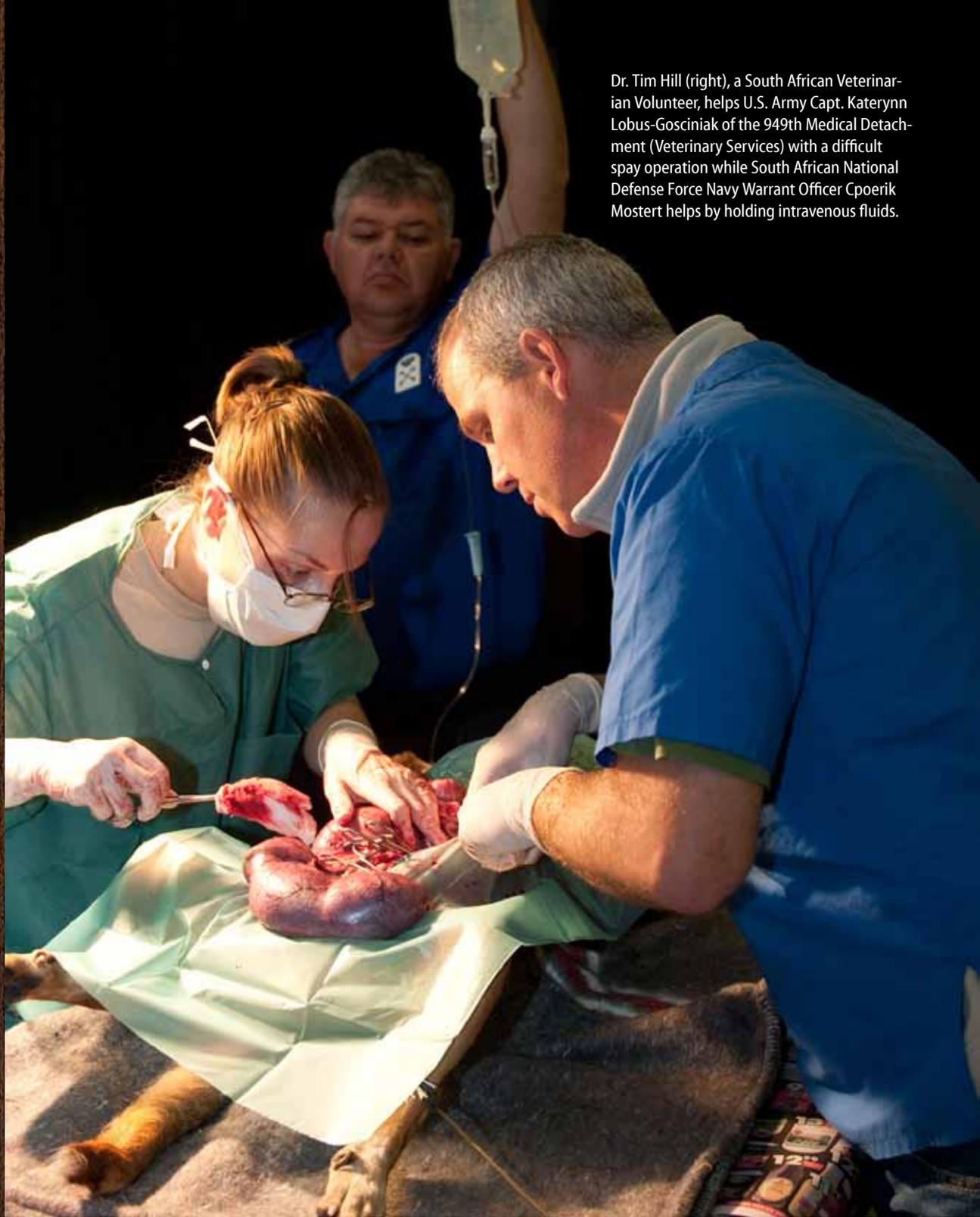


# SHARED ACCORD

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. ADAM STONE



Dr. Tim Hill (right), a South African Veterinarian Volunteer, helps U.S. Army Capt. Katerynn Lobus-Gosciiniak of the 949th Medical Detachment (Veterinary Services) with a difficult spay operation while South African National Defense Force Navy Warrant Officer Cpoerik Mostert helps by holding intravenous fluids.

## UITENHAGE, South Africa

**T**welve Soldiers of 949th Medical Detachment (Veterinarian Services) helped spay and neuter 309 dogs and cats during Exercise Shared Accord 2011 here in July and August.

The 949th, from Ames, Iowa, worked with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, the South African

National Defence Force (SANDF) Medical Service, and local non-governmental organizations such as the SPCA, Animal Anti-Cruelty League, and Animal Outreach.

Shared Accord was unique because the 949th, along with more than 600 Marines, were the largest number of U.S. forces ever in South Africa. The 949th's

role was to help the local South African community and build relationships with their SANDF counterparts.

The SANDF is the total of the armed forces of South Africa and consists of 74,000 active personnel. It contains a military health services branch and a military veterinarian institute.