

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

22 November 2002

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.

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HOT ISSUES

A Controlled Trial of a Human Papillomavirus Type 16 Vaccine

21 November - The New England Journal of Medicine published a study concerning a vaccine that reduces the incidence of HPV-16 infection and may provide important public health benefits. In this double-blind study, 2392 young women received three doses of placebo or HPV-16 virus-like-particle vaccine. The incidence of persistent HPV-16 infection was 3.8 per 100 woman-years at risk in the placebo group and 0 per 100 woman-years at risk in the vaccine group (P<0.001). All nine cases of HPV-16-related cervical intraepithelial neoplasia occurred among the placebo recipients. Administration of this HPV-16 vaccine reduced the incidence of both HPV-16 infection and HPV-16-related cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. Immunizing HPV-16-negative women may eventually reduce the incidence of cervical cancer. [View Article](#)

Blood Test May Identify Ovarian Cancer

19 November - Reuters Health reported genetic imbalances in DNA found in blood samples may one day help identify women with early-stage ovarian cancer, the results of a preliminary study suggest. Although the findings need to be confirmed, testing for these abnormalities may make it possible to identify patients who would benefit from treatment, according to the report published in the November 20th issue of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. The technique is called digital SNP analysis. SNPs, or single-nucleotide polymorphisms, are variations in the genetic material DNA. Digital SNP analysis allows researchers to count one-by-one the number of alleles--copies of individual genes--to detect imbalances caused when portions of chromosomes are lost. SOURCE: Journal of the National Cancer Institute 2002: 94:1697-1703. [View Article](#)

CDC Data Shows Resistance to Cipro

19 November – The Las Vegas Sun reported research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that a common bacterium blamed for food poisoning has a growing resistance to a drug used to combat the bug. The reason, scientists say, is the use of similar drugs to fight the bacteria in poultry. A new study shows that *Campylobacter* now has a 19 percent resistance to Cipro, compared with 0 percent in 1990, CDC epidemiologist Robert Tauxe said Tuesday. The CDC data bolster the FDA's case that continued use of Bayer's Cipro-like fluoroquinolone antibiotic, Baytril, in poultry flocks is undercutting Cipro's effectiveness

against food poisoning. Cipro also is used to combat anthrax and complications associated with smallpox, which have not displayed a similar growing resistance to the drug. [View Article](#) [View CDC Table](#)

Experts Weigh Smallpox Threat

18 November - Reuters reported an American scientist told a biosecurity conference that Iraq may have developed smallpox as a biological weapon, leaving the United States with a tricky decision about whether to vaccinate part of its population against the threat. The conference brought together emergency responders, police, military personnel, scientists, public health officials and local government leaders to discuss the threat posed by "biological terrorism" and ways to combat it. Ronald Atlas, president of the American Society for Microbiology said he feared Iraq might also have experimented with genetically engineering smallpox to provide an even more deadly agent that could not be killed by the existing vaccine. "The fear is that if you put interleukin-4 into human smallpox, you would create a virus that circumvents the vaccine," Atlas said. Iraq is known to have experimented with camel pox in the 1980s, leading some Western experts to suspect it was trying to adapt yet another variant of the disease for use against humans. [View Article](#)

Hostility May Predict Heart Disease Best

17 November - Reuters reported a personality test might do a better job than standard examinations in predicting a man's heart disease risk, researchers said on Sunday after finding a close link between hostility and heart symptoms. Men who suffered heart attacks, chest pain or other incidents of heart disease were much more likely to have scored high in hostility on a personality exam. High blood pressure, total cholesterol levels, fasting insulin, measurements of being overweight and even smoking did not predict a man's risk of heart disease in the three years the study lasted. But hostility, as measured by a standard personality test, also predicted who would develop heart disease symptoms. [View Article](#)

Mom's PCB Exposure May Affect Kid's Mental Health

15 November - Reuters Health reported children born to women exposed to high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) appear to have slightly lower IQs and more behavioral and emotional problems than kids whose mothers were not exposed to large amounts of the pollutant, a new study from Taiwan has found. The findings are part of an ongoing study of children born to mothers who suffered accidental PCB poisoning in 1978 and 1979. Children born to exposed mothers scored 3 points lower than control children on an IQ test, 3 points higher on a test that identified behavior and emotional problems and 6 points higher on another test evaluating behavioral and emotional problems, the authors report. "We found that children born to mothers who were PCB-poisoned in (1978-1979) continued to have mild but statistically significant effects on their behavior when tested in 1992 to 1995, when the children were up to 17 years old," Lai and colleagues write. SOURCE: Archives of General Psychiatry 2002;59:1061-1066. [View Article](#)

New Drug Might Fight Anthrax

18 November – Health Scout News reported a drug developed at the Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Science Center may block the development of lethal toxins produced by infectious

bacteria such as anthrax, says a study in the December issue of *Infection and Immunity*. The drug, called D6R, is a potent, stable small molecule that blocks the action of an enzyme called furin. In anthrax, the lethal factor toxin has to bind to another part of the anthrax toxin, called the PA molecule, before the lethal factor toxin can enter and kill a healthy cell. Before that binding can happen, the PA molecule has to be made smaller. Furin cuts the PA molecule and makes it small enough to bind with the lethal factor toxin. Without a cut PA molecule, the lethal factor toxin can't bind and enter and kill a cell. Future research will test the effectiveness of D6R against anthrax toxin in cells, rats and mice. [View Article](#)

Protein Test is Called Best Gauge of Heart Disease Risk

14 November – The Boston Globe reported Boston researchers have found that testing for a protein produced when arteries are inflamed is a more reliable way of predicting a person's chance of having a heart attack or stroke than measuring cholesterol levels. Doctors said the simple, inexpensive blood test could provide an early warning to millions of Americans who think their heart disease risk is low because they don't have elevated cholesterol levels. In fact, about half of the 1.5 million heart attacks each year strike people with low to normal cholesterol. Researchers found that in women with low cholesterol counts, high levels of C-reactive protein nearly doubled the risk of heart disease. Those people were at higher risk than people with the opposite combination - high cholesterol levels but low C-reactive protein - even though people with high cholesterol are the ones most likely to worry about their cardiac health. The American Heart Association plans to discuss the findings at a special session at its annual meeting, and will take them into account when it issues revised heart screening guidelines together with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention sometime in the next few months. [View Article](#)

Scientists to Report On Malaria Research

19 November – AllAfrica.com reported researchers gathering in Arusha, Tanzania, for the world's largest malaria conference say they are making progress towards an effective vaccine for the disease. So far no effective vaccine exists to prevent the disease, and treating malaria has become increasingly difficult as the parasite responsible for the disease rapidly develops resistance to drugs. Today scientists at the Arusha conference will report on promising vaccine research at several African test sites. The Multinational Initiative on Malaria, a coalition of research institutes and public health agencies, said that vaccine research and development was advancing rapidly. One of the most promising vaccines is "RTS, S/AS02A", developed by GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals. Scientists from the US Army Medical Research Unit are expected to report that clinical trials in Kenya of its vaccine candidate "MSP-1" show it is safe for adults. Two other vaccines tested in Gambia using a "prime-boost" technique have also shown encouraging results. [View Article](#)

Tiny Water-Borne Bugs Could Be Allergen

18 November - Reuters reported microscopic aquatic animals known as copepods, one of the most widespread and abundant life forms on Earth, could be a source of gastrointestinal and other allergies, researchers report. In fact, nearly half of patients already allergic to other substances also tested positive to proteins extracted from a species of copepod, according to Dr. Steve Kagen of the Kagen Allergy Clinic in Appleton, Wisconsin. Kagen's team is currently investigating the prevalence of copepod allergy in patients with inflammatory bowel disease,

and so far every one of the Crohn's patients in his practice have tested positive for copepod allergy. [View Article](#)

USEUCOM

Birds Bear Brunt of Tanker Spill Off Spanish Coast

19 November - Reuters reported on the spill of 5,000 barrels of fuel oil from the Bahamas-flagged tanker, Prestige, holed during a violent storm off the northwestern Spanish coast last week, where oil-soaked birds are the most visible victims. The spill has hit a corner of Spain with an especially rich wildlife. Lagoons in Galicia are an important habitat for migrating birds and the rocky coastline teems with gannets, cormorants and guillemots. Scores of birds have been found covered in fuel oil, an unknown number have died and many more have been spattered with the oil but are still capable of flying. So far, 92 oil-soaked birds have been brought to the sanctuary near La Coruna, including razorbills, gannets, guillemots and cormorants. The birds have been found by the Galician government's patrols or by members of the public. [View Article](#)

Cholera in Democratic Republic of the Congo

15 November – [CSR](#) reported as of 20 October 2002, the Ministry of Health, Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported 394 cases of cholera including 41 deaths (CFR: 10.4%) in Kasai Oriental. The most affected areas are the city of Mbuji-Mayi and the Miabi, Tshilenge, and Katende, health districts. The El Tor strain of *Vibrio cholerae* has been laboratory confirmed. [View Article](#)

Fasciola hepatica Prevalence Increase in Ireland

17 November – ProMed reported high levels of liver fluke in all livestock have been detected in every part of Ireland this winter, with the exception of the Waterford-Wexford area. Gerry Scully, chief sheep advisor with Teagasc, said that meat factories are reporting a liver infection rate of 10 per cent above normal in slaughtered sheep at present. In western counties, up to 70 per cent of lamb livers are being discarded by meat factories. "There are also reports from veterinary laboratories of sudden deaths in lambs and adult sheep from fluke. This is due to large numbers, often thousands, of the fluke parasite passing through the liver substance," he said. The weather during last winter, spring and throughout the summer was ideal for the spread of liver fluke. This has led to the high infection levels. [View Article](#)

Madagascar – Influenza

14 November – The [CDC](#) Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) reported a large influenza outbreak in southeastern Madagascar during July and August with thousands of respiratory illnesses and hundreds of deaths reported. The most affected were those living in remote highland villages. Nearly all deaths occurred far from healthcare facilities. An investigation by a team from the World Health Organization and CDC concluded that the outbreak was attributed to influenza A (H3N2) viruses. The influenza virus strain associated with this outbreak is similar

to strains that have been circulating worldwide for several years. This season's 2002-03 U.S. influenza vaccine includes a similar strain to the one that caused this outbreak. [View Article](#)

Women Prescribed More, Cheaper Meds: German Study

18 November - Reuters reported women in Germany are prescribed more medication than men and often receive older or cheaper brands, more controversial drugs and combination therapies, according to a controversial report by a health insurance company. The German Employees' Health Insurer (DAK) study shows that a prescription written for a woman is on average 15% cheaper than that given to a man with the same complaint. DAK spokesman Ruediger Scharf told Reuters Health that women are 30% more likely to be prescribed a controversial drug than men with the same problem. "They are also over-prescribed," he said. The study was compiled from the DAK's own records of what it funds, as well as information from doctors under contract to the insurer and pharmacies fulfilling the prescriptions written. [View Article](#)

USCENTCOM

An Atomic-powered Plan to End Sleeping Sickness

12 November – The Boston Globe reported UN scientists are about to embark on a hugely expensive, high-risk plan to obliterate sleeping sickness disease by wiping out the fly that carries it. They want to cause a crash in the continent's tsetse fly population by spraying the bush with billions of sterilized male flies. Many biologists think the idea is ill-advised. The only successful trial of the project cost an estimated \$500 per dead fly. But the United Nations is backing it, along with many African governments. Ethiopia wants to become the first country out of the 40 targeted in the IAEA's plan to eradicate the tsetse fly using sterile insects. Construction began this summer on the continent's largest insect-rearing center, south of Addis Ababa. Weekly flights across Ethiopia's Rift Valley, a hotbed of the disease, could begin as early as this winter and continue for at least two years. [View Article](#)

Turkey Denies that Iraq Requested Atropine

14 November – Arabic News reported the Turkish health ministry secretary Safar Eidjan has denied news reports that Iraq had asked one of the Turkish companies to provide it with large amounts of Atropine, an immunizing agent for certain chemical gases that has the potential of being used for military purpose. In a press conference he held with the director general of the medicine and pharmacy, Orhan Jakmak, and the director general of the Turkish medical treatment services, Tahsin Adjar, Eidjan stressed that these news are baseless. He continued that the two said establishments did not receive a request from the Iraqi government to buy Atropine, nor they had exported any of this material. [View Article](#)

USNORTHCOM

California Dairy Herd Slaughtered After TB Outbreak

17 November – ProMed reported a dairy farmer has been paid by the federal government to slaughter his herd of 6400 cows after an outbreak of bovine tuberculosis (TB). The herd was euthanized to protect the state's status of being free of bovine TB. "If you didn't depopulate, the whole state would lose its whole TB-free status, and that would have an impact," said Larry Hawkins, a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) spokesman. [View Article](#)

Cities Wage Dengue Battle on U.S.-Mexico Border

17 November – Reuters reported officials on the U.S.-Mexico border on Sunday stepped up efforts to contain a dengue outbreak in the Mexican city of Matamoros after health authorities confirmed 24 cases and suspected another 222. Matamoros Public Health Director Ernesto Chanes said six of the suspected cases of dengue were the potentially lethal hemorrhagic dengue strain. Matamoros city workers are spraying neighborhoods where dengue cases have been confirmed and soldiers are patrolling streets looking for stagnant pools of water to contain the outbreak and stop it from spreading to the U.S. city of Brownsville, Texas, across the Rio Grande from Matamoros. Brownsville health director Josue Ramirez said the city was testing mosquitoes on a daily basis to monitor the disease and also spraying to kill mosquitoes and larvae. To date, there have been no confirmed cases in Texas. [View Article](#)

Community Acquired *Staphylococcus aureus* in Texas

15 November – ProMED reported since the beginning of the 2002--2003 school year, there have been about 50 cases of MRSA (methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) infection among the students in Pasadena, Texas' independent school district. This bacterial infection was discovered about 2 weeks into the school year. Officials believe the infection may have started with some of the team sports, like the football team. The Harris County Health Department is sending out a questionnaire to parents around the school district and countywide to try to get an idea how widespread this problem is.

[View Article](#)

Death Rates Higher at For-Profit Dialysis Centers

19 November – Health Scout News reported a new study has found that Americans who have dialysis done at private, for-profit centers face an 8 percent higher risk of death than those who seek the treatment at private, non-profit clinics. The research also suggests that switching kidney patients to the non-profit dialysis centers could prevent 2,500 deaths a year, and possibly many more. For-profit dialysis units typically have smaller staffs with less well-trained nurses and technicians than their non-profit alternatives. Patients also generally attend for-profit clinics for shorter periods, which has been associated with higher mortality rates. This study is especially relevant to those who receive Medicare benefits as the government insurance program had approved more than 67,000 dialysis facilities as of last year, of which roughly 75 percent were for-profit. SOURCE: Nov. 20, 2002, *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

[View Article](#)

FDA Issues Warning on Injected Drugs

17 November – ProMed reported The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a nationwide alert warning health workers that injectable antibiotics, pain medications and hormones made by Urgent Care Pharmacy of Spartanburg, SC, may be dangerous. Urgent Care recalled one of its

injectable drugs, the synthetic corticosteroid methylprednisolone, in September 2002 after it was linked to 4 cases of meningitis caused by a rare fungus *Wangiella dermatitidis*. The FDA said its inspections found the Spartanburg pharmacy ill-equipped to ensure sterility in any of the injected drugs it makes, and Urgent Care wasn't properly testing the drugs for sterility before shipping them to pain clinics and other customers. Urgent Care refused to recall any other drugs, the FDA said. So the government told health workers to avoid using any of the following injected drugs made by Urgent Care: baclofen, betamethasone, Bimix 30:1, clonidine, estradiol, hydromorphone, fentanyl, morphine, papaverine, Super Trimix, mesylate/prostaglandin, and testosterone. [View Article](#) [View FDA Report](#)

FDA, Pharmacia Update Bextra Label with New Warnings

15 November – The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported the FDA and Pharmacia are advising health care professionals about new warnings and information in the product labeling of the drug Bextra (valdecoxib). The labeling is being updated with new warnings following post marketing reports of serious adverse effects including life-threatening risks related to skin reactions including Stevens Johnson Syndrome, and anaphylactoid reactions. In addition, the labeling will state that the drug is contraindicated in patients allergic to sulfa containing products. People who start Bextra and experience a rash should discontinue the drug immediately. Health care professionals are encouraged to report any unexpected adverse or serious events associated with the use of Bextra directly to Pharmacia Corporation, Peapack, N.J. at 1-800-323-4204 or to the FDA MedWatch program at 1-800-FDA-1088. The Medwatch form is available online at <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/safety/3500.pdf> [View Article](#)

GAO: Military Hospitals Losing Money

19 November – The Las Vegas Sun reported the prospect of hundreds of people using Social Security numbers of dead people to obtain free medical care was disclosed Tuesday in a General Accounting Office review that turned up faulty record keeping at military hospitals in Georgia, Virginia and Texas. Investigators checking patient records at one military hospital discovered that the Social Security Administration had listed 41 of their patients as dead the year before they were treated at the hospital. The Social Security numbers of another 225 patients at the same hospital also turned up in the death records, but with different names or birth dates. Congressional investigators said those could have resulted from simple clerical errors or from individuals "fraudulently using a deceased person's identification to receive prescriptions and treatment at no cost." The GAO said the hospitals also are losing millions of dollars by not pursuing insurance payments for patients who have such coverage but also are entitled to free military medical care. And investigators uncovered potentially fraudulent uses of government credit cards at the hospitals and inadequate records of prescription drug inventories and usage. [View Article](#) [View Related Article](#) [View GAO Report](#)

Hepatitis Outbreak Traced to Clinic

19 November – [CNN](#) reported at least 81 people treated at a Nebraska cancer clinic have tested positive for hepatitis C in an outbreak that may have been caused by a contaminated vial of medicine, health officials said Tuesday. Dr. Tom Safranek, the state epidemiologist, said poor medical practices at Dr. Tahir Javed's clinic in Fremont might be to blame. The patients, who were suffering from cancer or blood disorders, were treated at the clinic in 2000 and 2001. Just before it shut down last month, the clinic advised 612 patients to get tested and nearly 500 did.

It is possible that a clinic worker used a syringe to administer medicine to a patient who had hepatitis C, then drew more medicine from the same vial for the patient with the same syringe, Safranek said. Medical charts are being examined, and state health officials are questioning current and past employees of the clinic. Health officials are confident no other patients have to be contacted because of changes made at the clinic in 2001, Safranek said, declining to elaborate. [View Article](#)

Herpes Feared in 7 Horse Deaths

17 November – ProMed reported seven standard bred horses are dead and 220 more in this region are being treated in a suspected outbreak of the equine herpes virus following a sale in London, Ontario. Five of the dead horses, purchased for harness racing, were sold at the Forest City Yearling Sale in London 3 weeks ago. The other 2 were in contact with the ill horses. Stan Henderson, a veterinarian at the Ilderton Equine Clinic reported that this is an especially serious form of the virus. In an effort to determine the source of the disease he is trying to track down most of these horses that have been sold. [View Article](#)

Suit Seeks to Block Burning of Chemical Arms

19 November –The New York Times reported an alliance of environmental and civil rights groups filed a federal lawsuit in a last-ditch effort to block the Army from burning tons of chemical weapons in a populated area. The suit demands that the Army complete more environmental studies before proceeding with its plan to incinerate thousands of old shells containing nerve gas, mustard gas and other deadly agents at the Anniston Army Depot. The lawsuit contends that the plan should be halted so scientists can consider recently discovered, less risky alternatives. The Army plans to begin destroying the weapons early next year. To stop the project, one of the issues the alliance must prove is that the weapons disposal poses an "imminent danger" to the community. The Army, which houses 9 percent of the nation's chemical weapon stockpile at the Anniston Army Depot, says that its process of burning chemical weapons at 2,700 degrees is completely safe and that no fumes that could hurt the public will be released. [View Article](#)

US Developing Biological Early Warning System

20 November – Reuters Health reported the US military, backed by civilian health authorities, is developing and beginning to deploy an early warning system for possible biological attacks, a conference on defending against biological warfare heard on Tuesday. The technique, known as "syndromic surveillance," incorporates data from hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, schools and even veterinarians into a single source to detect whether there has been a surge in any infectious disease. Such early information could be crucial because many biological agents are difficult to detect even by experienced doctors. Early symptoms of plague, smallpox or anthrax often look similar to those of the common flu. Syndromic surveillance does not seek to recognize whether a specific biological attack has occurred. It merely tips off the authorities about statistical abnormalities that might indicate an attack and need to be examined. [View Article](#)

U.S. Tightens Meat Plant Scrutiny

18 November – Newsday reported the government is tightening scrutiny of companies that process beef, pork and poultry for deli meats and hot dogs but don't test countertops, equipment and other parts of their plants for *Listeria*. The Agriculture Department issued a directive to its inspectors ordering increased oversight for companies that don't have testing programs of their own or who keep the results of such tests to themselves. Until now, the government has required meat processors to test their products for presence of the pathogen but not their plants and equipment. Previously, those plants that conducted such environmental testing did not have to share the results with federal inspectors. [View Article](#)

Vets Not Eligible for Lifetime Care

19 November – The Las Vegas Sun reported a federal appeals court reluctantly agreed with the government that military recruiters had no legal authority to promise World War II and Korean War veterans that they would get free lifetime health care if they stayed in the service 20 years. Although the government conceded military recruiters made the promises, the Defense Department convinced the court there was no valid contract because law did not back up the assurances. What are at stake in this case are the costs, estimated by Justice Department officials as billions of dollars, paid by older veterans between 1995 and 2001 when the Pentagon issued regulations providing free coverage by civilian doctors only for veterans under age 65. The majority opinion notes that the older veterans still could get free medical treatment at military bases when space was available. But hospital space was scarce due to military downsizing, leading many veterans over 65 to purchase Medicare Part B or costly private insurance coverage to ensure access to care. The law at most allowed these veterans space-available treatment, not free health insurance for life, the majority opinion says. The Pentagon, the decision concludes, "lacked the authority ... to promise free and full medical care" because these benefits cannot be subject to a contract, implied or otherwise. Congress recently enacted legislation providing free health care for all of these older veterans beginning in 2002. [View Article](#)

USPACOM

Flu Vaccination Linked to Muscle-wasting Disease

18 November – The Japan Times reported five people in Japan suffered Guillain-Barre syndrome -- a disorder of progressive muscle weakness -- after receiving influenza vaccinations between January 2000 and April 2002, health ministry officials said Sunday. The officials said the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry ordered the pharmaceutical companies that make the vaccines to state clearly that the disease is a possible adverse effect of the products. [View Article](#)

Taiwan Military Called in to Battle Dengue Fever

19 November - Reuters Health reported the Taiwan government will call in the military to help deal with an epidemic of dengue fever that is the island nation's worst since World War II, public health officials said. As of Monday, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has reported 4,464 confirmed cases of dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral disease. Among them, there were 121 cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever, a potentially fatal complication, and 13 deaths. About 98%

of confirmed cases this year were reported from three jurisdictions in southern Taiwan, according to the CDC. To further monitor the spread of the disease, CDC officials convened an emergency meeting in southern Taiwan on Monday, raising the alarm levels in Pingtung County, whose population is about 900,000. [View Article](#)

USSOUTHCOM

Argentina Renews Malnutrition Fight

20 November – CNN reported President Eduardo Duhalde on Tuesday launched a nationwide campaign to combat rising infant malnutrition, days after reports that at least eight children died of hunger in an impoverished northern province. A report by the Center for Infant Nutrition Studies in Argentina suggested 20 percent of Venezuelan children are malnourished. Called "Operation Rescue," the medical and food emergency program will begin November 25 in Tucuman, one of the areas hardest hit by the country's protracted economic crisis. The program will be a "house-to-house campaign among the poorest families to detect cases of infant malnutrition," said Hilda "Chiche" Duhalde, the president's wife and director of the government's social programs. A team of 120 pediatricians and 200 health care workers will be dispatched to the province, bringing mobile hospital units to the populations most at risk, she said. [View Article](#)

Ecuador – Government of Japan Press Release

15 November – Relief Web reported Japan decided to extend emergency aid in kind (portable water tanks, electric generators, water purifiers, etc.), worth approximately 12.9 million yen, to the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, which sustained large-scale damage from volcanic eruptions. The volcano Reventador in Ecuador erupted on November 3 (Sun) at 7:00 a.m. local time. The eruptions have continued with several lava flows that destroyed houses, bridges and roads mainly in Sucumbios, Pichincha and Napo provinces in the northeastern part of the country, and about 43,000 persons have been affected. [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/Hiouupdate/>.

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ACRONYMS

AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center
BBC – British Broadcasting Company
BMJ – British Medical Journal
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CIDRAP – Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CNN – Cable News Network
CSR – Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response – A branch of the WHO
DoD/GEIS – Department of Defense/Global Emerging Infections System
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency
FDA – Food and Drug Administration
IRIN - Integrated Regional Information Networks, part of the [UN](#) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
MMWR – Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
MSNBC – Microsoft National Broadcasting Company
NASA – National Aeronautic and Space Association
NIH – National Institute of Health
NIOSH- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
VOA-Voice of America
WHO – World Health Organization