



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
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FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA 22042-5101

DHA-IPM 17-007
August 6, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS)
DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT STAFF
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH READINESS POLICY AND OVERSIGHT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH SERVICES POLICY AND OVERSIGHT)
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (HEALTH RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND POLICY)
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Interim Procedures Memorandum 17-007, Humane Slaughter of Animals in DoD Programs

References: See Attachment 1.

Purpose. This Defense Health Agency-Interim Procedures Memorandum (DHA-IPM), based on the authority of References (a) through (c) and in accordance with the guidance in Reference (d):

- Provides guidance and describes procedures for the humane slaughter of animals in DoD food procurement and survival training programs and details the tasks and procedures necessary to ensure humane slaughter and compliance with applicable DoD, Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
- Is effective immediately and will be incorporated into a Defense Health Agency-Procedural Instruction when DoD Directive 6400.04E (Reference (c)) is updated.
- Will expire effective 12 months from the date of issue.
- Cancels DoD Veterinary Service Activity Policy Memorandum B-003 (Reference (e)).

Applicability. This DHA-IPM applies to OSD, the Military Departments, the Office of


the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of the DoD, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (hereafter referred to collectively in this DHA-IPM as the “DoD Components”).

Policy Implementation. In accordance with Reference (c), DHA issues guidance on veterinary public and animal health services.

Responsibilities. Heads of the OSD and DoD Components who use animals in survival training programs will develop, issue, and monitor plans to oversee the procedures set forth in this DHA-IPM.

Procedures. See Attachment 2.

Releasability. **Cleared for public release.** This DHA-IPM is available on the Internet from the DHA SharePoint site at: <http://www.health.mil/dhapublications>.


For R.C. BONO
VADM, MC, USN
Director

Attachments:
As stated

cc:
Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
Surgeon General of the Army
Surgeon General of the Navy
Surgeon General of the Air Force
Medical Officer of the Marine Corps
Joint Staff Surgeon
Director of Health, Safety, and Work-Life, U.S. Coast Guard
Surgeon General of the National Guard Bureau
Director, National Capital Region Medical Directorate

ATTACHMENT 1

REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Directive 5136.01, “Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)),” September 30, 2013
- (b) DoD Directive 5136.13, “Defense Health Agency (DHA),” September 30, 2013
- (c) DoD Directive 6400.04E, “DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services,” June 27, 2013, as amended
- (d) DHA-Procedural Instruction 5025.01, “Publication System,” August 21, 2015
- (e) DoD Veterinary Services Activity Policy B-003, “Clarification on Administrative Requirements for the Conduct or Support of Field Slaughtering Activities,” January 11, 2013 (hereby cancelled)*
- (f) Army Regulation 40-657 (NAVSUP 4355.4H; MCO P10110.31H), “Veterinary/Medical Food Safety, Quality Assurance, and Laboratory Service,” February 21, 2005
- (g) Humane Slaughter Act (Title 7, U.S. Code, Sections 1901–1907, as amended)
- (h) American Veterinary Medical Association, “AVMA Guidelines for the Humane Slaughter of Animals: 2016 Edition,” July 6, 2016

*Reference available by emailing dha.ncr.pub-health.mbx.vsb-staff@mail.mil.

ATTACHMENT 2

PROCEDURES

1. HUMANE SLAUGHTER OVERVIEW. Domestic or wild animals procured and slaughtered for consumption are subject to antemortem and postmortem inspection in accordance with Reference (f). Animals used for survival training are exempt from such inspections. Training units and procurement activities should strive for purchasing the healthiest animals available. Animals exhibiting signs of injury, disease, or duress should be rejected by the accountable individual during the procurement process and not be accepted for use in training. Slaughter of animals for survival training or for consumption will comply with References (g) and (h), when applicable, and the following procedural guidance.

2. SLAUGHTER PLAN. Survival training using animals will follow a documented plan that addresses: the program of instruction; the species and justification of animals that will be used; the training (basic qualifications, training, credentials, knowledge level, etc.) and oversight of personnel authorized to conduct slaughter; and the techniques that may be used for slaughter of each species. Training must be specific to the method and species being used and must be documented.

3. MEDICAL CONSULTATION. The overall goal of humane slaughter is to minimize or eliminate animal pain or distress prior to loss of consciousness. Therefore, a DoD uniformed or federal civilian veterinarian must be consulted when developing the slaughter plan. The consulting veterinarian should apply professional judgment and knowledge of the species used to ensure the best outcome for the animal. When feasible, the consulting veterinarian will recommend slaughter techniques based on Reference (h). To ensure public health concerns are properly addressed when preparing the animal for consumption, the local military Preventive Medicine unit must be consulted for additional guidance to the training plan in regards to proper handling and preparation techniques, personal hygiene, and cross contamination.

4. MINIMIZING USE OF ANIMALS. DoD Programs will use the minimum number of animals necessary to meet survival training objectives and must maximize use of each animal.

5. CARCASS DISPOSAL. Carcass disposal will comply with Federal, State, local, installation, and/or host nation laws and regulations, as applicable.

6. PROCUREMENT OF WILD OR GAME ANIMALS. Survival training programs that use wild or game animals must be conducted in accordance with Federal, State, local, and installation laws and regulations.

GLOSSARY

PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DHA Defense Health Agency
DHA-IPM Defense Health Agency-Interim Procedures Memorandum

PART II. DEFINITIONS

These terms and their definitions are for the purposes of this DHA-IPM.

accountable individual. The individual assigned to the training activity responsible for the receipt and acceptance of live animals into the training program.

animal. A living, warm-blooded vertebrate.

humane slaughter. Killing that involves no unnecessary pain or distress to an animal and that results in the animal being ready for entry into the food chain.