



# Defense Health Agency

## PROCEDURAL INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 6400.01  
September 7, 2021

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AD-CS

SUBJECT: Humane Slaughter of Animals in DoD Programs

References: See Enclosure 1.

1. PURPOSE. This Defense Health Agency-Procedural Instruction (DHA-PI), based on the authority of References (a) and (b), and in accordance with the guidance of References (c) through (g), establishes the Defense Health Agency's (DHA) procedures to provide guidance and describe procedures for the humane slaughter of animals in DoD survival training programs and details the tasks and procedures necessary to ensure humane slaughter and compliance with DoD, Federal, State, local, installation, and/or host nation laws and regulations, as applicable.
2. APPLICABILITY. This DHA-PI applies to DHA, DHA Components, Combatant Commands, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Staff and the Joint Staff, Military Departments (including the Coast Guard at all times, including when it is in the Department of Homeland Security by agreement with the Department), all personnel to include: assigned or attached active duty and reserve members, federal civilians, contractors (when required by the terms of the applicable contract), and other personnel assigned temporary or permanent duties within the DoD, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (hereafter referred to collectively in this DHA-PI as the "DoD Components").
3. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION. It is DHA's instruction, pursuant to Reference (d), that DHA issues guidance on veterinary public and animal health services.
4. CANCELLED DOCUMENT. This DHA-PI cancels the following document: DoD Veterinary Service Activity Policy Memorandum B-003, "Clarification on Administrative Requirements for the Conduct or Support of Field Slaughtering Activities," January 11, 2013.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. Heads of the OSD and DoD Components which use animals in survival training programs must develop, issue, and monitor plans to oversee the procedures for humane slaughter of the animals as set forth in this DHA-PI.

6. PROCEDURES. See Enclosure 2.

7. PROPONENT AND WAIVERS. The proponent of this publication is the Assistant Director, Combat Support. When Activities are unable to comply with this publication the activity may request a waiver that must include a justification, to include an analysis of the risk associated with not granting the waiver. The activity director or senior leader will submit the waiver request through their supervisory chain to the Assistant Director, Combat Support to determine if the waiver may be granted by the Director, DHA or their designee.

8. RELEASABILITY. **Cleared for public release**. This DHA-PI is available on the Internet from the Health.mil site at: <https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Policies> and is also available to authorized users from the DHA SharePoint site at: <https://info.health.mil/cos/admin/pubs/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This DHA-PI:

a. Is effective upon signature.

b. Will expire 10 years from the date of signature if it has not been reissued or cancelled before this date in accordance with Reference (c).

/S/  
RONALD J. PLACE  
LTG, MC, USA  
Director

Enclosures

1. References
2. Procedures

Glossary

ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Directive 5136.01, “Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)),” September 30, 2013, as amended
- (b) DoD Directive 5136.13, “Defense Health Agency (DHA),” September 30, 2013
- (c) DHA-Procedural Instruction 5025.01, “Publication System,” August 24, 2018
- (d) DoD Directive 6400.04E, “DoD Veterinary Public and Animal Health Services,” June 27, 2013, as amended
- (e) Army Regulation 40-657/NAVSUP 4355.4H/MCO P10110.31H, “Veterinary/Medical Food Safety, Quality Assurance, and Laboratory Service,” January 21, 2005
- (f) United States Code, Title 7, Chapter 48
- (g) American Veterinary Medical Association, “AVMA Guidelines for the Humane Slaughter of Animals: 2016 Edition,” 2016

ENCLOSURE 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 (e). 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 or disease 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 will comply with Sections 1901 through 1907 of Reference (f) and Reference (g), when applicable, and the following procedural guidance.

2. HUMANE SLAUGHTER PLAN. Survival training programs using animals will follow a documented plan that addresses: the program of instruction; the location where the humane slaughter will be performed; the justification for the use of animals; the species of animal to be used; the number of animals to be used and an explanation or justification for the number of animals; student ratio; the training (i.e., basic qualifications, training, credentials, knowledge level), 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. Further, the plan will document the name and contact information of consulting veterinarian(s) and consulting public health/preventive medicine personnel, and will address the control of photography/videography and the social media rules for all participants. Records will be maintained in accordance with applicable component or agency guidelines.

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 humane 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 Section 1902 of Reference (f) or Reference (g). To ensure public health concerns are properly addressed when preparing the animal for consumption, the local military public health or preventive medicine unit must be consulted for additional guidance to the humane slaughter 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 ANIMALS. All animal procurement subject to this DHA-PI, whether domesticated, wild, or game animals, must be conducted in accordance with Federal, State, local, installation, and/or host nation laws and regulations, as applicable.

GLOSSARY

PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DHA	Defense Health Agency
DHA-PI	Defense Health Agency-Procedural Instruction

PART II. DEFINITIONS

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

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.