

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

13 February 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
Alcohol Helps Heart by Cutting Inflammation.....	2
Corkscrew May Help in Stopping Strokes.....	2
Mercury Study Shows Permanent Damage to Children.....	2
Quick Tests Can Assess Stroke Risk.....	2
vCJD Transmission - Studies.....	3
Viral Replication in the Nasopharynx Is Associated with Diarrhea in Patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.....	3
WHO Issues Guidelines for Herbal Medicines.....	3
Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections System.....	3
FOCUS ON EPIDEMIOLOGY	4
Child Passenger Deaths Involving Drinking Drivers -- United States, 1997--2002.....	4
Influenza Update.....	5
USEUCOM	7
Dagestan: Outbreak of Measles in the Capital.....	7
Sex, Not Unsafe Injections, Fuels AIDS in Africa--Study.....	7
Sleeping Sickness Spreading into Southern Angola.....	7
Sudan a Hotbed of Exotic Diseases.....	7
US Military Targets Medical Projects in Africa.....	8
USCENTCOM	8
Iraq: Encephalitis Affecting Children.....	8
Saudi Doctors Suspect First Human Mad Cow Case.....	8
USNORTHCOM	9
Bush Orders Anti-terror Measures for Food Supply.....	9
Emergency Rooms Fail Test on Treating Food Allergy.....	9
FDA: Web Site Ships Fake Birth Control.....	9
Idaho: Human Salmonella Infection from Cat Exposure.....	9
New Heart-health Guidelines Issued for Women.....	10
USPACOM	10
China Probes Bizarre Death of Falling Birds.....	10
Dengue Fever Proliferates Despite Government Efforts.....	10
Nepal: Three Die, Dozens Infected by Rabies in Rolpa.....	10
Philippines: 470 CAR Barangay are Malaria-Endemic.....	10
Unknown Disease Makes 90 Nepalese People Ill.....	11
Vietnamese File First Agent Orange Suit.....	11
Vietnam Reports Outbreak of Foot-And-Mouth Disease.....	11

HOT TOPICS

Alcohol Helps Heart by Cutting Inflammation

09 February – Reuters reported the heart benefits seen with light alcohol use may relate to its ability to reduce inflammation, new research suggests. In a study of older adults, light alcohol use was tied to lower blood levels of interleukin-6 and C-reactive protein--two inflammatory proteins that have been linked to heart disease, researchers report in the American Heart Association journal *Circulation*. Several studies have identified protective heart effects with light alcohol use. The new findings provide a possible explanation for why such use is beneficial. [View Article](#)

Corkscrew May Help in Stopping Strokes

06 February – ABC News reported a tiny corkscrew that spears blood clots lodged deep within the brain appears to be a promising new tool for stopping [strokes](#). A doctor who tested the approach said in some cases, it immediately reversed paralysis and loss of speech when used in the first hours of a stroke. The only treatment now available for the emergency care of strokes is TPA. Only about 5 percent of stroke victims receive it, and among those, it helps only about one in eight. Testing of the corkscrew called the Merci Retrieval System was done on 109 patients. All had suffered severe strokes within the previous eight hours, and none could be given TPA. The corkscrew successfully retrieved the clot in half of them. Three-quarters of these patients survived, and 40 percent had few or no lasting disability. Among those in whom the clot could not be removed, half survived and just 6 percent had a good recovery. [View Article](#)

Mercury Study Shows Permanent Damage to Children

06 February – Reuters reported children whose mothers eat seafood high in mercury while pregnant can suffer irreparable brain damage, researchers said. The report comes the same week as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency doubled its estimate of how many newborns had unsafe levels of mercury in their blood. The study, done by an international group led by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health, also showed that children exposed to mercury in the womb may suffer permanent damage to their heart function. "We found that both prenatal and postnatal mercury exposure affects brain functions and that they seem to affect different targets in the brain," Philippe Grandjean, who led the study, said in a statement. "The fact that the current exposure has an additional effect, despite the low mercury concentrations is worrisome, especially for communities where seafood constitutes an important part of the diet," Grandjean added. [View Article](#)

Quick Tests Can Assess Stroke Risk

05 February – The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported a study suggests three inexpensive, quick and simple tests for [stroke](#) risk could save lives and billions of dollars in health-care costs in the United States. The study says these tests, which can be done in four minutes and cost about \$20, may help assess the risk of stroke in elderly people and the appropriate treatment. The three tests include: a "quick scan" of the carotid arteries in the neck; electrical measurement of heart rhythm using electrocardiogram; and blood pressure measurement. Using these tests, researchers screened

2,532 people over age 60 in central California. The tests found: neck artery blockages obstructing more than 50 percent of the artery in 7.5 percent (189) of those tested; atrial fibrillation in 5 percent (128); and high blood pressure in 29.5 percent (746). Researchers tried to prevent strokes in these people either by surgical removal of the carotid blockages or with drug treatment. The study says that if all 40 million Medicare recipients in the United States received similar stroke prevention screening, more than 200,000 strokes and 30,000 deaths could be prevented each year. That would result in savings of more than \$12 billion in health-care costs a year, the authors suggest. [View Article](#)

vCJD Transmission - Studies

07 February – Two studies published this week in the Lancet highlight the public-health implications of blood transfusion as a possible route for infection by the prion protein responsible for variant [Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease \(vCJD\)](#). Researchers identified a case of vCJD who received a blood transfusion from a donor who later died of vCJD, and conclude that this infection was unlikely to be a coincidence. A second study compared the degree of tissue infectivity among macaques who were given tissue containing the BSE agent orally or intravenously. The authors found that the degree of infectivity was similar regardless of the route of entry of the prion protein. [View Article](#)

Viral Replication in the Nasopharynx Is Associated with Diarrhea in Patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

15 February – The journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases reported the role of [severe acute respiratory syndrome \(SARS\)](#) coronavirus as an enteric pathogen was investigated in a cohort of 142 patients with SARS who were treated with a standard treatment protocol. Data from daily hematological, biochemical, radiological, and microbiological investigations were prospectively collected, and the correlation of these findings with diarrhea was retrospectively analyzed. Sixty-nine patients (48.6%) developed diarrhea at a mean of 7.6 ± 2.6 days after the onset of symptoms. The diarrhea was most severe at a mean of 8.8 ± 2.4 days after onset, with a maximum frequency of 24 episodes per day. A higher mean virus load in nasopharyngeal specimens obtained on day 10 after the onset of symptoms was significantly associated with the occurrence of diarrhea and mortality. However, diarrhea was not associated with mortality. The lung and the gastrointestinal tract may react differently to SARS coronavirus infection. Additional investigation of the role of SARS coronavirus in the pathogenesis of diarrhea in patients with SARS should be conducted. [View Article](#)

WHO Issues Guidelines for Herbal Medicines

10 February – Reuters reported the World Health Organization has issued guidelines for ensuring the safety and efficacy of the multi-billion dollar herbal medicines market amid reports that some products are tainted with toxic substances. The guidelines, intended for national regulatory bodies, lay out the best techniques for growing and harvesting medicinal plants used for various ailments or weight loss, as well as the clear labeling of the contents of any product. Herbal medicines represent an estimated \$60 billion a year global market, some 20 percent of the overall drug market, according to the U.N. agency. Yet only China, Japan and the European Union have regulations for medicinal plants. "It is not a binding guideline for any country, but it is a model or sort of checklist which they can use to make their own national regulations," Hans Hogerzeil, acting director of WHO's essential drugs and medicines department, told a news briefing. [View Article](#)

Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections System

11 February - Asia's widespread outbreak of avian influenza A (H5N1) including human deaths underscores the need for a robust global public health response with continuing laboratory-based

surveillance of US forces and other DoD beneficiaries, especially those who may have contact with the geographic area of the current avian influenza outbreak or people who have traveled from that area.

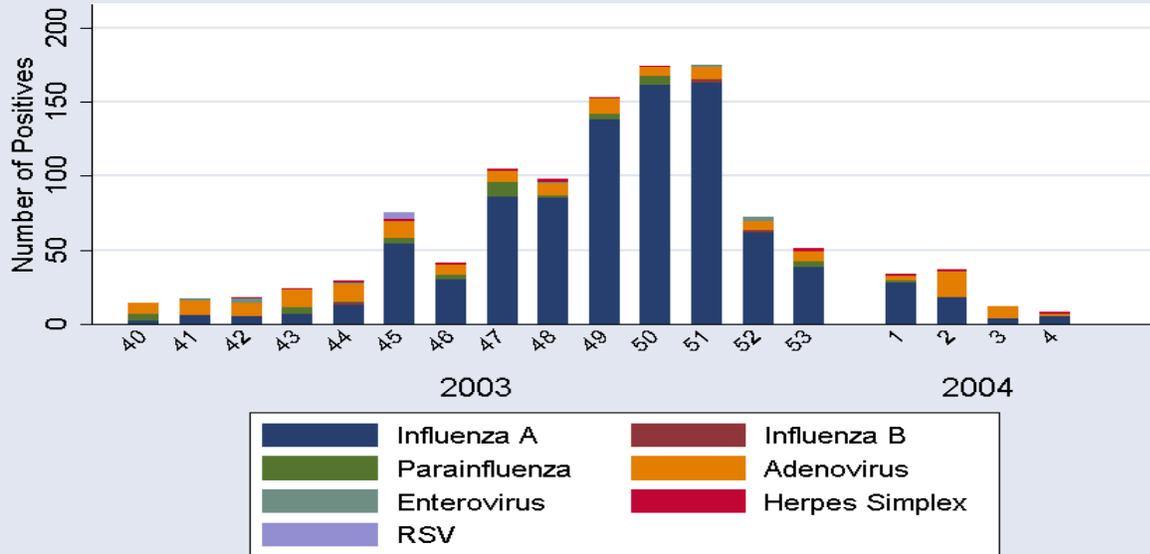
- SARS in China is a complicating factor, with 3 confirmed and 1 probable case. As noted by WHO and CDC, there is considerable potential for the clinical presentation and travel history of persons with either SARS or influenza A (H5N1) infection to overlap. Clinicians should follow their respective services policies for influenza [See Influenza Policies at www.geis.ha.osd.mil]. DoD laboratories should immediately notify the DoD Global Influenza Program POC at the Virology Laboratory, Air Force Institute for Operation Health, Brooks City-Base, TX, (telephone 210-536-1679/8383) if any influenza A isolates cannot be subtyped.
- H7 avian influenza has been reported in Delaware, prompting investigation and control measures there and in related markets in New York.
- With regard to human influenza, DoD's Global Influenza Surveillance System indicates that DoD influenza-like illness (ILI) has decreased dramatically, one half the weekly rate compared to the last week of December. In addition the number of weekly samples received has declined from a peak of 385 at the end of December to 20 samples for this past week. Influenza A/Fujian remains the predominant strain. CDC reports the number of states with widespread influenza activity decreased with no states now reporting widespread influenza and 11 reporting regional activity. Outpatient visits for ILI decreased four-fold from the last week of December to the past week.
- The FDA's Vaccine and Related Biologics Advisory Committee (VRBAC) will meet on February 18-19 to select the strains for next season's influenza vaccine. In addition to national data from CDC each year, data from the DoD Global Influenza Surveillance System presented by the AF Institute for Operational Health (AFIOH). The DoD Worldwide, Laboratory-based, Influenza Surveillance Program is a critical component of the WHO/CDC global network to detect respiratory disease, identify emerging influenza viruses and capture candidate viruses for possible inclusion in the next year's vaccine. Approximately 10% of CDC's specimens come from DoD surveillance. LTC(P) Phillips OASD(HA) is the DoD representative to the VRBAC. COL Neville and Ms. Linda Canas of AFIOH present DoD's surveillance data. CHPPM, GEIS, NHRC and AFIOH are working with CDC to summarize available flu vaccine effectiveness data as it relates this years' influenza A(H3N2) circulating strain. For more information go to www.geis.ha.osd.mil.

Focus on Epidemiology

Child Passenger Deaths Involving Drinking Drivers -- United States, 1997--2002

06 February – CDC/MMWR reported motor-vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children aged ≥ 1 year in the United States, and one in four crash-related deaths among child passengers aged ≤ 14 years involves alcohol use. To characterize the occurrence of child passenger deaths involving drinking drivers during 1997--2002, CDC analyzed data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. This report indicates that among the 2,355 children who died in alcohol-related crashes, 1,588 (68%) were riding with drinking drivers; the majority of these children were not restrained. To reduce the number of child fatalities in alcohol-related motor-vehicle crashes, effective interventions are needed to prevent alcohol-impaired driving and to increase use of child passenger restraints. [View Report](#)

Positive Viral Results by Week and Year Influenza Season 2003-2004



ILI Rate -- Global Military Health System

As of: 4 Feb 2004



Note: 2002-03 Data Only Available After Week 39
Horizontal Line is Interseasonal Threshold

[View Source](#)

USEUCOM

Dagestan: Outbreak of Measles in the Capital

09 February – proMed reported according to the Interfax News Agency, an outbreak of [measles](#) has occurred in Mahachkala (the capital city of Dagestan). Since the beginning of January 2004, 355 people have been registered as measles cases. 100 of them are children under 14 years old. The largest numbers of cases were recorded in the following villages: Hasvyurt, Kaytar, Unzukulsk, and Mahachkala. Specialists from the sanitary epidemiological surveillance center are conducting vaccination in the focus of infection. [View Report](#)

Sex, Not Unsafe Injections, Fuels AIDS in Africa--Study

05 February – Reuters reported unsafe sex is a far more common cause of the spread of [HIV/AIDS](#) across sub-Saharan Africa than contaminated medical injections, United Nations agencies said. A team of experts largely from the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNAIDS, in an article published in The Lancet medical journal, rejected a recent suggestion that Africa's epidemic is driven by unsafe health care injections and blood transfusions. By reasserting widely-held views that heterosexual sex spreads HIV/AIDS in up to 90 percent of adult cases on the continent, they vindicated existing prevention programs which focus on teaching safe sex and use of condoms. [View Article](#)

Sleeping Sickness Spreading into Southern Angola

08 February – ProMed reported [trypanosomiasis \(Sleeping Sickness\)](#) is ravaging Angola, threatening a sizeable section of the population across 14 of the 18 provinces. This is happening while Angola is still struggling to rebuild after a 27-year civil war that ended in April 2002. In 2003, 96 Angolans died of sleeping sickness while 3115 new cases and 270,000 suspected cases were detected nationwide. The 4 southern provinces of Kunene, Huambo, Namibe, and Huila are the only ones not affected so far. However, it is virtually endemic in the 7 northern provinces of Bengo, Kwanza north and Kwanza south, Luanda, Malange, Uige, and Zaire. The ICCT (the French acronym for the trypanosomiasis institute) admitted that there were vast areas where it had been completely unable to intervene. Despite a crippling lack of funds, the ICCT said that in 2003 it had managed to destroy 1 million tsetse flies in the 7 worst-hit provinces, including the province of Luanda, where the Angolan capital is located. A report published by the African Union in February in 2003 said sleeping sickness threatened development across the continent, with more than 500,000 suffering from the disease, 80 percent of whom perish. About 20 species of the tsetse fly are found across 1/3 of the continent in 37 sub-Saharan countries. Trypanosomiasis is also one of the most deadly parasite-borne animal diseases. [View Report](#)

Sudan a Hotbed of Exotic Diseases

03 February – CBS News reported it sounds like a place stricken by a biblical plague - disease after unimaginable disease, all come to rest in one pitiful region of a vast African country. Worms oozing out of people's feet; two kinds of flies whose bites cause death in bizarre ways; a baffling syndrome that throws children into seizures and retards their development before it ultimately kills them. While some of these devastating diseases can be found scattered around the world's poorest places, it is only in southern Sudan that they are all seen together in one country at the same time. Southern Sudan is one of the poorest and most neglected areas on Earth, with possibly the worst health situation in the world. There is, in essence, no health care system; humanitarian groups provide

nearly all the doctors and medicine. There are a total of three surgeons serving southern Sudan, which covers 80,000 square miles - 1½ times the size of Iraq. There are three proper hospitals, and in some areas there is just one doctor for about 500,000 people. [View Article](#)

US Military Targets Medical Projects in Africa

03 February – AllAfrica.com reported while many people know that the U.S. military cooperates with African nations in fighting international terrorism, very few are aware of the broad support the military gives to health care projects on the continent -- from building clinics to supplying ambulances and even hospital beds -- Pentagon official Lorraine Dasch told the Washington File during a recent interview. She said the DOD's humanitarian and medical programs have become "one of the mainstays and key goals in our interaction with African nations because they help build their [Africans'] capacity to deal with health challenges themselves." From repairing a women's clinic in Mombasa, Kenya, Dasch explained, to funding a cholera treatment and prevention effort in Madagascar, DOD spent more than \$1 million in medical assistance in 10 African nations in 2000 alone under its Humanitarian and Civic Assistance (HCA) program. There are health care projects in more than 60 countries worldwide, 30 of them in Africa. [View Article](#)

USCENTCOM

Iraq: Encephalitis Affecting Children

26 January – ReliefWeb reported Iraqi doctors have recorded an increase in cases of [encephalitis](#) in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, raising concerns about the state of children's healthcare in the country. This adds to a recent report by a leading health NGO which found that youngsters remained vulnerable to malnutrition. Doctors say there is little the doctors can do to contain "the outbreak" of encephalitis. "We have seen a significant increase in the number of cases since the war ended," Dr. Rada said. But he said it has been hard to treat the virus given the poor condition of Iraqi medical infrastructure after the US-led invasion of Iraq. Rada explained that the disease was causing long-term damage to children because it was going untreated. [View Report](#)

Saudi Doctors Suspect First Human Mad Cow Case

07 February – Reuters reported doctors in Saudi Arabia have diagnosed the first case in the kingdom of the human form of [mad cow disease](#) and medical sources suggested the victim contracted the disease in Britain, newspapers said on Saturday. Okaz newspaper quoted the sources as saying preliminary tests indicated the unnamed man was suffering from the disease, known as variant Creutzfeld-Jakob disease (vCJD). But they suggested he was most likely to have contracted it on a visit to Britain. The paper quoted an agriculture ministry official saying Saudi cattle were subject to specialist testing and no illness had been registered among herds in the kingdom. The man is believed to have visited Britain, where mad cow disease devastated the beef industry and dozens of people have died from vCJD. [View Article](#)

USNORTHCOM

Bush Orders Anti-terror Measures for Food Supply

04 February – CNN News reported President Bush has ordered three Cabinet departments and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop new procedures to protect the nation's food supply from terror attack. An executive order released involved the departments of agriculture, health and human services and homeland security, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, in the response to potentially calamitous agricultural terrorism. "It's from farm to fork," said Jeremy Stump, USDA's director of homeland security. "It's a protective shield around the whole sector." The directive calls for creation of systems to contain any outbreaks of plant or animal disease that result from terror attack, and to prevent or cure the diseases themselves. [View Article](#)

Emergency Rooms Fail Test on Treating Food Allergy

09 February – Reuters reported Emergency Rooms are not providing the proper lifesaving care to people brought in with severe [allergic reactions to food](#), U.S. researchers reported. A survey of 21 North American emergency rooms showed only 16 percent of all patients coming in with severe allergic reactions were treated with epinephrine, the gold standard for treating allergic reactions to food. Sunday Clark and colleagues at the Department of Emergency Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston found that 72 percent of the patients were given antihistamines, while 48 percent got corticosteroids -- neither of which is supposed to be used in treating an acute allergic reaction. Writing in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Clark and colleagues said the patients they studied had allergies to nuts, crustaceans, fruit and fish. Only 16 percent were prescribed self-injectable epinephrine when leaving, despite the very real risk of suffering a life-threatening reaction again. And only 12 percent were advised to visit an allergist or immunologist. [View Article](#)

FDA: Web Site Ships Fake Birth Control

04 February – CNN News reported an overseas Internet site is shipping counterfeit versions of a popular Johnson & Johnson birth control patch, versions that won't provide any protection against pregnancy, federal health officials warned. Do not use Ortho Evra patches -- or any other drugs -- ordered from the Web site www.rxpharmacy.ws, the Food and Drug Administration warned. While the contraceptive patch is the only drug so far proved a fake from that site, the FDA said consumers should consider its other products suspect, too. Contact a health provider immediately if you've used them, the FDA advised. That Web site is the only known source of the counterfeit patches, said the FDA, which is investigating the fraud's source. [View Article](#)

Idaho: Human Salmonella Infection from Cat Exposure

05 February – ProMed reported 10 cases of human [salmonella](#) infection were reported recently in the Treasure Valley area that links the bacteria to kittens and cats from the Idaho Humane Society. All of the cages the animals were in have since been thoroughly cleaned. Central District Health officials say the key in preventing salmonella from spreading from a pet to a person is to simply wash your hands. 18 percent of the total number of cat population has salmonella at any given time. [View Report](#)

New Heart-health Guidelines Issued for Women

04 February – CNN News reported heart disease is the leading killer of both genders in the United States, but until now, women had to rely on prevention and treatment guidelines based on research on men. On 04 February, the American Heart Association outlined measures for women to combat and prevent cardiovascular disease, the first evidence-based guidelines for women. The new prevention guidelines aimed at women urge at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity most days; quitting smoking; and that high-risk women receive cholesterol-lowering drugs, preferably statins, and take omega 3 and folic acid supplements. [View Article](#)

USPACOM

China Probes Bizarre Death of Falling Birds

10 February – ProMed reported Chinese authorities have been quietly investigating the mysterious deaths of thousands of tiny birds said to have fallen from the sky over Communist Party chief Hu Jintao's birthplace, sources say. More than 10,000 bramblings dropped like "bird rain" from the sky in Taizhou, in the eastern coastal province of Jiangsu, on Tuesday, considered a bad omen at the beginning of the new lunar year. Authorities had ruled out bird flu, which is sweeping across Asia, as the cause of death and buried the dead birds. A spokesman for the Taizhou city government said the cause of death of the bramblings was unknown but he suspected poisoning. "Dead birds have been retrieved from villagers," he said. "Farmers have been told not to sell or eat the birds." Villagers who ate or came into contact with the dead birds had been put under surveillance. A Communist Party source said that the government had sent investigators to Taizhou. Samples have been sent to a lab for tests. [View Report](#)

Dengue Fever Proliferates Despite Government Efforts

04 February – The Jakarta Post reported repeated warnings from the government to the public to take preventive measures against [dengue fever](#) at the beginning and the end of the rainy season, apparently have not done any good as around 300 Jakartans still suffered from the disease this year alone. Director of Communicable Diseases at the Ministry of Health Umar Fahmi Achmadi said on Tuesday that he had repeatedly called on the public to fight the disease by removing standing water where mosquitoes may breed. [View Article](#)

Nepal: Three Die, Dozens Infected by Rabies in Rolpa

01 February – Kantipur Online reported at least three people have died of [Rabies](#) that have spread since last few weeks in Rolpa district. The disease, which was first noticed two years ago, has infected dozens of people in the district at present. According to Liwang Health Center, about half a dozen people with suspected Rabies have been coming to the health center daily. Mad dogs have bitten dozens of people in various Villages in the district and flow of the people to other districts for treatment has also increased. [View Article](#)

Philippines: 470 CAR Barangay are Malaria-Endemic

07 February – The SunStar Baguio reported more than 470 barangays in the Cordilleras were labeled as [malaria](#)-endemic areas even as health officials reported that they have tapped experts to study the

rare occurrence of new strains of malaria in other areas in the region.

Years ago, More than 450,000 Cordillera residents, mostly children were reported to be suffering from malaria and the Department of Health-Cordillera Administrative Region (DOH-CAR) discovered that these malaria patients have developed a resistance to the first and second recommended medicines to cure malaria. In a press conference Wednesday, Dr. Antonio Bautista, chief of the DOH-CAR Disease and Control Prevention Unit, said Apayao province recorded the most number of malaria patients. Bautista added that the town of Conner in Apayao recorded the presence of plasmodium malariae, which according to him, is an acute form of malaria. He said the DOH-CAR has tapped the services of the Center for Infectious Diseases of the University of the Philippines in Manila to help them investigate the rare occurrence of plasmodium malariae in Apayao. This acute form of malaria was only endemic in Palawan and Mindano before, said Bautista. [View Article](#)

Unknown Disease Makes 90 Nepalese People Ill

06 February – ProMed reported at least 90 persons have taken seriously ill with an unknown disease which has spread in the past few days in Nepal's central district of Dolakha. The symptoms of the disease are breathing difficulty, fever, giddiness, lethargy, and cough. Those infected range in age from 1.5 to 75 years, and most of them came from Pawati village, more than 100 km northeast of Kathmandu, Upreti said. A 3-member medical team has been sent to the village to treat the patients.

[View Report](#)

Vietnamese File First Agent Orange Suit

04 February – MSNBC News reported three Vietnamese who say they or their families became ill from [Agent Orange](#) defoliant used by America in the war nearly 30 years ago have filed the first lawsuit against makers of the product, a victims group said. The two women and a man filed the suit seeking unspecified damages on January 30 in a New York court, an official at the Vietnam Association of Agent Orange Victims told Reuters on Wednesday. The group was formed last month. Dow Chemical Co and Monsanto Co, the two largest makers of the chemical named after the color of its containers, were among the more than 20 firms named in the suit, the official said. [View Article](#)

Vietnam Reports Outbreak of Foot-And-Mouth Disease

09 February – Reuters reported Vietnam, already grappling with bird flu that has wiped out millions of its poultry and killed 18 people in Asia, has detected a lethal outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in one province, a health official said on Monday. She said the disease had killed more than 1,000 cattle and 200 pigs from six districts in the province. "We will try to save the cattle by injecting vaccines but all infected pigs will be slaughtered and destroyed," she said. Quang Nam is the only province in the country that has reported confirmed cases of the disease, the official said. Henry Schmick, Agricultural Officer at the U.S. embassy in Hanoi, told Reuters that foot-and-mouth outbreaks are not unusual in Vietnam and the region. [View Report](#)

USSOUTHCOM

Nothing Significant to Report.

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: Rachel Gross, PhD
Rachel.Gross@APG.amedd.army.mil

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

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