

Team Army Medicine,

LTG Dingle and I are pleased to present the 2nd Quarter FY 2022 Army Medicine Wolf Pack Award to the US Army Public Health Command-Atlantic (PHC-A) Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) Response Team, Fort Meade, Maryland.

The PHC-A OAW Response Team is comprised of 28 Army Active Duty military and Department of the Army Civilians. The PHC-A OAW Response Team through coordination with Army North (ARNORTH) responded to the humanitarian crises created by the withdrawal of military forces from Afghanistan. The response team provided all aspects of food protection and food defense, entomology and environmental health supporting seven (7) OAW sites.

The team's exceptional contributions resulted in ensuring the availability of adequate facilities to provide the number of meals required and that food storage facilities were prepared to receive and store food products. The team worked directly with Dining Facility (DFAC) managers and contracting agencies ensuring substance storage facilities and sanitary food preparation procedures were incorporated into daily procedures. The team worked closely with DFAC managers, Class I managers, logistics coordinators and Mayor Cell teams to develop and maintain DOD standards and educate in food safety and defense practices at each site. These essential practices included daily receipt inspections; daily surveillance inspections of all storage areas; multiple daily walk through sanitation inspections of the dining facilities; and liaison / SME services for the medical planners and mayor cells. Further, the team inspected multiple civilian food truck vendors enforcing DOD food safety and security standards. In addition to providing food protection on the installation, multiple team members conducted urgent commercial food protection audits of civilian caterers. A total of twelve (12) commercial audits were conducted by the team to ensure all vendors met DoD requirements.

The PHC-OAW response team members oversaw the general sanitation for over 8000 Afghan personnel, Soldiers, Civilians and contractors. The response team conducted 84 general sanitation barrack inspections, collected five water samples and completed three informal dining facility inspections. The coordinating efforts between the units and support from Task Force MEDCOM; 720th Military Police Battalion; KBR Contractors; Department of State; and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was critical in mitigating potential communicable disease occurrence and transmission, foodborne and waterborne illness and other public health conditions associated with improper sanitation and pest management controls.

The team is commended for their exceptional contributions and insurmountable efforts in support of the Operations Allied Welcome resulting in the safe transition of Afghanistan refugees into the United States.

Please join us in congratulating the team for their exceptional teamwork in support of Army Medicine.

Congratulations Team!

v/r,
Rich

Richard R. Beauchemin
Chief, AMEDD Civilian Corps