

**(A294) The Veterinary Stability Operations Practitioner Course: A Model for Bridging the Gap in Veterinary Medical Education for the Global Veterinary Medicine Practitioner**

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Veterinary education provides a solid clinical and public health background that is applicable to several international development and humanitarian assistance sectors; however key skills and experiences that are required to be an effective Global Veterinary Medicine practitioner are not covered. In response to the US Department of Defense adopting Stability Operations as a core mission, the US Army Veterinary Corps has developed a Veterinary Stability Operations Practitioner Course intended to prepare Veterinary Corps officers to function effectively if tasked to conduct or support Stability Operations. The Veterinary Stability Operations Practitioner Course is a two part workshop series that provides a global veterinary perspective including knowledge, skills and experience necessary for Veterinarian to function in an international developing setting. Skills in assessment methodologies, program planning and evaluation are core to each workshop. Knowledge is based on production, market, and disease surveillance systems in the developing world. The intent is for the attendee after completing the course series to view their operational environment differently by understanding the social and cultural context that influences local population decisions and behaviors.

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**(A295) Food and Water Risk Assessments during Disaster Operations**

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Although the exact burden of foodborne disease is unknown, diarrheal diseases kill approximately 2.2 million people annually. Even in developed countries foodborne illness is estimated to affect over 20% of the population annually. During natural disasters existing food safety and security measures may be damaged and mission priorities during emergencies may prevent inspection agencies from conducting normal inspections and enforcing government regulations. This breakdown in the food safety infrastructure may lead to increases in foodborne diseases within the local population and relief workers. The risk in this latter group is possibly magnified by their immunologic naïveté to local pathogens and an outbreak among relief workers can severely impact support operations, interfere with the aid delivery, and may result in the loss of life. In addition to natural disease transmission, there is the potential for terrorist organizations to target relief workers through deliberate contamination of the food and water supplies. Consequently, relief agencies should consider both food safety and security during disaster operations. A Food and Water Risk Assessment (FWRA) is a tool for identifying potential high risk food items and practices in local food sources and facilities and examines the overall food operation, the food facilities and equipment, water potability, cleaning and sanitation, pest control, employee

health and sanitation, food security, and the source of the food items. The FWRA identifies risk items and provides mitigative control measures designed to reduce the residual risk to acceptable levels and minimize potential disruption of mission operations. Although the ultimate goal is protecting the health of the relief workers, the FWRA can also be used as a tool to improve the food safety practices of local food facilities and suppliers which will in turn help to reduce the incidence of foodborne disease among the local population during the disaster relief operations and beyond.

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**(A296) The Importance and Benefit of Disease and Injury Surveillance within Relief Operations**

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Disease and injuries are expected consequences of disasters, either as direct result of the initial disaster or due to a collapse of the pre-existing public health infrastructure. While relief efforts are primarily directed at treating existing and preventing further disease and injury among victims of the disasters, it is also important to remain aware of the health impact on individuals and organizations providing assistance. The potential immune naïveté of relief workers may predispose them to contracting diseases which are normally not a concern for the local population. If significant numbers of relief workers are affected this can severely impact an organizations ability to provide assistance and may lead to a worsening of the situation. Even a simple surveillance program can provide early warning of potential problems in order to timely implement control measures which will prevent further illness and minimize mission impact.

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**(A297) Training Agricultural Emergency Responders**

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Training Agricultural Emergency Responders by Paula L. Cowen, D.V.M., Director, Professional Development Staff, Veterinary Services, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture

**Abstract:** Background Emergency Response is a critical component of our Animal Agriculture infrastructure. The ability to deploy trained personnel to handle any kind of emergency is key to quickly containing any disaster and mitigating the effects. This training is provided by a number of federal agencies, universities as well as at the state and local level.

**Body:** Several training strategies are employed by a number of different entities. Training is available on-line, in the classroom, with wet labs using live animals, through exercises and case studies. An overview of training and education of Agricultural Emergency Response personnel across the United States will be covered with a more in depth look at the training provided by the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service.