

**USACHPPM**

**HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE**

28 June 2002

The HIO Weekly Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The weekly 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 Weekly Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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## Acrylamide in Food – [WHO](#)

On 22 June, the [VOA](#) reported that the WHO has convened an emergency meeting of 25 international experts to evaluate the recent Swedish study that demonstrated some starch-based foods cooked at temperatures over 180° C contained acrylamide. Similar studies in Britain, Switzerland, and Norway have shown the same results. Acrylamide, used to produce plastics and dyes and to purify drinking water, has been shown to be carcinogenic in animal experiments and is suspected of causing cancer among people exposed to high levels for long periods. The report is at <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=3364F86C-2ECF-4C95-AD36BAAC479048D9&title=WHO%20to%20Host%20Discussion%20on%20Health%20Risk%20Caused%20by%20Acrylamide%20in%20Some%20Foods&catOID=45C9C786-88AD-11D4-A57200A0CC5EE46C>.

## Anthrax – Genetic Analysis Update

On 23 June, the *Washington Post* reported government officials announced that scientists have determined the anthrax spores mailed to Capitol Hill last fall were made less than two years ago, which casts doubt on the hypothesis that the spores could have been stolen from a lab decades ago and saved in dry storage. On 20 June, the *Washington Post* reported researchers working for the [FBI](#) are now analyzing the genetic code for the first anthrax sample used in laboratory work, which produced all the other samples used throughout the country. The researchers hope to determine the rate of genetic mutation across generations of bacteria in order to allow identification of the lab of origin. Conventional genetic fingerprinting, tried initially, did not work because various samples of the Ames strain are virtually identical. In January, researchers unraveling the entire genetic code of anthrax found small differences between the

anthrax mailed to Florida and anthrax from a lab in England. These researchers turned their work over to scientists in Arizona, who were working for the FBI, to compare the attack sample to hundreds of samples from every lab known to house the bacteria. The Arizona scientists were unable to find the same differences among samples in their lab, which led them to believe that anthrax used in the attacks may have evolved genetically explaining why it no longer matched between the two lab samples. The reports are at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A29872-2002Jun22.html> and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A15086-2002Jun20.html>.

### **Bacteriocin – Potential for Therapeutic Use**

On 20 June, Clemson University announced that researchers looking for bacteriocins, proteins produced by bacteria that act as natural food preservatives, might have stumbled on a new and potentially effective acne treatment that attacks bacteria unlike conventional commercial compounds. Acne bacteria are distant relatives to the Swiss cheese bacteria that were under investigation. The researchers have contracted with ImmuCell Corporation to commercialize their work. The report is at [http://www.clemson.edu/agforestryresearch/news\\_releases.htm](http://www.clemson.edu/agforestryresearch/news_releases.htm).

### **ChemBio Mask Distribution – Washington DC**

On 26 June, the Associated Press reported that US Capitol police have ordered 25,000 so-called “quick masks” to help protect tourists, lawmakers and their staffs. The masks, which are one-piece hoods that filter chemical gases and biological particles through a fitted mouthpiece, will be stored in various parts of the Capitol. The masks are designed to help people who are caught in hazardous locations leave those areas safely. District health officials are not recommending that residents or visitors obtain their own masks. The report is at <http://www.nbc4.com/news/1531124/detail.htm>.

### **Cholesterol Palm Test – [FDA](#) Approval**

On 24 June, the FDA approved a new laboratory test to measure skin cholesterol in adults with severe coronary artery disease (50% closure of two or more arteries) using the palm of the hand. The test is called Cholesterol 1,2,3. About 11% by weight of all body cholesterol is present in the skin. The test cannot be used on people with skin diseases on the hand or on those who recently applied skin lotions or topical medications. Also, the test results may be race and age dependent. The report is at <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/ANSWERS/2002/ANS01154.html>.

### **Food Poisoning – G8 Summit**

On 24 June, Reuters reported that about 30 Canadian police officers helping guard the isolated Rocky Mountains resort site of the G8 Summit came down with food poisoning. The police were stationed inside the tight security zone established around the Kananaskis resort, where leaders of the Group of Eight leading nations met 26-27 June. A police representative dismissed that the illnesses were from a deliberate poisoning.

The Group of Eight is composed of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, and the United States. The report is at <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N24260381?view=PrinterFriendly>.

### **Gulf War Library – [DoD](#)**

On 18 June, the DoD, [VA](#), and the [CDC](#) announced the launch of an Internet site called Medsearch, a central repository of Gulf War-related medical research. Medsearch can be found on the Internet at <http://www.gulflink.osd.mil/medsearch>. Developers designed the website to serve the needs of both the layperson and the researcher. The goal of Medsearch's creators is to include all the federally funded research into the illnesses of Gulf War veterans in one centralized place.

### **Gulf War Veterans – [UK](#) and US**

On 18 June, the BBC reported that for the first time a US congressional committee has held a meeting at Westminster to hear evidence in Parliament about Gulf War Syndrome. The hearing is part of a US congressional sub-committee investigation into Gulf war-related illnesses among US and coalition forces. In May a former UK army soldier won a nine-year battle to have his illness recognized as Gulf War Syndrome. Evidence gathered by the sub-committee members, led by Christopher Shays, is expected to be included in a report to Congress this week. According to the report, 5,000 Gulf War veterans in the UK are said to be affected by the syndrome. The report is at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/uk/newsid\\_2050000/2050898.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/uk/newsid_2050000/2050898.stm).

### **Medical Residents Workweek – [AMA](#)**

On 21 June, the [VOA](#) reported that the AMA has endorsed no more than 80 hours per week for medical students performing their hospital training or residencies beginning next year. The new guidelines are aimed at preventing injuries to students as well as their patients. According to the report many physicians in training, or residents, regularly work 100 hours per week, sometimes for 36 hours straight. While it has historically been seen as good training and a rite of passage for new physicians, it has increasingly been seen as potentially dangerous. The report is at <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=0D662E57-D28E-445A-AB7FD2BFD7F758CA&title=AMA%20Endorses%20Shorter%20Workweek%20for%20Medical%20Residents&catOID=45C9C786-88AD-11D4-A57200A0CC5EE46C>.

### **Mild Sleep Deprivation and Hormonal Levels – Endocrine Society**

On 24 June, ABC News reported that researchers announced the results of a study at the Endocrine Society annual meeting that found just two hours of sleep deprivation for one week could impair daily functioning and affect hormonal levels in the body. Men and women had a 40% to 60% average increase in the inflammatory marker interleukin-6 (IL-6), while men alone showed a 20% to 30% increase in another marker for inflammation, tumor necrosis factor (TNF). Both IL-6 and TNF are cytokines, which are

proteins released in response to injury. According to the study, women seemed to be more resilient, producing lower levels of TNF and sleeping more soundly at 70 minutes of deep sleep or rapid eye movement (REM) compared to the 40 minutes obtained by men. The report is at [http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/reuters20020624\\_325.html](http://abcnews.go.com/wire/Living/reuters20020624_325.html).

### **Nuclear Power Plants Security – US**

On 17 June, Reuters reported that a study commissioned by the Nuclear Energy Institute found that a hijacked commercial airliner loaded with explosive jet fuel traveling at 300 miles per hour (same speed as the aircraft that damaged the Pentagon) could not penetrate a US nuclear power reactor and release deadly radiation. According to the report, a pilot flying closer to the ground and aiming at a nuclear reactor would not be able to control an airplane at 500 mph (speed of two airliners that destroyed New York's World Trade Center) because of pressure waves that would be created. US plants are designed to protect the radioactive core from tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes. The Nuclear Control Institute, after conducting its own tests, has recommended that federal regulators consider asking [DoD](#) to place anti-aircraft missiles at nuclear power plant facilities to shoot down a hijacked plane aiming for the site. The nuclear industry opposed such a plan, saying that a military commander would have only about 45 seconds after spotting a commercial plane to decide if it was an attack and should be fired upon. The report is at [http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20020618/ts\\_nm/utilities\\_attack\\_dc\\_3](http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20020618/ts_nm/utilities_attack_dc_3).

### **Smallpox (*Vaccinia*) Vaccine – [ACIP](#) Recommendations**

On 20 June, the ACIP made supplemental recommendations for the use of smallpox (*Vaccinia*) vaccine, which are now under consideration by the [CDC](#) and the [DHHS](#). Recommendations were made based on an assessment that considers the risks of disease and the benefits and risks of vaccination. Recommendations for the vaccination of laboratory workers who directly handle recombinant *Vaccinia* viruses derived from non-highly attenuated *Vaccinia* strains, or other orthopoxviruses that infect humans (e.g., monkeypox, cow, *Vaccinia*, and *Variola*) remain unchanged. Vaccination of the general population was not recommended under the current circumstances, with no confirmed smallpox and the risk of an attack assessed as low. Smallpox vaccination is recommended for (1) persons pre-designated by the appropriate bioterrorism and public health authorities (smallpox response teams) to conduct investigation and follow-up of initial smallpox cases that would necessitate direct patient contact and (2) selected personnel in facilities pre-designated by the appropriate bioterrorism and public health authorities to serve as referral centers to provide care for the initial cases of smallpox. As outlined in the [CDC Interim Smallpox Response Plan and Guidelines](#), state bioterrorism response plans should designate initial smallpox isolation and care facilities (e.g., type C facilities). In turn, these facilities should pre-designate individuals who would care for the initial smallpox cases. To staff augmented medical response capabilities, additional personnel should be identified and trained to care for smallpox patients. The report is at [http://www.cdc.gov/nip/smallpox/supp\\_rec.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/smallpox/supp_rec.htm).

## **Virtual Physicians – Growing Trend**

On 22 June, CBS News reported that there appears to be a growing trend of virtual physician visits via the Internet. In an example clinic, patients are able to access their physician group's web site and log into an "online office" using a logon name and password. The patients then have menu options, such as a prescription refill or test results. The patient can also get a consultation. The patient chooses a main symptom from a pick list, which then prompts the patient with a series of questions. Healthcare providers check their consults three times a day and consult the patient's medical records prior to sending a reply. The system sends the patient an email telling them that there is an answer waiting for them on the "online office." In consideration of liability, the computer system provides a clear record of what was discussed and/or prescribed, which has some advantages over the telephone consultation. The report is at <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/06/21/earlyshow/saturday/main513017.shtml>.

## **USCENTCOM**

### **Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) – Iran**

On 21 June, ProMED reported that the Iranian official news agency IRNA reported on 20 June that 10 Iranians suspected of being infected with CCHF have died since the new Iranian year, which started on 21 March. According to the report, the victims were among 28 suspected patients of which only three cases so far have been confirmed as CCHF. A spokesperson said that the southern and southeastern provinces of Fars and Sistan Baluchestan as well as the central Tehran province have the highest rates of infection. In many parts of the world the disease is commonly transmitted through tick bites, but the most common source of contagion in Iran is contact with contaminated meat. The highest risk groups in Iran are butchers and cooks. The report is at [http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:270707::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,18564](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:270707::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,18564).

### **Diarrheal Syndrome – Kyrgyzstan**

On 20 June, [AFMIC](http://www.afmic.detrick.army.mil/) reported that 77 cases of dysentery have been reported during the first week of June in Bishkek, which is reportedly linked to fruits and berries. The report is at (requires registration) <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>.

### **Earthquake – Iran**

On 24 June, the Agence France-Presse reported that an earthquake, measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale, killed 229 people and injured 1,300 in northwestern Qazvin and Hamedan provinces, Iran on 22 June according to the interior ministry. According to the International Federation of the Red Cross, most of the severe injuries were crushed limbs caused by houses falling on their occupants. The UN has completed a two-day survey of the disaster zone, which highlighted the failure of the Iranian authorities to swiftly deliver aid to the region. The [UN](http://www.un.org/) estimated as many as 80,000 people were left

homeless. Iran has welcomed but not requested international assistance. The report is <http://www.reliefweb.int/w/rwb.nsf/9ca65951ee22658ec125663300408599/93aa4def521c5650c1256be2005d70b3?OpenDocument>.

### **Malaria – Afghanistan**

On 20 June, [AFMIC](#) reported that a total of six cases of malaria have now been diagnosed in Coalition soldiers deployed to Afghanistan. *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax* have both been diagnosed. The patients were reportedly non-compliant with prophylactic medication. The report is at (requires registration) <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>.

### **Malaria – Kyrgyzstan**

On 20 June, [AFMIC](#) reported that 82 suspected cases of malaria were reported in the Batken region of southern Kyrgyzstan. The report is at (requires registration) <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>.

### **Nerve Gas Traces False – Uzbekistan**

On 23 June, the *Washington Post* reported that further testing of wood, soil, concrete samples, and devices used in the initial tests found no traces of chemical weapon contamination at three sites on Karshi Khanabad Air Base in southern Uzbekistan. The analysis conducted at military labs in Edgewood, Maryland found organic compounds that share some common traits with base compounds of chemical weapons. Speculations for the false positive included chemicals used to treat lumber used at the sites. The report is at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A31148-2002Jun23.html>.

### **Poliomyelitis Eradication Efforts – Afghanistan and Pakistan**

On 21 June, the [CDC](#) reported that the ongoing armed conflict and political instability in Afghanistan and Pakistan could threaten efforts to stop virus transmission by the end of 2002. Afghanistan and Pakistan together represent one of three global reservoirs where low routine oral poliovirus vaccine coverage and high population density favor poliovirus transmission. Although polio is still endemic in both countries, the incidence and geographic distribution of poliovirus have been reduced significantly by intensified eradication efforts and improved oral poliovirus vaccine coverage by using a house-to-house vaccination strategy during national and sub-national immunization days. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5124a1.htm>.

## **USEUCOM**

## **Air Quality Guidelines – Europe**

On 14 June, the [WHO](#) announced an updated (second) version of Air Quality Guidelines for Europe. The guidelines are intended to provide background information and guidance to (inter)national and local authorities in making risk assessment and risk management decisions. The guidelines (900KB) are available at <http://www.euro.who.int/document/e71922.pdf>.

## **Avian Influenza – Senegal**

On 21 June, the [OIE](#) reported that an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Senegal was mentioned in the monthly report of this country for April 2002. More information has been requested. If true, this would be the first reported outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Senegal since March 1993. The report is at [http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/AIS\\_66.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/AIS_66.htm).

## **Classic Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) – South Africa**

On 24 June, Reuters reported that previous reports of suspected [vCJD](#) in South Africa were now confirmed to be iatrogenic CJD. According to the report, the 27-year-old man contracted classic CJD after having an imported dura mater graft two years previously. South Africa has had no reported cases of BSE or vCJD. The report is at <http://www.reutershealth.com/frame2/eline.html>.

## **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) – Zimbabwe**

On 21 June, the [OIE](#) confirmed that FMD had been diagnosed in 50 cattle out of a herd of 3,112 cattle in the Midlands Province. Cattle in the area were previously vaccinated in February 2002 and re-vaccinated in April 2002. It was during the second vaccination that FMD was found. The report is at [http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/AIS\\_66.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/info/hebdo/AIS_66.htm).

## **Hemorrhagic Fever, Suspected – Gabon and Republic of the Congo**

On 24 June, the [WHO](#) reported that as of 19 June two deaths of suspected acute hemorrhagic fever syndrome had occurred in the Zadié district, Ogooué-Ivindo Province in the northeastern part of Gabon. On 20 June an epidemic response team went to the village of Ekata and found two suspect cases of acute hemorrhagic fever syndrome as well as 31 contacts of these cases. Both cases had become ill while in Oloba, Mbomo district, the Republic of the Congo. An outbreak of suspected acute hemorrhagic fever syndrome involving six suspect cases and five deaths had occurred earlier in June in the Mbomo district. No new cases had been reported in the Mbomo district since the last death on 6 June. These same areas were the site of an epidemic of Ebola hemorrhagic fever that began in late October 2001. The last case in Gabon died on 19 March, and Gabonese officials declared that the outbreak had ended on 6 May, approximately two incubation periods after any possible contact with the last case. The report is at <http://www.who.int/disease-outbreak-news/n2002/june/24june2002.html>.

## **Indigenous Poliomyelitis Free – European Region**

On 21 June, the [WHO](#) announced certification of the 51 member states of the European Region of the WHO as polio-free. The announcement was declared the region's most important public health milestone of the new millennium. Certification requires that a region has been free of indigenous poliomyelitis for over three years. Europe's last case of indigenous wild poliomyelitis occurred in eastern Turkey in 1998, when the virus paralyzed a two-year-old boy. Since the Global Polio Eradication Initiative was launched in 1988, two WHO regions have been certified polio-free: the Americas in 1994 and the Western Pacific in 2000. Only ten polio-endemic countries remained in 2001. The report is at <http://www.who.int/inf/en/pr-EURO.2002-12.02.html>.

## **Meningitis – Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

On 16 June, the BBC reported that 24 people have died in an outbreak of meningitis that is said to be spreading rapidly in northeast DRC near Mai-Ndombe Lake, about 450 kilometers from the capital, Kinshasa. The Congolese minister said extra medical teams had been sent to the worst affected areas. The report is at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/africa/newsid\\_2047000/2047748.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/africa/newsid_2047000/2047748.stm).

## **USJFCOM**

### **Asthma Death – US Wildfires**

On 24 June, the *Las Vegas Sun* reported that the first death attributed to Colorado's largest wildfire on record occurred recently in a 50-year old woman who died from a severe asthma attack and smoke inhalation. The Colorado wildfire extended into Arizona after two huge fires joined to create a large single inferno. The reports are at <http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/nat-gen/2002/jun/24/062406721.html> and [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/americas/newsid\\_2061000/2061197.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/americas/newsid_2061000/2061197.stm).

### **Bioterrorism and Epidemiology – Virginia**

On 20 June, the *Washington Post* reported that Virginia has begun hiring one epidemiologist and one bioterrorism coordinator for each of its 35 health districts this month after receiving \$22 million in federal funds. The epidemiologists will track and investigate more common diseases on a day-to-day basis, but would be first to respond to an unusual communicable disease or disease situations in their district. According to the report, all of the epidemiologists for Northern Virginia could be in place as soon as next month. The report is at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A11538-2002Jun19.html>.

### **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) – New Mexico**

On 19 June, KOB-TV reported on their website that an animal health emergency was declared by New Mexico officials to close the state to any imported deer or elk after

CWD was found in a mule deer killed on White Sands Missile Range. It was the first positive case of CWD in New Mexico, expanding the disease range from Colorado, Wyoming, Wisconsin, South Dakota, and Saskatchewan, Canada. CWD is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy and is in the same family as BSE. The state is encouraging hunters to provide the heads of deer and elk within a 48-hour period for testing. While there is no known relationship between CWD and any other disease of animals or people, the state is advising hunters to follow precautions when handling dead animals. Hunters should not consume any neural tissue of animals, such as the brain or spinal cord, and they should wear gloves when butchering the animal. The report is at <http://www.kobtv.com/archive/2002/june/19/wastingdisease.htm>.

### **Contaminated Fish – US**

On 25 June, Reuters reported that a recent [EPA](#) report found that 28% of the nation's lakes (up from 26% in 2000) have advisories warning consumers that fresh-caught fish may be contaminated with mercury, dioxins, or other chemicals. In addition, some 14% of US rivers were covered by advisories in 2001, up from 10.5% in 2000. Eating fish that contain high concentrations of mercury, dioxins, PCBs, and other industrial chemicals can be especially harmful to pregnant women and children. The EPA posts details about state fish advisories at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/>. The report is at <http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2002/06/25/eline/links/20020625elin035.html>.

### **Hanford Thyroid Disease Study (HTDS) Final Report – [CDC](#)**

On 21 June, the CDC released the final report from the 13-year HTDS, which revealed that the risks of thyroid disease in study participants were about the same regardless of the radiation dose they received from radioactive iodine-131 from the Hanford Nuclear Weapons Production Facility in Washington state between 1944 and 1957. While thyroid disease was found, researchers determined that rates of the disease in the study participants were about the same as rates in other populations. The HTDS focused on a group of people who were young children when they were exposed because scientists believe that young children receive a higher dose to the thyroid gland than adolescents and adults for the same level of exposure and that their thyroid gland in young children may be more sensitive to the effects of radiation. Congress mandated the HTDS in 1988 after the US DOE made public documents revealing that large quantities of radioactive materials were released from the Hanford Nuclear Weapons Plant in the 1940s and 1950s, especially in 1945. The announcement is at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r020621.htm>.

### **Hepatitis A – Florida**

On 17 June, *The Miami Herald* reported that health officials in central Florida have confirmed a second death in Polk County from hepatitis A in the worst outbreak seen there in a decade. The cause of the more recent death was hepatitis A complicated by chronic hepatitis C. In the first months of 2002, the Polk County Health Department had 185 confirmed cases of hepatitis A, far more than the county had in all of 2001.

According to the report, officials have been documenting four to nine new cases per week. Although six cases in April were linked to one restaurant, the origin of the ongoing outbreak has not been determined. The report is at <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/state/3484206.htm>.

### **National Nanoscience Initiative – [DOE](#)**

On 19 June, the DOE announced a new center for nanoscale science research at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. The center will be one of five nanoscience centers proposed by DOE as part of the National Nanotechnology Initiative. According to the DOE Secretary, nanoscience has the potential for a second industrial revolution with applications that range from microscopic chemical factories to electronic devices that first assemble themselves and then repair themselves. The report is at <http://www.science.doe.gov/>.

### **Prilosec – Over-the-Counter (OTC) Potential**

On 22 June, the *Washington Post* reported that an advisory committee of the [FDA](#) recommended that Prilosec, a heartburn medicine, be allowed to be sold OTC to prevent chronic heartburn, and not to treat stomach problems after a big pizza dinner or a spicy meal. The FDA is expected to make a decision within the next several months but generally follows the recommendations of its advisory committees. The report is at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A25990-2002Jun21.html>.

### **Rabies Oral Vaccine – Eastern US**

On 23 June, the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* reported that the [USDA](#) has contracted pilots to fly over parts of Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia in order to release oral rabies vaccine contained in fishmeal cakes, which are intended for wildlife, particularly raccoons, to slow the spread of raccoon rabies. Raccoons are the primary rabies carrier in the eastern US. In other parts of the country, e.g., Texas, coyote and fox rabies are being targeted with a similar program. The report is at [http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribune-review/regional/s\\_77838.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/tribune-review/regional/s_77838.html).

### **Rashes Among Schoolchildren – US**

On 21 June, the [CDC](#) updated an earlier report on public health concerns about rashes among school children in 27 states. While reports of rashes among school children have continued since publication of the initial investigation on 1 March, there is still no evidence of a common cause for all of the reports. Investigations have identified causes for some of the rashes (including rashes of unknown etiology). Reports indicate the rashes are self-limiting and that affected children have few, if any, accompanying signs or symptoms. According to the report, children routinely have rashes resulting from a variety of causes including medications, dry or sensitive skin, eczema, allergies, viral infections, and environmental factors. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5124a2.htm>.

## **Tetanus and Diphtheria (Td) Toxoids – US**

On 21 June, the [CDC](#) reported that the supply of adult tetanus and diphtheria toxoids in the US had become sufficient to permit the resumption of the routine schedule for Td use as recommended by the [ACIP](#). Healthcare providers that deferred Td doses should recall adults to receive a Td booster dose. Schools will likely re-institute attendance provisions that required students to have received a Td booster at age greater than or equal to 11 years. The report is at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5124a5.htm>.

## **Tick Season Predictions – US**

On 23 June, the *Washington Post* reported that some experts are predicting that the upcoming summer will bring an increased number of ticks as a result of the mild winter combined with a natural tick baby boom attributed to the arachnid's two-year life cycle. Other health officials say they don't have studies to show if the tick population is significantly higher this season, but say that people shouldn't wait for such news before taking precautions against Lyme Disease and other tickborne diseases. The report is at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A29845-2002Jun22.html>.

## **West Nile Virus (WNV) – Texas**

On 19 June, the [USDA](#) reported that officials in Harris County Texas have reported finding WNV in two dead blue jays collected on 10 June in Houston. This is the first-ever detection of WNV in Texas. No human or equine cases have yet been reported. The report is at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/wnv/wnvw1-02.html>.

## **USPACOM**

### **Febrile Syndrome – Nepal**

On 20 June, AFMIC reported that increasing numbers of people with acute febrile illness have been reported in the Chitwan district. Conflicting reports suggest typhoid fever, influenza, and/or "viral fever." The report is at (requires registration) <http://mic.afmic.detrack.army.mil/>.

### **Influenza – Australia**

On 21 June, the [WHO](#) reported that as of 8 June influenza A (H3N2) and B viruses were circulating in Melbourne, Australia and were affecting all age groups, particularly in the western suburbs and country areas of Kerang and Foster. Influenza B virus continued to predominate. The report is at <http://www.who.int/wer/pdf/2002/wer7725.pdf>.

## **Visceral Leishmaniasis, New Therapy – India**

On 17 June, the [WHO](#) announced that miltefosine (Impavido<sup>®</sup>) had now been approved in India. Miltefosine is the first oral drug to be used against leishmaniasis. According to [UN OCHA](#) reports, miltefosine was at least 95% effective in treating visceral leishmaniasis. Some of the previous treatments were toxic, potentially causing irreversible damage such as diabetes or death in about nine percent of treated cases. India has 50% of the global burden of visceral leishmaniasis, where up to 60% of leishmaniasis cases are now resistant to the first line drug. Miltefosine was originally developed as a compound to fight breast cancer, but a scientist assigned to screen new compounds in tropical diseases discovered that it also had an effect on the leishmania parasite. Miltefosine does have some side effects such as delayed vomiting, which is usually limited to a few days, potential danger to developing fetuses, and some laboratory animal data hint that miltefosine may affect the reproductive health of men. Phase 4 studies will commence in India in July. Diagnostic kits are undergoing trial in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan that will facilitate early diagnosis. The reports are at [http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=28452&SelectRegion=East\\_Africa&SelectCountry=SUDAN](http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=28452&SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=SUDAN) and <http://www.who.int/inf/en/pr-2002-46.html>.

## **Volcano Monitoring – Japan**

On 22 June, the [VOA](#) reported that Japanese authorities are warning people not to go within four kilometers of Mount Asama, a volcano about 150 kilometers from Tokyo. In recent weeks, plumes of smoke climbing 1,000 meters have been seen and more than 200 small earthquakes have shaken the area indicating that an eruption is possible. There has been no order to evacuate homes, and officials stress they do not believe a major eruption is imminent. The volcano's last major eruption came in 1783, killing more than 1,000 people and destroying crops throughout the region. The report is at <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=E345D9A1-7C5B-4779-8477290E8ABB94E5&title=Japanese%20Volcano%20May%20Be%20Waking&catOID=45C9C787-88AD-11D4-A57200A0CC5EE46C>.

## **USSOUTHCOM**

### **Dengue Fever – El Salvador**

The [PAHO](#) recently reported that the President of El Salvador had declared a state of emergency due to dengue fever in the departments of San Salvador, Libertad, Santa Ana, and Cabañas, and a yellow alert in the rest of the country. By June 15, the number of clinical cases of dengue fever had reached 1,301 (incidence rate 20.28 per 100,000 population). About 92% (1,200) are classical dengue fever, and eight percent (101) are dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF). Children between the ages of five and nine years are most affected. For the past seven years, one dengue serotype DEN-2 has been reported in El Salvador, but now DEN-1 has been detected, which increases the risk of DHF. El Salvador has a significant susceptible population, particularly among children under five years of age, who have been exposed to the DEN-2 serotype over

the past few years. Control measures include day and night sprayings, which are being intensified by army personnel. Formation of brigades from schools, universities, and communities have been formed to help with the mechanical destruction of larval breeding sites. Education efforts have included door-to-door as well as radio and television networks. Mexico is sending support. The report is at [http://www.paho.org/English/PED/dengue\\_elsalvador.htm](http://www.paho.org/English/PED/dengue_elsalvador.htm).

### **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) – Ecuador**

On 17 June, ProMED reported that Ecuador has placed cattle-raising areas northwest of Quito under quarantine due to an outbreak of FMD. The movement of cattle into and out of the affected areas is strictly prohibited. In the rest of the country, only rancers who possess a vaccination certification are permitted to transport cattle. FMD is endemic in Ecuador and has led in the past to the mass slaughter of cattle. Over the past several years, the government has sponsored a national campaign to control and eradicate the disease. The report is at [http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:270782::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,18521](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:270782::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,18521).

### **Leishmaniasis, Visceral – Brazil**

On 20 June, [AFMIC](#) reported that an outbreak of visceral leishmaniasis involving 44 cases this year is ongoing in Tres Lagoas. The first cases of autochthonous (indigenously transmitted) leishmaniasis have been detected in the provincial capital of Campo Grande. The report is at (requires registration) <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>.

### **Yellow Fever – Brazil**

On 20 June, [AFMIC](#) reported that a case of yellow fever has been reported following a die-off of sloths and monkeys on Marajo Island, Para State. Large numbers of dead sloths and monkeys in Amazonas State have also occurred. The report is at (requires registration) <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>.

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/>.

POC: Barbara E. Davis, DVM, MPH/MCHB-CS-OHD/584-7663  
<mailto:Barbara.Davis1@APG.amedd.army.mil>

## ACRONYMNS

ACIP - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices  
AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center  
AFPS – American Forces Press Service  
AGID - Agar Gel Immunodiffusion  
AMA – American Veterinary Medical Association  
AVIP - Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program  
AVMA - American Veterinary Medical Association  
BMJ - British Medical Journal  
BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy  
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDR – Communicable Disease Report (England)  
DARPA – Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the central research/development organization for the DoD  
DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services  
DoD - Department of Defense  
DOE – Department of Energy  
DOS – Department of State  
DOT – Department of Transportation  
EISS – European Influenza Surveillance Scheme  
ELISA - Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay  
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency  
ESSENCE – Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics  
FBI – Federal Bureau of Investigation  
FDA – Food and Drug Administration  
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease  
FSIS – Food Safety Inspection Service  
GAO – US General Accounting Office  
HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome  
IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency  
IDP – Internally Displaced Persons  
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross  
IRCS – International Red Cross Society'  
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding  
MRI – Magnetic Resonance Imaging  
MSDS - Material Safety Data Sheet  
NAS – National Academy of Sciences  
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization  
NIH – National Institutes of Health  
NIOSH – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health  
NRC – Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
OCHA - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
OIE – World Organisation [sic] for Animal Health  
OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
PAHO - Pan American Health Organization  
PCR – Polymerase Chain Reaction  
PPE - Personal Protective Equipment  
TB – Tuberculosis  
UK – United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales  
UN – United Nations  
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
USAID - United States Agency for International Development  
USAMRIID - United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases  
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture  
USPS - United States Postal Service  
VA – Department of Veterans’ Affairs  
vCJD - variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease  
VOA – Voice of America, an international multimedia broadcasting service funded by the US Government  
WHO – World Health Organization  
WMD - Weapons of Mass Destruction