

Veterinary support's diversity in operation : example of Sangaris



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INTRODUCTION

Deployed in Central African Republic (CAR) from December 2013 to October 2016, SANGARIS Operation assists the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA). It includes about 900 soldiers mainly based in Bangui, but this staff and its geographical spread are adapted in relation to field necessities. The medical support's veterinary part of this operational engagement is carried out by one veterinary officer who also supports the French Elements in Gabon and the Logistics Support Mission in Cameroon, in order to optimize human and material resources. Veterinary support's diversity in operation is illustrated in this presentation with the example of SANGARIS V mandate : from October 2015 to February 2016.

MEANS AND MISSIONS

One veterinary officer deployed in M'Poko camp in Bangui as advisor of the Medical Director (DIRMED) of SANGARIS Operation, with office and water analysis laboratory. Travelling missions are made by car, military or civilian plane or helicopter.



Veterinary missions encompass medical support of military dogs and mascots, biological control of environment concerning zoonosis prevention and implementation of sanitary control plans (PMSO), food and water sanitary security with food defense aspect, as well as beer and soft drinks produced locally, to be taken in consideration.

Otherwise, the completion of those missions is directly or indirectly impacted by logistical constraints and CAR specificities : weather, geography, economy, sanitary level, politic instability. As an example, the bottled water is imported from Cameroon by a 1500 kilometers truck conveying and the same conveying occurs in the opposite direction for equipment returning to France by sea, after pest control measures and decontamination.



ACHIEVED MISSIONS October 2015 to February 2016	CAR	GABON	CAMEROON
Local food and drinks suppliers and civilian restaurants inspections (unfavorable)	4 (1)	8 (2)	2 (1)
Military restaurants inspections and expertises	7	3	0
Water networks inspections and expertises	9	2	1
Water samplings	164	22	4
Water analysed parameters (except T°C)	571	84	11
Medical consultations on military dogs	35	0	0
Activities on mascots, stray and pest animals	25	12	0
PMSO inspections and expertises	9	1	1
Sessions for military staff's sanitary awareness	13	0	0

CONCLUSION

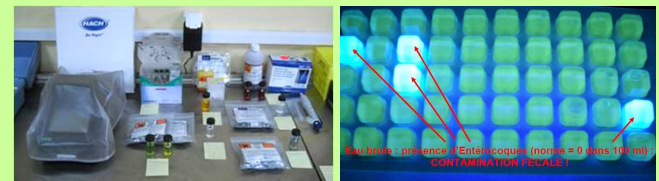
The capacity to deal with so many missions for a single veterinary officer in operation is especially allowed by the existence, within French Military Health Service, of veterinary referents "skills" and "theatres". The keeping of this veterinary versatility and level of expertise is necessary to adapt us to the evolution of health hazards, current and to come, especially those due to global warming, goods en people's movements or malicious intents.



GLOBAL INDICATORS	CAR	GABON	CAMEROON
Military staff	900 to 1100	450	10
Local food and drinks suppliers	15	9	2
Military restaurants	3	2	0
Military water networks	3	2	1
Military dogs and mascots	12	1	0

Local food and drinks supply mainly concern vegetables and fruits, bottled water, beer and soft drinks. Punctually it includes bread, cooked pastries and groceries. All other food and drinks (milk, fruit juices...) are imported from France by airway or seaway.

ACTIVITY RESULTS



See "Achieved missions" Table : the main tasks especially concern the control of water production and distribution to SANGARIS Operation benefit and the control of local food, bottled water and other drinks local suppliers. Four suppliers inspections had unfavorable findings due to the lack of chemical quality control on water as final product or raw material : beer and soda, bottled water and yoghurt factories, civilian restaurant using a drilling well.

Implementation of PMSO, to prevent health hazards introduction in Europe, is also a very important mission because it needs means and military staff awareness, including that of the commandment.

Punctually had to be realized medical consultations for local animals, a veterinary investigation following a Norovirus foodborne disease outbreak and, in emergency, a damage control surgery on a military dog with gastric dilatation-volvulus before its strategic evacuation.

