Accreditation means excellence and shows that a health department is committed to continuous quality and performance improvement. Military installation departments of public health (DPHs) can demonstrate their excellence and commitment to the health, readiness, and resilience of their community through PHAB accreditation.

Accreditation measures performance against a set of nationally recognized, practice-focused, and evidence-based standards based on the 10 Essential Public Health Services.

Benefits of Accreditation include*:

- 95% reported that accreditation stimulated quality and performance improvement
- 90% improved their ability to identify and address gaps in employee training and workforce development.
- 66% experienced improved visibility or reputation to external stakeholders
- 89% saw increased accountability and transparency within their health department.

Through our accreditation efforts, we enormously strengthened our relationship with local county and state public health. These efforts enabled us to be better prepared for COVID-19 and work collaboratively on case investigation and contact tracing. This led to increased visibility and awareness of the Department of Public Health as the public health experts on Fort Bragg and the primary source of COVID-19 information for this large installation."

-COL (retired) Sheryl Bedno, MD, DrPH, Former Chief, Fort Liberty Department of Public Health (Formerly the Fort Bragg Department of Public Health) (2nd Accredited DPH in the DOD)

*based on 2023 PHAB data
What’s New in Version 2022
Supplemental Guidance for Select Military Installation Departments of Public Health

In September 2022, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) engaged with the Defense Centers for Public Health–Aberdeen (DCPH-A) to develop supplemental guidance tailored to support military installation departments of public health, with a current focus on those departments serving Army locations.

Supplemental Guidance, as well as a corresponding Policy for Military Installation Departments of Public Health, are now available to support departments in their interpretation and application of the requirements to achieve national accreditation.

Guidance can be found on the PHAB website.

10 Domains, instead of 12 to align with the 10 Essential Public Health Services
90 fewer required documents for Initial Accreditation
Health Equity is emphasized and considerations are included in every domain
Preparedness requirements have evolved based on lessons learned during COVID-19

Accreditation Process

1 Preparation
2 Application
3 Documentation Selection & Submission
4 Review (site visit)
5 Accreditation Decision
6 Annual Reports
7 Reaccreditation

Get Started
To get started with Accreditation and access technical consultation, contact the Defense Health Agency’s Public Health Program Management Team.

Review the Introduction to PHAB course, available in the PHAB Learning Center, to learn more about the accreditation process and its value.

Review the Policy, Standards & Measures, Supplemental Guide, and additional resources, including an FAQ found on the PHAB website. The Standards & Measures are your roadmap to create and update departmental plans and policies.