National Animal Health Emergency Response Corps
NAHERC
Public Presentation

Safeguarding Animal Health, Protecting our Communities

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)
October 22, 2015
Mission and Purpose

Mission
Safeguarding Animal Health, Protecting Our Communities

Purpose
Provide and sustain a cadre of veterinary medical professionals who can respond to animal health emergencies to safeguard animal health, promote Local, State and Federal preparedness and response capabilities and restore communities.
History

- In 2001, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) established the NAHERC to respond to:
  - Exotic disease outbreaks
  - Other disasters which affect livestock, poultry, companion animals, and wildlife

- Previous Deployment:
  - 2001 – Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) - Unit Kingdom
  - 2003 – Low-Pathogenicity (LP) Avian Influenza (AI) - Virginia
  - 2003 – Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) - California
  - 2010 – TB Testing - Oregon
  - 2015 – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) - Iowa and Wisconsin
Eligibility

• Veterinarians with a valid U.S. veterinary diploma from an accredited program or foreign university accredited by American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

• Animal Health Technicians (AHTs) and Veterinary Technicians with a diploma and/or equivalent experience

• Veterinary Medical students are eligible under the student Educational Employment Program

• Open to all United State citizens and nationals
NAHERC Members
2007-2015

As of October 22, 2015
NAHERC Members

As of October 22, 2015

*VMO/AHT
NAHERC Members by FEMA Regions

As of October 22, 2015

Largest membership: TX (376)
Privacy Act Release Form
Responder Information

Experience of Privacy Act Form Responders

Skills of Privacy Act Form Responders

As of October 22, 2015

963 Privacy Act Responders
Testimonies

“My experience in California made all the difference! My work as an Animal Health Technician helped shape my vet-school career and was a highly rewarding experience. It was very exciting to have an opportunity to assist with the eradication of a foreign animal disease and gain valuable experience.”

Dr. Stephan Singleton
NAHERC volunteer with the 2002–03 END outbreak in California

“You are really able to put your skills to the test to help control potentially devastating diseases…the kind of outbreaks you read about in history books.”

“NAHERC provides great opportunities to do things you don’t normally do as a vet…to travel…and act as liaison between USDA and farm owners.”

Dr. Jane Ridky
U.S. National Guard veterinary homeland defense officer and NAHERC volunteer
Why Volunteer

- Defend U.S. agriculture
- Help animals in need
- Expand career options
- Network within the veterinary community
- Learn emergency response procedures
- Obtain professional development training [http://naherc.cfsph.iastate.edu/](http://naherc.cfsph.iastate.edu/)
- Travel and explore
NAHERC Contact Information

POC: Daisy Witherspoon, NAHERC Program Coordinator  
Phone: 301-851-3595 or 301-851-3496  
Fax: 301-734-7817  
E-mail: NAHERC@aphis.usda.gov  

Mailing Address:  
NAHERC Program Coordinator  
USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Services  
4700 River Road, Unit 41  
Riverdale, MD 20737