

PHILADELPHIA - "The safety of America's fighting forces is our primary concern and the integrity of the food chain is of paramount importance," said Army COL John Proctor, Staff Veterinarian at the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia. "We will continue to monitor and follow recommendations from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration on the safety of the Nation's beef supply. USDA officials maintain that the recalled beef represents essentially zero risk to consumers."

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, an inventory control point within the Defense Logistics Agency, supplies approximately \$10.4 billion worth of food, medicines, medical equipment, clothing and textiles, and general and industrial items to America's warfighters.

DSCP's Subsistence Directorate, responsible for providing operational rations and other food supplies, has surveyed its ration suppliers and Prime Vendors and found that thus far, recalled beef has not been located in Prime Vendor or Operational Rations beef supplies (iers).

"In addition, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), in coordination with the Office of the Surgeon General (OTSG), have agreed (dependent upon political decisions by foreign countries), to allow export shipments of beef products to Department of Defense customers," said Proctor. "This exception to policy will ensure that OCONUS military shipments are not disrupted during the BSE investigative period."