

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

22 August 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.

HOT ISSUES	2
Anthrax and Contractual Failures – Russia.....	2
Anthrax Detection System, Experimental – PNAS.....	2
Anthrax Screening Using Nasal Swabs – NIH	3
Anthrax Vaccine Producer Financial Woes – Bioport Corporation.....	3
Botulism from Baked Potatoes – Health Canada	3
Chemical Detector – Argonne National Laboratory	4
Chemical Weapons – Al Qaeda	4
Defense Against WMD – Israel	4
Drug Testing – DoD.....	4
Holographic Body Scanner – DOE.....	5
West Nile Virus (WNV) Primer – <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i>	5
West Nile Virus (WNV) Susceptibility – PNAS	5
USCENTCOM.....	5
Cholera, Suspected – Afghanistan	5
Emergency Hospital – Afghanistan.....	6
Flooding – Iran.....	6
Malaria – Kyrgyzstan.....	6
USEUCOM	6
Blood Importation – UK	6
BSE – Poland	7
Healthcare Reform Needed – Serbia.....	7
Legionnaire’s Disease – Spain	7
Meningococcal Meningitis – Niger.....	7
Meningococcal Meningitis – Rwanda.....	7
Monkeypox – Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).....	8
Water-borne Disease – Sudan	8
Water-borne Disease Threat – Czech Republic	8
West Nile Virus (WNV) – Israel.....	8
USJFCOM.....	8
Acute Diarrheal Syndrome – Russia.....	8
LaCrosse Encephalitis – Minnesota and West Virginia.....	9
Latex Glove Ban – Oregon.....	9
Legionnaires’ Disease – Vermont.....	9

Murine Typhus – Hawaii.....	9
Norwalk-like Virus – Arizona.....	10
West Nile Virus (WNV) – US.....	10
Rabies Vaccine, Wildlife – Virginia.....	11
USPACOM	11
Anthrax - India	11
Burn Injuries During Surgery – New Zealand	11
Dengue Fever – Bangladesh.....	11
Tuberculosis – Thailand.....	11
Water-borne Diseases – Sri Lanka.....	12
Legionnaires’ Disease – Japan	12
Pesticide Ban – India.....	12
USSOUTHCOM	12
Dengue Fever – Ecuador.....	12

HOT ISSUES

Anthrax and Contractual Failures – Russia

On 19 August, *USA Today* reported that despite millions of dollars invested by the US to foster reciprocal biodefense research, Russia has failed to fulfill two contracts in which they agreed to provide a sample or the genetic sequence of an anthrax strain purported to be resistant to current vaccines. The US and Russia have no formal agreement on exchanging dangerous pathogens, and Russian export rules bar their shipment. Russian officials say the genetic sequence data is subject to these same export rules. The controls on shipment were ironically adopted last year amid US complaints that Russia needed tougher laws to prevent proliferation of bioweapons technology. Russian officials say the rules supersede the contracts promising access to the engineered anthrax. The Russian researchers state that the strain isn’t very stable and would be hard for terrorists or others to reproduce. [[View report](#)]

Anthrax Detection System, Experimental – [PNAS](#)

On 12 August, MSNBC reported on a PNAS study in which lasers could be used to measure the scattering of light off vibrating molecules to detect anthrax spores and potentially other bioterrorism agents. Current detection systems can tell the difference between dust and organic compounds such as bacteria, but they can’t quickly sort the dangerous spores like anthrax from germs that don’t cause disease. The researchers in this study are using Raman signals, which result from the scattering of light off vibrating molecules. Anthrax includes certain acid and calcium compounds that produce unique Raman signals. Raman signals are very weak, so the team is using short bursts of light from one laser to increase the oscillations of the molecules to boost the signals. Then a second laser is used to detect the amplified signal. The team calls the proposed method FAST CARS – femtosecond adaptive spectroscopic techniques for coherent anti-Stokes Raman spectroscopy. [[View MSNBC report](#) or [view PNAS report](#)]

Anthrax Screening Using Nasal Swabs – [NIH](#)

On 15 August, Johns Hopkins posted a review of a report in which NIH performed laboratory analysis of 3,936 nasal swabs over a five-day period in October 2001 when an anthrax-contaminated letter was received on Capitol Hill. In the screening, six isolates met the criteria for *Bacillus anthracis*, but none were confirmed. Four of these were *B. megaterium*, one was *B. cereus*, and one could not be identified. The authors concluded that this type of testing “may not be very effective for detecting *B. anthracis* and may detect a number of *Bacillus* spp. that are similar.” Cultures, if performed, should be done immediately post exposure or within 12-24 hours, although inoculum size is probably important. The report is Kiratisin P, et al. Large-scale screening of nasal swabs for *Bacillus anthracis*: descriptive summary and discussion of the National Institutes of Health’s experience. *J Clin Microbiol* 2002;40:3012. [[View review of report](#)]

Anthrax Vaccine Producer Financial Woes – Bioport Corporation

On 5 August, the *New York Times* reported that BioPort Corporation, the nation’s sole producer of anthrax vaccine, stated it is in financial jeopardy despite a [DoD](#) investment of \$75 million for renovations of production facilities between 1999-2001 and DoD payments of \$20 a dose for the vaccine, which is three times the original price negotiated three years ago. Although BioPort’s contract and its production obligations for DoD are secret, the report stated that the company would be able to sell up to 20% of its annual production after it produced the estimated 3.4 million doses that DoD agreed to buy in 1999. BioPort officials want to complete negotiations with DoD as foreign governments and large multinational corporations were reportedly pleading to buy the vaccine for more than \$100 per dose. [[View report](#); requires registration]

Botulism from Baked Potatoes – Health Canada

On 2 August, Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency advised restaurants and food service operators and consumers that potatoes baked in aluminum foil and kept warm or stored at room temperature might cause botulism in those who consume them. *Clostridium botulinum* is a spore-forming bacterium that is widely distributed in the environment, including soils, which can contaminate fruits and vegetables, particularly those that are in contact with the soil, such as potatoes. According to the report, ingested spores are harmless, but cooking baked potatoes in aluminum foil and holding them at room temperature or at temperatures between 72-149° F may create ideal conditions for spores, if present, to germinate, grow, and produce toxin. The agencies recommended thorough washing of potatoes before wrapping them in foil, immediate serving/eating after cooking, and unwrapping and refrigerating leftover baked potatoes as soon as possible or within one to two hours at temperatures less than 40° F. [[View report](#)]

Chemical Detector – Argonne National Laboratory

On 19 August, the [DOE Pulse](#) reported that Argonne National Laboratory had developed a "microelectronic nose" that sniffs out chemical poisons, including non-lethal concentrations of cyanogen chloride and hydrogen cyanide gases. Part of the homeland security effort, the palm-sized instrument can also be used to detect VX, sarin and mustard gases. The ceramic-metallic sensor arrays, which are smaller than postage stamps and can be integrated into personal monitors, identify "fingerprints" given off by chemicals in contact with the sensors. Each chemical changes the electrical resistance of the detector's components, allowing a computer to pass small amounts of chemicals over the sensors and determine the presence and concentration of each chemical. [[View report](#)]

Chemical Weapons – Al Qaeda

On 19 August, CNN reported that it had obtained 64 al Qaeda videotapes. One of these tapes showed three separate incidents in which a dog was killed by a lethal chemical at the terrorist group's former Darunta camp in remote Afghanistan. CNN examined Al Qaeda documents last fall in the bombed out ruins of the Darunta camp that showed chemical formulas for sarin, but experts disagree as to whether the substance is a nerve agent, cyanide, or an otherwise unidentified agent. [[View report](#)]

Defense Against [WMD](#) – Israel

On 17 August, the *New York Times* reported that Israel began vaccinating about 1,500 health care providers against smallpox last month. Israel has rejected ring vaccinations – a plan considered by the US – in which people would be vaccinated in a ring around a known infection. The Security Cabinet is meeting this week to discuss whether to extend the vaccinations to first responders: police officers, soldiers, emergency medical personnel, and hospital workers that could number as many as 150,000. Iodine tablets offering limited protection against radiation will soon be given to people living near Israel's two nuclear reactors. Israel's Home Front Command also reportedly intends to include iodine tablets with the gas mask kits that it already distributes. The Israeli military has also confirmed that it is deploying a second battery of Arrow missiles, which destroy incoming missiles by exploding in their path, in the center of the country. [[View report](#)]

Drug Testing – [DoD](#)

On 16 August, the [AFIS](#) reported that a new DoD policy signed by the Deputy Defense Secretary on 31 July would increase the frequency of random testing of active duty military, reservists, and civilian employees for drug use. The new policy reflects the reality that the nation is at war. In fiscal 2001, only 1.45 percent of the over one million active duty service members tested were positive for drug use. The DoD has significantly increased the ability to test for club drugs, which are increasingly favored by younger people. Upgraded lab technology also enables testers to detect a subject's

drug use further back in time than was previously possible. The top four drugs most abused by service members include marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, and the club drug ecstasy. [[View report](#)]

Holographic Body Scanner – [DOE](#)

Researchers at DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have developed a new technology that provides three-dimensional (3-D) holographic imaging within 10 seconds that can detect metallic and nonmetallic weapons and even plastic explosives concealed under clothing while preserving personal privacy. The Personal Security Scanner uses ultrahigh-frequency radio waves with relatively large wavelengths in the same range as radar and satellite signals – about one centimeter. These low-power waves can penetrate clothing and other nonmetallic objects. The system rapidly scans objects and sends reflected signals into a high-speed image-processing computer that produces a 3-D image from the data. The scientists have been working since 1997 to reprogram the system to give the operator a view of only concealed items and not the person's image to preserve privacy. The devices could be made ready to install in airports in four to 12 months and cost about \$100,000 per unit. These units also have potential uses in other facilities that require increased security measures. [[View report](#)]

West Nile Virus (WNV) Primer – *Annals of Internal Medicine*

On 19 August, Johns Hopkins posted a review of a report in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, which provided a primer for the recognition and management of WNV infections. [CDC](#) case definitions were included. Symptoms based on analysis of 685 hospitalized patients in three countries included fever, headache, vomiting, rash, paresis (severe), and flaccid paralysis. The best test for sensitivity was IgM Ab-capture EIA in cerebrospinal fluid and sera although false positives occurred with recent vaccination for yellow fever or Japanese encephalitis or recent flavivirus infection (St. Louis encephalitis, dengue, etc.). Treatment is supportive or experimentally ribavirin and interferon- α 2b. The report is Petersen LR and Marfin AA. West Nile virus: a primer for the Clinician. *Ann Intern Med* 2002;137(3):173. [[View review of report](#)]

West Nile Virus (WNV) Susceptibility – [PNAS](#)

On 19 August, PNAS reported that WNV sensitivity of susceptible mice was completely correlated with the occurrence of a point mutation in 2'-5'-OAS L1, suggesting that this isoform (genetic variation) may play a critical role in WNV disease. [[View report](#)]

USCENTCOM

Cholera, Suspected – Afghanistan

On 2 August, [IRIN](#) reported the [WHO](#) had stated that two cases of cholera have been confirmed among 200 suspect cases in the eastern province of Nangarhar. The outbreak affected the Ghala Khel and Chinar Kalay villages in the district of Kot, about

50 km southeast of the provincial capital of Jalalabad. Kot is one of the worst drought-affected districts of Nangarhar, with insufficient drinking water, as well as a lack of basic health facilities. Some villagers have dug springs with no health or safety measures taken. A similar outbreak is ongoing in Kabul Province. [[View report](#)]

Emergency Hospital – Afghanistan

On 19 August, [IRIN](#) reported that a 72-bed Danish mobile emergency hospital opened in Kabul to treat reproductive health needs of the Afghan capital's rapidly growing population. The unit expects to handle 20 to 30 births daily as well as about 2,000 medical inquiries. The unit will operate 24 hours per day with an emergency room, surgical theaters, and maternity ward. The unit is expected to fill the gap while the city's run-down 52-bed Khair Khana Maternity and Child Hospital in the capital undergoes extensive repair until March 2003. [[View report](#)]

Flooding – Iran

On 16 August, the Agence France-Presse reported that the death toll from floods in northeastern Iran rose to at least 42 with 30 more people still missing. Flash floods swamped around 180 villages in Golestan province destroying roads, bridges, and other infrastructure across a large swath of the province, cutting it off from the rest of Iran. [[View report](#)]

Malaria – Kyrgyzstan

On 7 August, [AFMIC](#) reported that several cases of malaria have been reported in Bishkek Shaary City. Local health authorities have initiated preventive measures. [[View report](#); requires registration]

USEUCOM

Blood Importation – [UK](#)

On 16 August, the BBC reported that babies and young children born after 1 January 1996 would be treated with only imported blood to avoid them contracting [vCJD](#) from British plasma. Individuals born after 1995 are thought to have escaped coming in contact with vCJD in the food chain. Tests at the Institute of Animal Health earlier this month revealed one in six animals given blood from sheep infected with scrapie, a similar [TSE](#), went on to develop the illness, suggesting an “appreciable” risk to humans. The report stated that the UK National Blood Service would receive fresh frozen plasma from unpaid American donors within the next nine to 12 months following negotiations to guarantee supplies. Precautions that have already been taken in the UK include removal of white blood cells due to evidence that suggested these may carry the greatest risk of transmitting vCJD and the importation of plasma from the US for the production of blood products. [[View report](#)]

BSE – Poland

On 19 August, the [AP](#) reported that a second case of BSE has occurred in a 12-year old cow at a farm in southeastern Lubelskie province in Poland. Cattle at the farm were being destroyed, along with any beef already produced. One health expert warned that the infection could be widespread in the country's herds, but the nation's chief veterinarian said fears of widespread infection are exaggerated. [[View report](#)]

Healthcare Reform Needed – Serbia

On 19 August, Reuters Health reported that international experts said the health care sector of Serbia needs a new strategy, a thorough reorganization, and an injection of cash from foreign donors. The World Bank in a paper issued in April stated, "The government of Serbia has no credible, coherent strategy and plan of action to rationalize, restructure, and reorient the health system towards improvement of quality and uniform access to services." Serbia spends about ¼ of some \$750 million on medicines; however, patients are often told to buy medicine and other materials needed for their treatment or operations, as the hospital cannot provide them. A new health minister took office in June and said his priorities include better quality care, equal access to services, and improved primary health centers. He also announced the introduction of an ombudsman for patients' rights and a body to monitor the quality of work and services. [[View report](#)]

Legionnaire's Disease – Spain

On 12 August, *The Daily Telegraph* reported that 29 people were hospitalized after an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease in the Spanish town of Mataro near Barcelona. Three additional people were affected by the outbreak, but did not warrant hospitalization. The air conditioner of a public building, which has not been identified, is being blamed. Meanwhile, near the port city of Valencia, 13 other people have also been diagnosed with Legionnaire's disease in two small towns, and nine are hospitalized – six at Alcoy and three at Segorbe. [[View report](#)]

Meningococcal Meningitis – Niger

On 16 August, ProMED reported that at least 108 people died out of 4,793 cases of meningitis during the first seven months of 2002. In June, 272 cases (25 deaths) were reported, which decreased in July to 80 cases (eight deaths). Fewer cases are expected with the onset of the rainy season. [[View report](#)]

Meningococcal Meningitis – Rwanda

On 16 August, ProMED reported that the meningococcal meningitis outbreak ongoing during the last two months in southern Rwanda is due to serogroup C. According to the report, over 200 people have died from the infection. Mass vaccinations are planned. [[View report](#)]

Monkeypox – Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

On 7 August, [AFMIC](#) reported that 26 cases of suspect monkeypox have been reported in Equateur, a northwest province in DRC. Earlier this year in March, three epidemic foci were reported from this province, which resulted in at least 293 suspect cases and 23 deaths. [[View report](#); requires registration]

Water-borne Disease – Sudan

On 15 August, the [IFRC](#) reported that due to flooding of the sewerage system in heavy rains between 3 and 8 August, contaminated water has caused a considerable rise in diarrhea cases in Western Kordofan, White Nile, Gazira, and Khartoum States. The most severely affected was El Nhoud in Western Kordofan State where thousands of homes were washed away. More rain is expected, as this is the start of the three-month rainy season. [[View report](#)]

Water-borne Disease Threat – Czech Republic

On 19 August, Reuters Health reported that the cities worst hit by the torrential rains in central and Eastern Europe in recent weeks have been Dresden and Prague. Authorities in Prague, where a massive cleanup is underway, warned of disease as hot weather sped up the decay of debris left behind by the receding water. Meat is decaying at all the butcher shops and soldiers have been called in to clear rotten food. Many sewage treatment plants were knocked out of operation. In Dresden, where water levels rose to over 30 feet in the worst flood on record, health authorities are offering hepatitis vaccinations and urging people not to touch food after they've been working around the water. On 15 August, New Scientist reported that the Czech Republic's health minister has asked the government to provide 3.5 million euros for other public health measures including the testing of drinking water and the distribution of water disinfectants. Other potential killers in disaster-stricken regions include dysentery and cholera. [[View Reuters report](#) or [view New Scientist report](#)]

West Nile Virus (WNV) – Israel

On 16 August, ProMED reported that two cases of WNV were reported recently in the Eilat region of Israel. Both patients, a 48-year-old man and an unrelated 40-year-old woman, appear to have mild cases and neither required hospitalization. [[View report](#)]

USJFCOM

Acute Diarrheal Syndrome – Russia

On 7 August, [AFMIC](#) reported 65 soldiers of the Nakhodka border guard located in Primorskiy (Vladivostok) Krai in eastern Russia were hospitalized with acute diarrheal syndrome of which nine were in grave condition. Epidemiological investigations are

ongoing, and preventive measures, including quarantine of personnel, have been initiated. [[View report](#); requires registration]

LaCrosse Encephalitis – Minnesota and West Virginia

On 9 August, the Minnesota Department of Health reported the summer's first two cases of LaCrosse encephalitis have been confirmed in a child from western Hennepin County and a child from Dodge County, both of which have since been released and are recovering at home. On 14 August, the [AP](#) reported that southern West Virginia counties are seeing a sharp increase in cases of LaCrosse encephalitis with at least 15 cases since June – eight people from Raleigh County, six from Fayette County, and one from Wyoming County. Last year 11 cases were seen between June and September. Most infections tend to be mild, but severe cases occur primarily in children and adolescents under the age of 16. [[View Minnesota report](#) or [view West Virginia report](#)]

Latex Glove Ban – Oregon

On 13 August, the Oregon Public Health Services announced that a new state rule would ban latex glove use among food service workers effective 1 March 2003. The ruling was brought about by an increase in workers compensation claims related to latex glove reactions subsequent to an increase use of latex gloves among food service, janitorial, housekeeping, and childcare industries. Between 8-17% of workers who are regularly exposed to powdered latex gloves are sensitive to latex and between one and six percent of the general population have latex allergy. [[View report](#)]

Legionnaires' Disease – Vermont

As of 19 August, the Vermont Department of Health has confirmed 18 cases (no deaths) of Legionnaires' disease in the Waterbury area. The most recent date of onset of illness in the identified cases was 10 August. Two of the illnesses are being classified as sporadic cases; the remaining cases are associated with the Waterbury outbreak. More than 120 people who exhibited symptoms consistent with the illness have been tested and found to be negative for the bacterium. Evidence currently points to an outdoor source, and tests on three Waterbury area-cooling towers have shown the presence of *Legionella pneumophila*. One additional cooling tower result is pending. Because the bacterium is a ubiquitous, aquatic organism that is generally found in eight out of 10 cooling towers, laboratory tests are being conducted to compare the bacteria in the cooling towers with bacteria from clinical specimens to determine any similar characteristics. [[View 20 August report](#) or [view 19 August report](#)]

Murine Typhus – Hawaii

On 9 August, the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) reported that the number of murine typhus cases reported statewide since March 2002 was 12, with one case on Oahu, one case on Kauai, and 10 cases in Maui. On Maui, eight cases are in Kihei, one in Lahaina, and one in Kahului. The reason for the rising number of cases is

believed to be greater surveillance activity and higher awareness of similar clinical signs among physicians and the public from the recent dengue fever outbreak. Recent mice trappings also indicated a four-fold increase in numbers from last year in some areas. The DOH is advising the public to take precautions and to control rodents and their fleas. [[View 9 August report](#) or [view 30 July report](#)]

Norwalk-like Virus – Arizona

On 15 August, *The Arizona Republic* reported that Norwalk-like virus was likely responsible for illnesses experienced by 82 people who became sick after a golf tournament in south Phoenix last month. Officials believe the virus was spread through contaminated water and ice in the golf course’s coolers. In the epidemiological investigation that followed, health officials reported that 65% of the county golf courses had the same inadequate water-handling practices that led to the outbreak. County officials released safe water-handling procedures that included (1) disinfecting water containers every day, (2) filling containers and coolers away from contaminants such as dust and insects, (3) ensuring that water and ice came from municipal water systems or a health department-approved filtration system, and (4) not using water hoses to fill water containers. [[View report](#)]

West Nile Virus (WNV) – US

On 19 August, the [CDC](#) reported the below-listed human cases totals for 2002 that have been reported as of that date to Arbonet or compiled in direct communication with state/local health officials. Arbonet is the national, electronic surveillance system established by CDC to assist states in tracking WNV and other mosquito-borne viruses. On 16 August, WNV was detected for the first time in Wyoming in a horse, which died of encephalitis, from eastern Goshen County near the Nebraska border. On 15 August, WNV was detected for this first time in Colorado in three horses: one that died in Pueblo County and two in Weld County of which one died and one is recovering.

State	Total Confirmed/ Probable Human Cases	Total Deaths	Cases Since Last Report	Deaths Since Last Report
Alabama	3		1	
District of Columbia	1			
Florida	1		1	
Illinois	9	1	7	1
Indiana	1			
Louisiana	147	8	62	1
Massachusetts	1		1	
Mississippi	55	2	14	1
Missouri	5		5	
New York City	1		1	
Ohio	2		2	
Texas	25		12	

Totals	251	11	106	3
---------------	------------	-----------	------------	----------

Human Case Totals of WNV for 2002 reported to the CDC as of 19 August 2002 as compared to last report of 12 August.

Rabies Vaccine, Wildlife – Virginia

On 19 August, the [USDA](#) announced that Virginia will join New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Vermont in distributing fishmeal baits containing the rabies vaccine to areas frequented by raccoons. The states are attempting to establish a rabies-free barrier in the eastern US where the raccoon strain of rabies is a threat to wildlife populations and pets as well as public health and safety. By vaccinating raccoons against rabies, the number of animals that can serve as reservoirs of the disease and infect other wildlife, domestic animals, or humans is likewise reduced. [[View report](#)]

USPACOM

Anthrax - India

On 7 August, [AFMIC](#) reported that 14 confirmed human anthrax cases have occurred in Chitoor, which is located in the Andhra Pradesh state of India. The source of the infection was reportedly consumption of contaminated sheep meat. About 60 anthrax deaths have also been reported among the sheep. [[View report](#); requires registration]

Burn Injuries During Surgery – New Zealand

On 20 August, *The New Zealand Herald* reported a second case in one month of a hospitalized patient being set on fire during surgery. Hospital authorities and the Fire Service have launched investigations. One possibility is that an alcohol-based swabbing solution, used to sterilize parts of the body for surgery, was accidentally ignited by a “machine used to cut the skin, ”e.g., electrocauterization.” [[View report](#)]

Dengue Fever – Bangladesh

On 19 August, the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance reported that [WHO](#) officials have termed the dengue outbreak in the capital of Dhaka an epidemic, after the number of infected people rose to 2,363 from 2,045 last week, and the death toll rose to 30 from 25 last week. [[View report](#); under South Asia]

Tuberculosis – Thailand

On 20 August, the *Bangkok Post* reported that [WHO](#) ranked India, China, and Indonesia as the top three countries plagued with [TB](#); Thailand was ranked 16th among countries with the most serious number of cases. The WHO listed the situation in Thailand as critical, where one in three people is a TB carrier. The problem in Thailand stems mainly from the increase in the number of [AIDS](#) patients and alien workers from neighboring countries especially from Burma, Cambodia, and Laos, where the disease

is pandemic. The areas most affected include Bangkok, Chon Buri, Samut Sakhon, and lower-central provinces near the Gulf of Thailand. [[View report](#)]

Water-borne Diseases – Sri Lanka

On 16 August, the [UN OCHA](#) reported that drought conditions in southern Sri Lanka are persisting and most of the rivers and reservoirs, which are the source of drinking water, are drying up, with some already dried up. All drinking water supply schemes are operating at very low capacity with most pipe-borne water supply schemes at 50% of their capacity. Water is available for only a few hours each day and on a rotational basis. The lack of drinking water is having severe health implications, with an increase in water-borne diseases, due to people having to resort to unclean water sources. No specific information was given regarding the water-borne diseases. [[View report](#)]

Legionnaires' Disease – Japan

On 9 August, *The Japan Times* reported that an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at a spa in Hyuga, Miyazaki Prefecture has resulted in 208 suspect cases and two suspect deaths. A semipublic corporation of the Hyuga Municipal Government runs the spa. The facility opened to the public on 1 July and was shut down on 24 July after reports linked it to the outbreak. Some 20,000 people are believed to have used the facility during the period. The Hyuga Public Health Office found *Legionella* bacteria up to 15,000 times greater than the permissible level set by the health ministry. [[View report](#)]

Pesticide Ban – India

On 17 August, the [BMJ](#) reported the Kerala High Court in southern India had reinstated a ban on the highly hazardous pesticide endosulfan, already banned in many countries, when testing of cashew nut crops two months after spraying revealed endosulfan levels 7 to 51 times higher than the maximum limit. In one sample the concentration was 391 times higher than the maximum. A confidential, unpublished report finalized by the Indian Council of Medical Research in March 2002 found endosulfan-exposed children had a lower IQ, poorer performance at school, learning disabilities, and an increased prevalence of congenital heart disease and skeletal abnormalities as compared to controls. The study did not specifically implicate endosulfan but asked for more detailed studies. [[View report](#)]

USSOUTHCOM

Dengue Fever – Ecuador

On 16 August, the [WHO](#) reported that as of 2 August, Ecuador has reported 5,833 suspected cases of dengue fever of which 344 have been laboratory confirmed. [DHF](#) is suspected in 158 cases of which 11 have been laboratory confirmed. Dengue 3 has been the predominant circulating strain although two districts reported the presence of

dengue 2 in January. In the Galapagos Islands, four cases have now been confirmed. This is the first reported detection of dengue fever on the islands. [[View 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/Hiupdate/>.

POC: Barbara E. Davis, DVM, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM
<mailto:Barbara.Davis1@APG.amedd.army.mil>

Approved:

[Kevin Delaney](#)

Chief, Health Information Operations
(410) 436-5217 or DSN 584-5217

ACRONYMS

ACIP - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center
AFIS - American Forces Information Service
AP - Associated Press
ATP - Adenosine Tri-phosphate
ATSDR - Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
AVIP - Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program
BCG - Bacille Calmette-Guerin Vaccine against Tuberculosis
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; <http://www.darpa.mil/>
DENIX - Defense Environmental Network & Information eXchange [sic]
DHHS - Department of Health and Human Services
DoD - Department of Defense
DOE - Department of Energy
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
ESSENCE - Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics
EU - European Union
FBI - Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDA - Food and Drug Administration
GPS - Global Positioning System
HIV/AIDS - Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
IFRC - International Federal of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IND - Investigational New Drug
IRIN - Integrated Regional Information Networks, part of the [UN](#) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
JAMA - Journal of the American Medical Association
NEJM - New England Journal of Medicine
NGO - Non-Governmental Organization
NIH - National Institutes of Health
NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
OCHA - United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OIE - World Organisation [sic] for Animal Health
OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PNAS - Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

SCIEH – Scottish Centre [sic] for Infection and Environmental Health
TB – Tuberculosis
TSE – Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy
UK – United Kingdom – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales
UN – United Nations
UPI – United Press International
USAMRIID - United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases
USDA – United States Department of Agriculture
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