pay) and constitute a type of STRAC veterinary unit. The veterinary service would be provided with a ready standby capability for the limited but vital situations when it is called on for such support and time for training does not exist.

Active support to Special Forces operations in the field by veterinary parachutists is seen as unlikely and extremely limited to rare, exotic situations. Unrealistic and far-fetched as it may appear now, future exigencies may develop and require veterinary specialized assistance in areas behind the enemy's lines. Covert, deliberate employment of anti-animal biological agents is not an apt area for elaboration nor one in which the veterinary service is recognized to have any sub-rosa role.

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