With the abandonment of army horses after WW II the military veterinarian slowly disappeared from the Netherlands army. The last one retired in the seventies. In the cold war era there was no great need for veterinary expertise in the Dutch army. The change into an active expeditionary force in the nineties and several outbreaks of animal diseases made the need felt once again for this specialist knowledge. HPG-personnel (hygiene and preventive medicine) was installed to fill in the gap. At the same time specialist functions were created for reserve veterinary officers in national operations. Eventually this made it possible to reclaim the field of the military veterinarian in the armed forces. Working closely with HPG and medical personnel several veterinary positions are now created in the army for reservists. By the end of 2012 the main part of this will be accomplished.

**OUR MISSION:**
Conserving the fighting potential of a force, so that it is healthy, fully combat capable, and can be applied at the decisive time and place. It consists of actions taken to counter the debilitating effects of the environment, disease, and selected special weapon systems through preventive measures for personnel, systems and operational formations.

**HYGIENE AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE**
A high level of Disease and Non-Battle Injury (DNBI) has a detrimental effect upon the operational capability of military forces.

Since more than 10 years each September a single day performance event is organized in different locations for over a hundred active riders and coachmen of the Military and Police Force. During this event the horse and rider combinations are judged during several assignments. Navigation, jumping a course of fences and passing through a course with a variety of aberrant stimuli (smoke, fire, sound) are examples of the tasks they have to perform. Wellbeing, camaraderie, safety and sportsmanship are the fundamentals of the event. Military veterinarians are the judges and secure the wellbeing of the horses during the event. Info: www.mpttp.nl

**THE SINGLE DAY MOUNTED MILITARY PERFORMANCE EVENT**

After several years of careful preparation, in 2012 a close cooperation was forged between Military Preventive Medicine specialists (officers and NCO’s), IRAS Institute of Utrecht University and the Army Vet Corps.

**ROLE OF VETERINARIANS IN MILITARY AND POLICE FORCE**

**JOINING FORCES**

**DISPOSITION VETS AND PM**

**THE NETHERLANDS ARMY VETERINARY CORPS**

**THE MOUNTED BRIGADE OF THE DUTCH MILITARY POLICE FORCE**

**THE U.S. ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND REGION-EUROPE**

**PRESENTATION**

**THE MOUNTED BRIGADE OF THE DUTCH MILITARY POLICE FORCE**

**FACTS**

- Many humanitarian crisis take place in rural areas
- Livestock and agriculture are often the main sources of income
- The Veterinary infrastructure is often absent
- The Capacity with Local veterinary and agricultural departments is often lacking

**OUR SUPPORT**

- Advise the military command on “hearts and minds” winning possibilities in the livestock sector
- Prepare assessments on the livestock and the agricultural sector for future interventions
- Cooperate with existing local actors in the livestock sector
- Facilitate local/international organisations with the implementation of their aid programmes as soon as security allows
- Implement emergency veterinary projects if necessary e.g. vaccinations, medicine supply or temporary clinical support.
- Assist in capacity building of local authorities
- Advise locally on the risks of zoonoses
- Back office support on veterinary issues for the military on mission

**THE SINGLE DAY MOUNTED MILITARY PERFORMANCE EVENT**

**Working Dogs**

The Royal Netherlands Air Force working dogs

They work in close cooperation with the Army reserve vets, especially in the Netherlands. In missions they may link up with allied vets

Presented at the 2012 International Military Veterinary Medical Symposium, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany