

USACHPPM

HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

25 June 2004

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

HOT TOPICS	2
Dengue/DHF Update 2004	2
Environmental Toxin Linked to Parkinson's	2
Grim Warning over Superbug Outbreak	3
Half of World Child Deaths Linked to Undernutrition	3
Inadequate Vaccines Can Help Breed More Vicious Malaria Strains	3
Lipitor Helps Arthritis.....	3
Protecting Emergency Responders in Terrorist Attacks and Disasters	4
Public Health Worker Shortage Could Imperil Terrorism Preparedness.....	4
Study: Breast Milk Kills Skin Warts	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Study: Quitting Smoking Adds Years to Life	4
Tears Could Unmask SARS Mystery.....	5
Young Adults' Stress Reaction Predicts Middle-Age Blood Pressure Risk.....	5
FOCUS ON EPIDEMIOLOGY	5
Cigarette Use Among High School Students -- United States, 1991—2003	5
DoD-GEIS: Pandemic Influenza	6
USCENTCOM	6
Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Claims Four More Lives.....	6
Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in South Sudan - Update 7.....	7
Five Contract Malaria at Canadian Military Base in Kabul.....	7
Leptospirosis - Kenya	7
Outbreak of Typhoid Fever Registered in Tajikistan.....	7
School Closed Over Disease Outbreak	8
WHO Says Polio Re-Emerging in Sudan.....	8
USEUCOM	8
Central African Republic: Hepatitis E Outbreak in Capital.....	8
Denial of AIDS Puts Nigerian Sailors and Partners at Risk	9
Five Children in Stavropol Region Poisoned With Mercury (Russia).....	9
Legionellosis, Hospital - Spain (Zaragoza)	9
USNORTHCOM	10
Florida Woman Dies from Human Form of Mad Cow Disease	10
Hantavirus Reported In San Diego County.....	10
Health Official: Las Vegas Virus Outbreak Over.....	10
Outbreak of TB Concerns Agencies	10
Massive West Nile Outbreak Said Likely	11
Rabies Outbreak Worries Cape Cod Officials.....	11
Rift Valley Fever Virus Could Be Deadlier Than West Nile.....	11

Whooping Cough Outbreak Prompts Public Health Warning	11
USPACOM	12
Anthrax Kills Elephant in Bangladesh Forests	12
Malaria Outbreak Called Extraordinary Emergency.....	12
Poisonous Octopus Leaves Two Dead, 85 Hospitalized In Viet Nam	12
Rabies, Human - China	12
USSOUTHCOM.....	13
Peru Reports Foot-And-Mouth Outbreak, Says Controlled.....	13
Venezuela: Canine and Bovine Rabies Cases	13

HOT TOPICS

Dengue/DHF Update 2004

20 June – ProMED reported that as of 29 May 2004, the Venezuelan Ministry of Health reported a year-to-date total of 15,559 [dengue](#) cases, triple the number for the same period of 2003. In the same week there were 27 cases of Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) (5.3 percent) with no deaths, for a cumulative total of 955 cases of DHF with 3 deaths. The dengue case trend has been increasing over the last 6 weeks. All four types of dengue are co-circulating.

In Sri Lanka, the Department of Epidemic Diseases at the Health Ministry reports that dengue fever has spread seriously in the country. Already 33 deaths have been reported in 2004. A spokesperson said the reported number of dengue patients is 5434 so far, and the disease is seriously spreading in the Anuradhapura, Matale, Galle, Matara, and Puttlam Districts. The largest number of deaths, 10 persons, was reported from the Colombo District.

Dengue fever infections in Viet Nam have tripled to 15,923 cases during the 2nd quarter of the calendar year, taking deaths from the disease in 2004 to 29. Around 10 people died from the mosquito-borne disease and 5350 more were infected during the period from January to March. Officials of the health ministry said most of the infections were concentrated in southern Viet Nam.

[View Article](#)

Environmental Toxin Linked to Parkinson's

21 June – Yahoo!News reported that environmental toxins called proteasome inhibitors cause a [Parkinson's disease](#)-like movement disorder in rats. The findings suggest that these natural toxins may contribute to the development of Parkinson's in humans. Proteasome inhibitors are produced by bacteria and fungi. Human-made proteasome inhibitors also find their way into the environment. In humans and other animals, proteasomes act like a garbage disposal system by eliminating abnormal proteins from cells. There's growing evidence that people with Parkinson's have defective proteasomes. In this study, researchers used both man-made and naturally occurring proteasome inhibitors to interfere with proteasomes in laboratory rats. Imaging of the rats' brains showed types of changes identical to that seen in Parkinson's disease. They began to display Parkinson's-like symptoms such as slowness of movement, tremors, and rigidity. At autopsy, the rats' brains showed a reduction in levels of the brain chemical dopamine, which undergoes a similar decline in Parkinson's patients and a pattern of nerve cell loss that closely resembled Parkinson's. [View Article](#)

Grim Warning over Superbug Outbreak

18 June – ThisisBristol.com reported that the [MRSA](#) superbug is now so resistant to the most powerful antibiotics that a global epidemic could break out at any time. Researchers at Bristol University and Southmead Hospital say the number of deaths from the bug - which is usually caught by patients while they are in hospital - could double in the next five years. They predict it could soon survive treatment from the toughest available antibiotic, vancomycin. Doctors now fear that MRSA deaths, which have rocketed from 1,000 eight years ago to more than 5,000 last year, could rise even further. The study's findings could place even higher importance on a recent announcement by a Bristol company. Equinox 90 has invented a new sprayable chemical which, it says, kills the bug. It has been hailed as the liquid which could revolutionize hospital hygiene. Researchers revealed that strains of the deadly superbug are now developing outside hospitals. MRSA has been found in both urban and rural communities, where the bug is so virulent it often infects healthy, young people who are not normally at risk. It is often spread by skin contact, and victims develop boils the size of tennis balls as the infections spread. Scientists have discovered that five strains of MRSA from eight different countries are now proving almost impossible to treat. [View Article](#)

Half of World Child Deaths Linked to Undernutrition

21 June – The baltimoresun.com reported that more than 53 percent of all child deaths that occur annually are caused by undernutrition. This includes deaths from diarrhea, malaria, pneumonia and other infectious diseases, according to scientists from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the World Health Organization. The researchers compiled information from 10 studies in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia for the analysis. Although scientists has already established a relationship between undernutrition and diarrhea-related deaths, the new study showed that being underweight contributes to malarial deaths as well. The study appears in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. [View Article](#)

Inadequate Vaccines Can Help Breed More Vicious Malaria Strains

22 June – EurekAlert reported that vaccination programs could create conditions which promote the evolution of virulent strains of [malaria](#), according to a laboratory-based study of the malarial parasite Plasmodium in mice. The findings, published online in the open-access journal, PLoS Biology, are likely to spark debate among public health groups seeking to curb the disease, which claims up to two million lives each year and accounts for one child death every 30 seconds in Africa. Vaccines are designed to protect people by boosting the immune system to kill parasites but, unless a malaria vaccine leads to the death of every single parasite, the ones that survive are likely to be the nastiest. The researchers directly injected two groups of mice with infectious parasites - "immunized" mice, which had been exposed to Plasmodium and then treated with the anti-malarial drug, mefloquine, and "naive" mice, which had not. They then transferred parasites via a syringe from host to host 20 times. The parasites thus evolved in the immune or non-immune environments. The parasites that evolved in the immunized mice were more virulent than parasites evolved in the naive mice. [View Article](#)

Lipitor Helps Arthritis

22 June – Newsday.com reported that scientists in Scotland have found the first compelling evidence that statins - the class of drugs capable of reducing cholesterol - may also fight [rheumatoid arthritis](#). Researchers found in a small but statistically significant study that arthritis symptoms in patients given 40 milligrams daily of atorvastatin (Lipitor) experienced symptom relief. Patients reported a reduction of swelling in only three joints, fewer than the six to eight joints relieved with rheumatoid arthritis

drugs, known as TNF blockers. Still, the study zeros in on the relationship between rheumatoid arthritis and cardiovascular disease. The Scottish team underscored that because of the inflammatory nature of rheumatoid arthritis, people with the condition are at increased risk of heart attacks and strokes. The lead investigator reported that patients experienced not only relief from pain and swelling but also had a decline in cardiovascular risks. [View Source](#)

Protecting Emergency Responders in Terrorist Attacks and Disasters

16 June – RAND-NIOSH recommended better planning, training, coordination and management procedures protect emergency responders at the scene of terrorist attacks and disasters. It proposes a new approach that would make protecting the health and safety of emergency responders a key priority in coordinating the overall response to terrorist attacks and major disasters. Because terrorist attacks and major disasters often draw emergency responders from several departments in nearby communities – with different operating procedures, communications systems and response plans – coordinating efforts to protect workers is difficult. The study recommends enhanced preparedness planning to assure that all emergency responders to an event can be protected within the Incident Command System, the standard overarching management structure used in disaster response and called for under the newly established National Incident Management System. This would prevent different departments from wasting valuable time trying to come up with ways to protect workers on a case-by-case basis at each emergency scene. View NIOSH Report, [“Protecting Emergency Responders, Volume 3: Safety Management in Disaster and Terrorism Response”](#)

Public Health Worker Shortage Could Imperil Terrorism Preparedness

22 June - CIDRAP News reported that the possibility of a smallpox outbreak highlights America's growing shortage of qualified public health workers. The absence of employees is most keenly felt in public health nursing, epidemiology, laboratory science, and environmental health. The public health workforce is aging rapidly, with an average age of nearly 47; retiring at an expected average rate of 24% in the next 5 years; stretching to cover job vacancies of up to 20% in some states; and leaving public health jobs at an average rate of 14%. Paradoxically, the decrease in employees comes at a time when public health is widely acknowledged to have a key role in addressing the threats of terrorism and emerging infectious diseases. [View Article](#)

Study: Quitting Smoking Adds Years to Life

22 June – The Seattle Post Intelligencer reported that at least half, and perhaps as many as two-thirds, of people who begin [smoking](#) in their youth are eventually killed by the habit. The report in the British Medical Journal is the second part of a study that began in 1951. The publication's first report on the study in June 1954 was considered a landmark, confirming the link between smoking and lung cancer. The second part of the study tracked the same participants for the past 50 years and highlights the findings that kicking the habit can add years to the lives of former smokers. The main tobacco-related causes of death included lung cancer; heart disease; cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx and esophagus; and other respiratory diseases. Those who stopped at the age of 60 gained three years of life, those who quit at 50 gained six years and those who stopped smoking at 40 gained nine years of life expectancy, the report said. For those who kick the habit at 30 the increased risk was avoided almost totally, the researchers said. [View Article](#)

Tears Could Unmask SARS Mystery

21 June – The Times of India reported that tears could help provide a breakthrough in finding an effective diagnosis for [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome](#) (SARS). According to a study in British Journal of Ophthalmology, this highly infectious respiratory virus has been found in tears, which suggests that analyzing tears could help researchers unravel many mysteries associated with the virus including the unrecognized source of its spread. The researchers chemically analyzed tear samples from 36 patients with suspected SARS and eight of these patients subsequently turned out to have probable SARS. The researchers say in the study that if the infection is diagnosed at an early stage then this method makes treatment and isolation more effective. However they have cautioned that the presence of the virus in tears poses a hazard for healthcare professionals caring for these patients. [View Article](#)

Young Adults' Stress Reaction Predicts Middle-Age Blood Pressure Risk

22 June – EurekAlert reported that keeping a "cool head" while in your 20s could reduce your risk of developing [high blood pressure](#) in middle age. Young adults who react to psychological stress with spikes in blood pressure are more likely to have high blood pressure when they are in their 40s. Assessing blood pressure changes in response to stress may be a useful additional tool for determining a person's future risk of high blood pressure. High blood pressure causes the heart to work harder than normal, and increases the risk for heart attacks, strokes and kidney failure. Researchers said, "This risk was independent of other known risk factors such as race, gender, education, age, and body-mass index (BMI)." Participants took three different stress tests and researchers measured the change in their blood pressure. The greater the blood pressure changes in all three tasks, the earlier the onset of hypertension. [View Article](#)

Focus on Epidemiology

Cigarette Use Among High School Students --- United States, 1991—2003

18 June – MMWR reported that [cigarette use](#) is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. One of the national health objectives for 2010 is to reduce the prevalence of current cigarette use among high school students to $\leq 16\%$. To examine changes in cigarette use among high school students in the United States during 1991--2003, CDC analyzed data from the national Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The report indicated that although 1) the prevalence of lifetime cigarette use was stable among high school students during the 1990s and 2) the prevalence of both current and current frequent cigarette use increased into the late 1990s, all three behaviors had declined significantly by 2003. Prevention efforts must be sustained to ensure this pattern continues and the 2010 objective is achieved. During 2003, white students were significantly more likely than black and Hispanic students to report current cigarette use. More white female students than black and Hispanic female students and more Hispanic female than black female students reported current cigarette use. The prevalence of current cigarette use was not significantly different among white, black, and Hispanic male students. By grade level, significantly more 10th-, 11th-, and 12th-grade students than 9th-grade students reported current cigarette use. [View Study](#)

DoD-GEIS: Pandemic Influenza

A pandemic is certain to occur, historically three have occurred each century for the past three centuries, but how soon will it happen and what can be done now to prevent or respond to a pandemic? The Institute of Medicine (IOM) held a workshop, [Pandemic Influenza: Assessing Capabilities for Prevention and Response](#). Workshop presentations and results will soon be posted on the [IOM website](#). Experts think that the general public is not sufficiently aware of the risk posed by a flu pandemic. Recent problems with flu vaccine (availability, strain-specificity) and widespread avian flu raised concerns about the world's current ability to prevent or contain a pandemic. Key questions addressed were the likelihood of a flu pandemic soon and issues that must be resolved now. Strengthening global surveillance and detection capabilities is already an identified priority. The workshop further examined influenza virus transmission mechanisms and epidemiology from wild to domesticated birds and from animal hosts to humans. Current knowledge of effective barriers to zoonotic transmission and economic incentives to influence positive changes were reviewed in light of poultry and swine production and other agricultural practices worldwide. Regarding vaccine, presenters identified the principal obstacles to the development, production and distribution of adequate quantities of vaccine for a pandemic strain, illuminating key scientific gaps in understanding of the pandemic strains of the past 100 years. Key pandemic responses identified with unresolved issues include hospital surge capacity, production surge capacity, the stockpiling of drugs and vaccines, liability protection for vaccine manufacturers and for those who administer shots, legal, logistical and other global issues including coordination among countries. Information on many "hot topics" such as influenza (avian and human) is available on the DoD-GEIS website <http://www.geis.fhp.osd.mil/>. (Note the new web address)

Other timely information can be found in:

The current issue of the Army Medical Surveillance Activity's [Medical Surveillance Monthly Report](#)

This week's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#)

USCENTCOM

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Claims Four More Lives

21 June – ProMED reported that [Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever](#) virus (CCHFV) has once again struck the interior parts of Baluchistan, as four nomads including a baby have fallen prey to the disease in past few days. The new cases have been reported in Baden Tingi, a far-flung village of Qila Saifullah district. The epidemic is also reported in the areas near the Pakistan-Afghan border. The latest victims of CCHFV infection include three adult family members and a young child who died within 3 days of the appearance of symptoms. It is relevant here that medical facilities are not available in this remote region, and as a consequence the death toll may rise in the near future. Contrary to government claims, no medical team has yet arrived in the area to ascertain the gravity of the epidemic and treat affected patients. [View Source](#)

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in South Sudan - Update 7

22 June – The World Health Organization reported that as of 20 June, the health authorities in Yambio County and the team assisting them in the outbreak have reassessed the number of cases of [Ebola hemorrhagic fever](#) (EHF) in view of the clinical presentation of the disease, epidemiology and laboratory results. As a result of the reclassification, 18 cases and 6 deaths of EHF have now been reported. Following the latest laboratory results from the WHO Collaborating Centre at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States, 12 of the 30 most recently reported cases have now been classified as [measles](#) cases. Measles cases have been present in the community and were first reported in the second week of March 2004, but the increase in the number of cases was detected because of the active surveillance system established for EHF. Additional laboratory tests are underway. [View Source](#)

Five Contract Malaria at Canadian Military Base in Kabul

21 June – The National Post reported that Canadian military doctors are keeping a close eye on the 2,000-plus Canadians and others based at Camp Julien after diagnosing five confirmed cases of [malaria](#) in the last two weeks. Doctors fear the two American soldiers, one Canadian soldier and two civilian workers - a Canadian and a Nepalese - may be just "the tip of the iceberg." They have put out word to all who are staying at the base to report immediately to the clinic if they develop fevers, but due to the incubation period of the parasite that causes the disease, it may not be known for a year just how widespread the outbreak is, said Capt. Michael Hughson. The parasite typically needs an ambient temperature of 20 degrees Celsius and an altitude of less than 2,000 meters to survive. At 2,100 meters, Kabul is right on the borderline. Afghanistan was not known as a particularly virulent malaria region until after the Soviet invasion of 1980, when the bombing of irrigation systems created stagnant pools all over the country in which mosquitoes thrive. Hughson said there is some evidence that soldiers are adhering more strictly to their hated once-a-week mefloquin pill. The medicine is notorious for its ability to induce weird dreams, or even psychosis, and compliance with the regimen has been "somewhat less than 100 per cent," said Hughson. [View Article](#)

Leptospirosis - Kenya

18 June – ProMED reported that the death toll due to the outbreak of [leptospirosis](#) in Bungoma District in Western Province is 12. The source of infection is due to untreated water. The schools and the communities have been drawing water from various rivers and have not been treating the water. The river waters had also been contaminated by untreated sewage which was discharged into the river in April this year. The diagnosis of leptospirosis was confirmed by serological tests. The prolonged duration of the outbreak may have been due to continued exposure to contaminated water. The ministry is still awaiting confirmation about the animal source of contamination. The most likely animal source is suspected to be rodents. The area where the outbreak occurred is a swamp area. [View Article](#)

Outbreak of Typhoid Fever Registered in Tajikistan

20 June – Itar-Tass reported that an outbreak of [typhoid fever](#) has been reported in Tajikistan's western Shahrinav district, where twenty-four adults and ten children have been diagnosed with the disease. Sources at the central hospital in Shahrinav confirmed this, saying all the patients came from the same village in the mountain foothills. Local epidemics experts blame the incident on the use of water from an irrigation canal, unclean after recent mudslides and showers. The condition of all the

patients is stable and causing no grounds for concern, medics said. They also indicated that the medics had taken the village under stringent control. Checks of tap water and well water are under way with epidemics experts regularly sampling it. [View Article](#)

School Closed Over Disease Outbreak

19 June – AllAfrica.com reported that a primary school in Nakuru, Kenya was closed down indefinitely and more than 700 pupils sent home following a disease outbreak. Bondeni Primary School, located in the sprawling Bondeni slums, was closed down by health officers after an outbreak of [gastroenteritis](#), which causes inflammation of the stomach and intestines. The disease had affected a number of pupils and there was fear that many more would fall sick if urgent measures were not taken. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Patrick Ochieng, said the outbreak was caused by dirty urinals and toilets, which were overflowing and infested with maggots. The school's sewer line, put up in 1948, has collapsed and has not been functional for a long period, forcing teachers to vacate an office next to the sanitary facilities. Two classrooms were also vacated as it became clear that the awful smell was affecting the pupils. Close to 200 pupils in the Early Childhood Development units had to be removed from their classrooms as raw sewer flowed freely in the open ground outside the facility. In his report, Dr. Ochieng said the school would remain closed until the sanitary hygiene had been improved and two tanks of water installed. [View Source](#)

WHO Says Polio Re-Emerging in Sudan

22 June – ABCNews.com reported that Africa is on the brink of the biggest [polio](#) epidemic in recent years, with the crippling disease re-emerging in Sudan's conflict-ravaged Darfur region. WHO confirmed that a child was paralyzed by polio recently in Darfur, the first case in Sudan in more than three years. So far this year, the number of polio cases globally has reached 333, almost double that reported in the first six months of 2003. Nigeria, with 257 cases, is hardest hit. Nigeria's heavily Muslim Kano state suspended a vaccine campaign for six months after some Islamic leaders claimed that the vaccines were part of a U.S.-led plot to spread infertility and AIDS among Africans something Nigerian federal officials and the United Nations have vigorously denied. Total cases last year reached 783. Epidemiologists fear a major epidemic this fall the start of the polio "high season." The disease has struck in 9 sub-Saharan African countries this year after being limited to only two at the beginning of last year. Besides Sudan, WHO said, a handful of cases have been found this year in previously polio-free Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad and Ivory Coast. [View Report](#)

USEUCOM

Central African Republic: Hepatitis E Outbreak in Capital

18 June – AllAfrica.com reported that health officials in the Central African Republic have reported an outbreak of [hepatitis E](#) in three neighborhoods of the capital, Bangui. A joint team of the Ministry of Health and Medecins Sans Frontieres detected cases of the disease in the neighborhoods of Gobongo, Kokoro-Boeing and Nguito. "The cases of hepatitis E are few, our team detected about 10 cases," Dr. Abel Namssenmo, the director of preventive medicine and fight against disease at the Ministry of Health and Population, told IRIN on Friday. He added that the joint medical team was monitoring the outbreak. In a communiqué read over the radio the ministry urged the public to use only safe drinking water and to disinfect wells. In Bangui, hawkers sell water in plastic sachets; a

practice that health authorities have warned is unsafe. Symptoms of the disease are yellowish eyes, tiredness and stomachaches. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) says Hepatitis E is a waterborne disease transmitted from person-to-person via the fecal-oral route. Hepatitis E is a mild to moderate disease in severity with a mortality rate of 0.4-4.0 percent, WHO says, "except in pregnancy, where the mortality rate is progressively higher in each succeeding trimester and may reach 20 percent". [View Source](#)

Denial of AIDS Puts Nigerian Sailors and Partners at Risk

20 June - EurekAlert reported that, "[AIDS](#) is now the leading cause of death in military and police forces in some African countries, accounting for more than half of in-service mortality," according to an article in BMC Public Health today. They believe that secrecy about AIDS-related deaths, and multiple sex partnering in the Nigerian navy could be helping to fuel the HIV epidemic in Nigeria, Africa's most populated country. Their survey of 480 Nigerian naval personnel revealed that the naval authorities are secretive about AIDS-related deaths. "Until AIDS-related deaths are discussed openly, naval personnel will continue to deny the existence of the virus and participate in risky behaviors," say the researchers, from the Nigerian Red Cross Society and the University of Ibadan. They are now calling for a targeted educational program to expose the risks that sailors face from indulging in unsafe sex. Around a third of the sailors questioned had had sex with a female sex worker, and 41% of these had not used a condom on their last visit. Those that were married were around four times less likely to use a condom than those that were single. An estimated 5.8% of adults, or 3.5 million people, are now infected in Nigeria. [View Article](#)

Five Children in Stavropol Region Poisoned With Mercury (Russia)

Five children in Stavropol region, Hlebny village were poisoned with [mercury](#). At the present time they are all hospitalized. Eight more residents of the same village are under observation of toxicology physicians. According to emergency situations department of Stavropol region, one of the children had found at home spilled mercury. He had collected that mercury with his friends into a plastic bottle and poured out in the yard with his friends. It was discovered by emergency department personnel that there is total of 8 meters of area is covered with mercury. It is not identified yet, how mercury happened to be in a rural house. [View Report](#)

Legionellosis, Hospital - Spain (Zaragoza)

21 June – ProMED reported that seven patients infected with [legionellosis](#) in Zaragoza have been hospitalized in community health centers, and three are in serious condition. Meanwhile, the Public Health Department detected the bacterium in two refrigeration towers of the Hospital Clinico de Zaragoza, and it is currently assessing 12 nearby towers. The seven patients are all connected to the Lozano-Blesa University Clinic Hospital. The Aragon Public Health General Manager, Luis Gomez, stated that of the latest four cases, three are health care workers. The presence of the bacterium was confirmed in pools below two of the hospital's six refrigeration towers that "had not been in contact at any time with the Center air conditioning system", explained Dr. Gomez. An alert network has been set up in the Emergency Service in order to detect any patients admitted because of a pulmonary infection characterized by pneumonia with high fever (or Legionnaire's disease). [View Article](#)

USNORTHCOM

Florida Woman Dies from Human Form of Mad Cow Disease

22 June – HealthDay reported that a 25-year-old Broward County, Fla., woman is the first person in the United States to die from the human form of mad cow disease. Charlene Singh is believed to have contracted the disease in England more than a decade ago, but was not diagnosed until two years ago. The brain-wasting illness known as variant [Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease](#) has killed about 140 people worldwide, most in England during the 1980s and '90s. Singh died at her father's Fort Lauderdale home. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention plans to send a team of investigators to the home for "an inquiry." [View Article](#)

Hantavirus Reported In San Diego County

19 June - The SanDiegoChannel.com reported that the first human case of [hantavirus](#) in San Diego County has been reported. A 32-year-old East County woman became infected last month but has recovered. Hantavirus is typically spread through rodent droppings, primarily deer mice. The initial symptoms are usually flu-like and can evolve into severe difficulty in breathing and sometimes death. About a third of the people who have gotten hantavirus in this country have died. [View Source](#)

Health Official: Las Vegas Virus Outbreak Over

18 June – KPUA.net reported that health officials in Nevada say the virus outbreak that sickened nearly 1700 people -- mostly Hawaii residents -- who visited Las Vegas since December 2003 is officially over. Clark County Health District spokesman Dave Tonelli says the number of reported cases of the illness dropped to baseline levels for 28 consecutive days, which is the amount of time that [norovirus](#) can survive on surfaces. Most of the people who reported catching the highly contagious Norwalk virus stayed in or visited the California, Fremont and Main Street Station hotel-casinos in downtown Las Vegas. The hotels are a favorite destination for island residents and are owned by Boyd Gaming Corporation. Tonelli says most of those who became ill experienced one or two days of vomiting, nausea and diarrhea. Boyd spokesman Rob Stillwell says the hotels took action as soon as it became aware of the virus and have permanently adopted many of the heightened sanitation measures including use of hospital-grade disinfectant. [View Source](#)

Outbreak of TB Concerns Agencies

19 June – IndyStar.com reported that Federal and state health workers have been dispatched to Fort Wayne, Indiana to help control a growing [tuberculosis](#) outbreak that may represent a new strain of the disease. The disease has alarmed local doctors because the Fort Wayne patients appear to have contracted it from casual social contact, said Allen County Health Commissioner Dr. Deborah McMahan. Tuberculosis traditionally has spread among people in prolonged contact with one another, such as family members or refugees in camps. One person has died, and at least 17 cases over a three-year span have been definitively connected. As many as 28 cases may be tied to the outbreak, the Fort Wayne-Allen County Health Department said. Allen County, about 120 miles northeast of Indianapolis, usually reports about eight tuberculosis cases a year, but 13 cases already have been reported this year. Federal officials have described this outbreak as a crisis. Laboratory tests from the Fort Wayne patients do not match samples taken during any other U.S. outbreak of tuberculosis. State and federal health officials are concerned about the outbreak mainly because of its size and the fact that it's still growing, McMahan said. [View Article](#)

Massive West Nile Outbreak Said Likely

19 June – PasadenaStarNews.com reported that as more information about the effects and transmission of the [West Nile virus](#) become available, experts say California is poised for a massive outbreak. John Pape, an epidemiologist employed by the state of Colorado, which last year had the worst West Nile outbreak in the nation, said many of the precursors now being seen in California -- the discovery of dozens of crows and mosquitoes carrying West Nile -- were seen in Colorado last spring. Sixty-three people in Colorado died and 2,300 people got sick in 2003 from the disease, which is transmitted to crows and other birds and to humans by mosquitoes. Birds infected with the disease began showing up in California in April, earlier than health officials expected. And the presence of the virus has been detected in mosquito samples taken from all over Southern California. Although the vast majority of people can fight off the disease, there is no cure for the West Nile virus. The disease makes about one in 150 people ill. Those who become very sick but do not die are often left with painful lingering effects. [View Source](#)

Rabies Outbreak Worries Cape Cod Officials

22 June – NBC30.com reported that public health officials on Cape Cod are urging residents to make sure their dogs and cats have been vaccinated for [rabies](#) spread mostly by raccoons. Officials believe the current outbreak of the disease is working its way eastward along the Cape. U.S. Agriculture Department wildlife biologist Timothy Algeo told a meeting of the Cape Cod Rabies Task Force that experts don't know just how rabies will behave on the Cape. Rabies is spread through saliva when a rabid animal bites a human or another animal that has not had a rabies vaccine. Humans can also contract rabies through an open wound if licked by an unvaccinated dog or cat that has been exposed to the disease. Since March, 22 raccoons in the Massachusetts towns of Bourne, Falmouth, Sandwich and Barnstable have tested positive for the disease. [View Source](#)

Rift Valley Fever Virus Could Be Deadlier Than West Nile

23 June – WSTM.com reported that US health officials are worried about another mosquito-borne disease that could be deadlier than the West Nile Virus. [Rift Valley Fever](#) originated in Africa and officials say it's the only disease at the top of both human health and agriculture lists of dangerous diseases. Health officials fear the disease could become a permanent part of the medical landscape if it enters the United States. The disease has a near one-percent mortality rate for humans, but kills up to 30-percent of the livestock it infects. Officials say if the virus does show up here it would prompt livestock bans by other countries. A health professional with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says even though the disease hasn't appeared in the US yet, medical and public health officials need "to be mindful of it." [View Source](#)

Whooping Cough Outbreak Prompts Public Health Warning

18 June – NBC5.com News reported that the state of Illinois is urging parents to make sure their children are immunized due to a lingering outbreak of [whooping cough](#) in four Chicago-area counties. Public Health Director Eric Whitaker says at least 69 people in Cook, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties have been sickened by the disease -- officially called pertussis -- since March. No deaths have been reported. The Public Health Department says -- despite immunization efforts -- whooping cough is on the rise in the United States. Over the past decade in Illinois, the number of cases has gone from 111 in 1994 to 320 last year. Symptoms of pertussis include sneezing, a low-grade fever and increasingly severe coughing. Whitaker says anyone with such symptoms should seek immediate medical care. [View Article](#)

USPACOM

Anthrax Kills Elephant in Bangladesh Forests

21 June – Planet Ark reported that deadly [anthrax](#) has killed one elephant and might have infected more in southeastern Bangladesh, veterinarians said. Officials in the Chittagong Hill Tracts said they were taking measures to stop the spread of a disease that can infect humans. "Pathological tests of a dead elephant revealed that it was attacked by anthrax," said veterinary surgeon A.K.M. Saifuddin. The disease might have infected other elephants and wild animals in the 5,500 square mile hill tracts, said Mohammad Hafizur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Bandarban district. "Veterinarians are planning to adopt effective measures to stop the spread of the disease," he said without elaborating. The area is home to 400 wild elephants, including 100 believed to have migrated from forests in Myanmar and India. [View Article](#)

Malaria Outbreak Called Extraordinary Emergency

23 June – The Jakarta Post.com reported that the government is still struggling to contain a [malaria](#) outbreak in three provinces. An extraordinary emergency was declared last week when the government declared a state of high alert in West Java, Riau and Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam after malaria claimed 12 lives and affected 1,281 others there. An extraordinary emergency is declared when the number of patients affected by malaria is double the figure recorded in the previous year. It requires the government to deploy all resources, including funds, to help the affected local government confine the outbreak. Health minister Achmad Sujudi said the government had taken immediate measures to control the outbreak in the three provinces, including fogging to eliminate mosquitoes, establishing crisis centers, and conducting rapid diagnostic tests and mass treatment. The government has also distributed across West Java 1,000 mosquito nets, 1,000 boxes of diagnostic equipment, 1,200 ampules of artemisin, 6,000 artesunate tablets and 5,760 amodiaquin tablets. [View Article](#)

Poisonous Octopus Leaves Two Dead, 85 Hospitalized In Viet Nam

21 June – ProMED reported that two people died and 85 others, including 42 children, needed hospital treatment after eating poisonous octopus in a village in southern Viet Nam. A man and a woman in Binh Thuan province's Tam Ngan village died after eating the blue-ringed octopus, while other villagers were rushed to hospital. They all bought the blue-ringed octopus, a very small organism with poisonous glands, from the village market. [View Source](#)

Rabies, Human - China

21 June - China's Health Ministry said that [tuberculosis](#) retained the highest incidence rate in May 2004 on the Chinese mainland among all reported infectious diseases, and [rabies](#) remained the top killer. The ministry said rabies had the highest death rate among the communicable diseases on the Chinese mainland, followed by AIDS, infant tetanus and epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis. If human rabies runs to more than 1000 cases a year, this means more than 100 cases per month. [View Source](#)

USSOUTHCOM

Peru Reports Foot-And-Mouth Outbreak, Says Controlled

21 June – Planet Ark reported that Peru has reported its first outbreak since 2000 of the highly contagious [foot-and-mouth disease](#), saying 8 infected cattle and 80 animals in contact with them have been slaughtered and more were being killed. "It's been a fairly light outbreak, and now it is under control," Jose Ochoa of the National Service of Agrarian Health (SENASA) said in an interview with Reuters. Ochoa said the three establishments in Lurin, south of Lima, where the disease was detected, had been sealed off. Foot-and-mouth disease affects cloven-hoofed animals and although Peru does not export beef, it is keen to recover its foot-and-mouth free status because the virus can be transported, for example, with fruit and vegetables. Ochoa said Peru's neighbors Ecuador, Bolivia and Brazil all have foot-and-mouth disease in some areas. Chile and Colombia, however, are free of the disease. Ecuador and Colombia, like Peru, are negotiating a U.S. free-trade deal. [View Article](#)

Venezuela: Canine and Bovine Rabies Cases

20 June – ProMED reported that Regional Coordination of Zoonosis at Zulia state reported for seven new positive cases of canine [rabies](#) from four different districts of Zulia: Maracaibo (the state capital) (2 cases), Rosario de Perija (2 cases), Mara (1 case) and Cabimas (2 cases). With these 7 new cases, Venezuela has recorded 80 cases of canine rabies for year 2004 (all reported in Zulia state). In addition, two new bovine rabies cases were reported. One case was reported in Barinas state and was confirmed by direct immunofluorescence tests, and the other was reported at Apure state but is not yet confirmed. [View Article](#)

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hioupdate/>.

POC: Lorraine Bell, DrPH, MSN
Lorraine.Bell@APG.amedd.army.mil

Eileen Resta
eileen.resta@amedd.army.mil

Approved:
[Kevin Delaney](#)
Chief, Health Information Operations
(410) 436-5217 or DSN 584-5217