

## USACHPPM

# HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

09 May 2003

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.

<b>HOT TOPICS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2 Million Die Annually from Work-Related Accidents, Illness, says ILO .....	2
American Academy of Dermatology Survey Finds People Aware of the Dangers of the Sun, but Sun Protection not Necessarily Practiced .....	2
Anthrax Genome Shows Little Extras are Deadly .....	2
Company Tests Anthrax Antidote .....	3
Cumulative Number of Reported Probable Cases of SARS From 1 Nov 2002 <sup>1</sup> To 06 May 2003 .....	3
Endemic, Notifiable Bioterrorism-Related Diseases, United States, 1992–1999 .....	3
Erectile Dysfunction Linked to Heart Disease .....	4
Experts Say Babies Need Dental Check at 6 Months .....	4
Fiber Benefit Found .....	4
Garlic Seems to Ward Off Cancer .....	5
Global Illness and Deaths Caused by Rotavirus Disease in Children .....	5
Immune Systems of New Mutant Mice Fight Off Cancer .....	5
Infant Pneumonia Vaccine May Cut Families' Illness .....	5
Mouse Egg Cells Made from Stem Cells .....	6
New Vaccine to Fight Salmonella in Eggs .....	6
SARS Update .....	6
Scientists Help Find Key TB Treatment .....	7
Sesame Oil Helps Reduce Dose of Blood Pressure-lowering Medicine .....	7
Study: Violent Music Boosts Aggressive Thoughts .....	7
Traffic Pollution Damages Sperm .....	7
<b>USEUCOM .....</b>	<b>8</b>
False Nuke Alarm Creates a Panic .....	8
Russia: Flare of Diphtheria Closes School for Quarantine in Nizhny Tagil .....	8
Tanzania: Disease Breaks Out Among Baboons .....	8
<b>USCENTCOM .....</b>	<b>9</b>
AIDS Takes Toll on Kenyan Army .....	9
Cholera Strikes Basra, Epidemic Feared .....	9
U.S. Appoints Iraqi Health Official, Pays Workers to Return .....	9
<b>USNORTHCOM .....</b>	<b>9</b>
CDC Reports 103 Pregnancies Among Recipients of Smallpox Vaccine .....	9
HHS Offers Guidance on Air-filtration, Air-cleaning Systems to Guard Buildings Against Attacks .....	10
Lyme Disease Treatable with Fewer Antibiotics .....	10
Men's Shorter Life Span Called 'Silent Health Crisis' .....	10
SARS Report of Cases in the United States as of 05 May, 2003 .....	10

Study: Overworked Nurses Put Patient Care at Risk .....	11
USA: Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Georgia .....	11
USA: Minnesota Reports First West Nile Virus-positive Equine in 2003 .....	11
<b>USPACOM .....</b>	<b>12</b>
India: Outbreak of Kyasanur Forest Disease in Shimoga District.....	12
Indonesia: 5 Bogor Residents Die Mysteriously .....	12
Japan: Inspections Show 30,000 People Infected with Hepatitis C .....	12
Japan Researchers to Test Possible Malaria Vaccine .....	12
<b>USSOUTHCOM .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Costa Rica: Concern Over Indifference to Increase in Number of Dengue Cases .....	13
El Salvador: Health Authorities Confirm the Presence of West Nile Virus .....	13

## HOT TOPICS

### 2 Million Die Annually from Work-Related Accidents, Illness, says ILO

04 May – VOA News reported the International Labor Organization reports that about two million people die every year from work-related accidents and illnesses. The ILO study concludes that death and injury in the workplace costs the global economy an estimated \$1.25 trillion a year. The International Labor Organization report says about 5,000 workers every day lose their lives from largely preventable accidents and work-related illnesses. It says about 270 million workplace accidents occur every year, and 160 million people suffer from occupational diseases. About 12,000 child laborers die from work-related causes. The report said the riskiest jobs include agriculture, mining, construction, and fishing. [View Article](#)

### American Academy of Dermatology Survey Finds People Aware of the Dangers of the Sun, but Sun Protection not Necessarily Practiced

29 April – Science Blog reported despite countless health messages about the dangers of the sun and the alarmingly high rates of [skin cancer](#) in the United States, the results of a new AAD survey show that Americans, particularly young individuals, recognize that overexposure to the sun is unhealthy but are still not protecting themselves when outdoors. However, as people age, attitudes towards sun safety begin to change – not only for themselves but also for the children in their care. [View Article](#)

### Anthrax Genome Shows Little Extras are Deadly

02 May – Globe News reported there is astonishingly little difference between the deadly [anthrax](#) bacterium and a common microbe that lives in gardens around the world, U.S. researchers say. A team from the Institute for Genomic Research in Maryland has published the first completed genetic sequencing for the bacterium that causes anthrax, a development they said could lead to new drugs or a better vaccine. The work allowed them to compare anthrax to a closely related but less threatening species called *Bacillus cereus*. A common soil bacterium that thrives in gardens worldwide, it can cause diarrhea and vomiting if it gets into food. The cousins are so closely related that there are only about 150 significant differences in more than 5,000 genes. Those differences, combined with plasmids found in the anthrax bacterium, are what make it so much more toxic and more virulent. [View Article](#)

## Company Tests Anthrax Antidote

02 May – BBC News reported scientists believe they may have found a more effective way to protect people from [anthrax](#). A company in the United States says it has successfully developed a human antibody that neutralizes the potentially deadly toxin. They hope the discovery will lead to a new vaccine and drugs to fight anthrax. It comes just days after scientists revealed they had cracked the gene code for the strain of anthrax used in the letter attacks in the US in late 2001. That discovery is expected to boost efforts to develop more effective drugs to fight the toxin. A vaccine and drugs to treat anthrax already exist. However, the vaccine must be administered through a series of injections over a number of months before it becomes fully protective. [View Article](#)

## Cumulative Number of Reported Probable Cases of SARS From 1 Nov 2002<sup>1</sup> To 06 May 2003

Country	Cumulative # of case(s) <sup>2</sup>	# of deaths	# recovered <sup>3</sup>	Country	Cumulative # of case(s) <sup>2</sup>	# of deaths	# recovered <sup>3</sup>
Australia	4	0	4	New Zealand	1	0	1
Brazil	2	0	2	Philippines	3	2	1
Bulgaria	1	0	0	Poland	1	0	0
Canada	148	22	93	Rep. of Ireland	1	0	1
China	4409	214	1460	Rep. of Korea	1	0	0
-Hong Kong <sup>4</sup>	1646	193	958	Romania	1	0	1
-Macao	1	0	0	Singapore	204	27	149
-Taiwan	116	10	25	South Africa	1	1	0
Colombia	1	0	1	Spain	1	0	1
France	5	0	4	Sweden	3	0	2
Germany	7	0	7	Switzerland	1	0	1
India	1	0	0	Thailand	7	2	5
Indonesia	2	0	1	United Kingdom	6	0	6
Italy	9	0	4	United States	65	0	32
Kuwait	1	0	1	Viet Nam	63	5	58
Malaysia	7	2	4	<b>Total</b>	<b>6727</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>2826</b>
Mongolia	8	0	4				

Notes:

Cumulative number of cases includes number of deaths.

As SARS is a diagnosis of exclusion, the status of a reported case may change over time. This means that previously reported cases may be discarded after further investigation and follow-up.

1. The start of the period of surveillance has been changed to 1 November 2002 to capture cases of atypical pneumonia in China that are now recognized as being cases of SARS.

2. A decrease in the number of cumulative cases and discrepancies in the difference between cumulative number of cases of the last and the current WHO update are attributed to the discarding of cases.

3. Includes cases who are "discharged" or "recovered" as reported by the national public health authorities.

4. One death attributed to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China occurred in a case medically transferred from Viet Nam.

## Endemic, Notifiable Bioterrorism-Related Diseases, United States, 1992–1999

May – The Emerging Infectious Diseases journal published a study pertaining to the incidence and distribution of diseases caused by critical microbiologic agents with the potential for use in

acts of terrorism. The authors describe disease-specific, demographic, geographic, and seasonal distribution of selected bioterrorism-related conditions ([anthrax](#), [botulism](#), [brucellosis](#), [cholera](#), [plague](#), [tularemia](#), and [viral encephalitis](#)) reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System in 1992 to 1999. Tularemia and brucellosis were the most frequently reported diseases. Anthrax, plague, western equine encephalitis, and eastern equine encephalitis were rare. Higher incidence rates for cholera and plague were noted in the western United States and for tularemia in the central United States. Overall, the incidence of conditions caused by these critical agents in the United States is low. Individual case reports should be considered sentinel events. For potential bioterrorism-related conditions that are endemic and have low incidence, the use of nontraditional surveillance methods and complementary data sources may enhance the ability to rapidly detect changes in disease incidence. [View Article](#)

## Erectile Dysfunction Linked to Heart Disease

02 May – Health Scout News reported men who have erectile dysfunction are more likely to suffer [cardiovascular disease](#), according to preliminary findings from researchers at McGill University Health Center in Montreal. The study evaluated more than 4,000 men, comparing the risk of erectile dysfunction in men with and without cardiovascular disease. They found the presence of cardiovascular disease was strongly associated with erectile dysfunction. The study suggests that the men who have erectile dysfunction and have not had other symptoms of cardiovascular disease may be at increased risk for symptoms of cardiovascular disease. [View Article](#)

## Experts Say Babies Need Dental Check at 6 Months

05 May – Reuters reported by the time they reach six months of age, all babies should be assessed by a pediatrician to determine their risk of developing [tooth decay](#), according to a new policy statement from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). And children who appear most likely to develop cavities should perhaps have their first visit with a dentist before the recommended age of 12 months. Currently, more than 40 percent of children in the U.S. show signs of tooth decay when they enroll in kindergarten. Although tooth decay is a general problem in children, some are more at risk than others. For example, children of low socioeconomic status who eat sugary foods or babies who are put to bed with a bottle are more likely than others to have cavities at age three. Tooth decay in children's first teeth can affect a child's growth, cause significant pain and can even lead to swelling that can be potentially life threatening. [View Article](#)

## Fiber Benefit Found

02 May – News Day reported a high-fiber diet can substantially reduce the risk of [colorectal cancer](#), scientists report in two analyses that could re-ignite the debate about dietary fiber's role in tumor prevention. Two studies - one by American scientists and another by a British team - appearing in the medical journal, The Lancet, find that fibrous foods are associated with a lowered risk of tumors in the distal colon, the region on the left that connects to the rectum. Grains, cereals and fruit provided the strongest protection, U.S. researchers found. The studies run counter to two reports published three years ago, which indicated that a high-fiber diet did not prevent recurrence of polyps in people who had been treated for the precancerous lesions. Both of those smaller investigations strongly countered prevailing wisdom, which for years suggested that high-fiber diets could help repel the disease. [View Article](#)

## Garlic Seems to Ward Off Cancer

02 May – MSNBC News reported recent studies have sparked debate about whether garlic can help lower cholesterol. While that discussion continues, another set of findings about garlic's health benefits tends to get overlooked. Mounting evidence suggests garlic in the diet is consistently linked to a lower risk for [cancer](#). Garlic's link with lower cancer risk has been well established in highly focused laboratory studies involving cells and animals, as well as in studies that look at large human populations. In one of the latest studies on this topic, less than a clove of garlic a day was enough to cut men's risk of prostate cancer in half compared to men who ate none. More recent studies, including this new study on prostate cancer, have tried to account for this by statistically controlling for such associations, and garlic is still coming up a winner. [View Article](#)

## Global Illness and Deaths Caused by Rotavirus Disease in Children

May – The Emerging Infectious Diseases journal published a study that estimated the global illness and deaths caused by [rotavirus](#) disease via studies published from 1986 to 2000 on deaths caused by diarrhea and on rotavirus infections in children. The authors assessed rotavirus-associated illness in three clinical settings (mild, moderate and severe) and death rates in countries in different World Bank income groups. Each year, rotavirus causes approximately 111 million episodes of gastroenteritis requiring only home care, 25 million clinic visits, 2 million hospitalizations, and 352,000–592,000 deaths (median, 440,000 deaths) in children <5 years of age. By age 5, nearly every child will have an episode of rotavirus gastroenteritis, 1 in 5 will visit a clinic, 1 in 65 will be hospitalized, and approximately 1 in 293 will die. Children in the poorest countries account for 82% of rotavirus deaths. The tremendous incidence of rotavirus disease underscores the urgent need for interventions, such as vaccines, particularly to prevent childhood deaths in developing nations. [View Article](#)

## Immune Systems of New Mutant Mice Fight Off Cancer

30 April – Scientific American reported scientists have discovered, quite by accident, a mutant mouse strain that is capable of fighting off cancer, according to a new report. The results of a study published online this week by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences indicate that the animals can survive numerous injections of [cancer](#) cells without succumbing to the disease. During a routine study led by Zheng Cui at the Comprehensive Cancer Center of Wake Forest University, researchers administered a virulent type of cancer cell to a variety of strains of laboratory rats and mice. Typically, these injections lead to tumor growth in the abdomen within two weeks, and the cancer subsequently spreads to other vital organs. One male mouse, however, did not show any signs of tumor growth despite repeated injections. When the mouse bred with a normal female, his offspring retained the ability to fight off cancer. This ability has been passed down through seven generations so far, and there are currently 700 of the cancer-fighting animals, which are normal in every other way. Among these animals, their abilities to avoid cancer vary slightly. Some never develop any signs of the disease after an injection of cancer cells, whereas others initially show signs of cancerous growth that later spontaneously recedes. Cui notes that after multiple injections of cancerous cells, "the mice became healthy and immediately resumed normal activities, including mating." [View Article](#)

## Infant Pneumonia Vaccine May Cut Families' Illness

01 May - The Seattle Post Intelligencer reported Prevnar, a new [pneumonia vaccine](#) for infants dramatically reduces serious illness in young children and could prevent the spread of the bacteria to adults, researchers report. The first pneumonia vaccine for babies was approved in

2000 and is now recommended for all children younger than 2. The findings appear in today's New England Journal of Medicine. [View Article](#)

## Mouse Egg Cells Made from Stem Cells

01 May – UPI reported mouse stem cells for the first time have been coaxed to develop into mouse egg cells in the lab, scientists reported. Prior experiments have revealed any cell can be cloned by plugging its nucleus into an emptied egg. The ability to develop eggs from stem cells therefore offers a new way to artificially clone heart, bone and other vital cells from humans while sidestepping the ethical concerns of harvesting eggs from women donors. Researchers said this could enable new, close studies of the entire development of an egg that weren't feasible before -- studies that could lead to advances in fertility and contraception research. While embryonic stem cells are found to be totipotent in the body -- that is, capable of becoming any kind of cell -- scientists until now could not grow stem cell into eggs or sperm, the so-called "germ cells" of sex. [View Article](#)

## New Vaccine to Fight *Salmonella* in Eggs

02 May - The Food Safety Information Office reported developing an oil emulsion vaccine to reduce the possibility of [Salmonella enteritidis](#) entering chicken eggs is the aim of scientists at the Agricultural Research Service Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory in Athens, Ga. Immunologist Peter Holt, retired veterinarian Henry Stone and immunochemist Cam Greene have developed an oil emulsion vaccine of inactivated *S. enteritidis* that protected hens exposed to the organism. Hens infected with *Salmonella* can transmit the organism into their eggs. In studies at Athens, birds were vaccinated twice and then exposed to *S. enteritidis*. The new vaccine reduced *S. enteritidis* shedding in the birds' feces by 10 to 40 percent. A patent for the vaccine has been filed and is available for licensing. The experimental oil emulsion vaccine is more effective than commercial vaccines because it boosts levels of antibodies that the hens produce to fight the infection, reducing *S. enteritidis* inside their intestines. This, in turn, decreases the chance that the bacterium will spread further through the birds' bodies, or that it will be shed in their feces. [View Article](#)

## SARS Update

30 April - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has added laboratory criteria for evidence of infection with the SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV) to its interim surveillance case definition [View Report](#) 02 May – Reuters reported the [SARS](#) virus has been mutating rapidly in Hong Kong, making a cure or vaccine more difficult. Lo and his colleagues at the Chinese University of Hong Kong isolated the virus in 11 victims and found four strains. This shows the virus had mutated within the two months since the outbreak surfaced in the city. [View Article](#) 04 May - ABC News reported new scientific findings indicate that feces may be a more important method of spreading the SARS virus than originally thought. Government scientists in Hong Kong have found that the virus can stay alive for at least four days in diarrhea. The report was among several new findings Sunday. One study found that the SARS virus can live on chilled surfaces like those in a refrigerator for as long as four days. Another found common disinfectants can kill the virus. [View Article](#) 06 May- ABC News reported serum from recovered SARS patients appears to be more effective in fighting the killer respiratory disease in Hong Kong than a cocktail of antivirals and steroids [View Article](#) 07 May – Reuters reported the death rate from SARS could be as high as 55 percent among people over 60 years old and 13 percent in those under 60. [View Report](#) 08 May – CBS News reported the World Health Organization said it was sharply raising its estimate of the SARS death rate to 14-15 percent. The revisions

are based on data from Canada, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Vietnam, the U.N. agency said. [View Article](#) [Revised Case Fatality, Incubation](#)

## Scientists Help Find Key TB Treatment

30 April – All Africa reported two women scientists from South Africa have assisted in making a significant breakthrough in the treatment of [tuberculosis \(TB\)](#) by unraveling one of the tricks that makes the TB organism resistant to drugs. The finding could lead to new ways to treat TB without risking the development of possible drug resistance. Shoddy work by a DNA-repair enzyme allows tuberculosis-causing bacteria (MTb) to develop antibiotic resistance, the scientists discovered. [View Article](#)

## Sesame Oil Helps Reduce Dose of Blood Pressure-lowering Medicine

28 April - Science Blog reported cooking with sesame oil in place of other edible oils appears to help reduce [high blood pressure](#) and lower the amount of medication needed to control hypertension, researchers reported at the XVth Scientific Meeting of the Inter-American Society of Hypertension. Using sesame oil as the sole cooking oil for 60 days along with drug treatment lowered patients' blood pressure levels from 166 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) systolic pressure to 134 mm Hg, and from 101 mm Hg diastolic to 84.6 mm Hg. The researchers also report that the dose of nifedipine, a calcium channel blocker, was reduced from 22.7 mg per day to 7.45 mg per day by the end of the study. [View Article](#)

## Study: Violent Music Boosts Aggressive Thoughts

05 May – CNN reported violent lyrics in songs increase aggression-related thoughts and emotions and could indirectly create a more hostile social environment, a study released by a U.S. psychology association found. The Washington, D.C.-based American Psychological Association (APA) released the study, resulting from five experiments involving over 500 college students, in the May issue of the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. The violent songs increased feelings of hostility without provocation or threat, according to the study. It said the effect was not the result of differences in musical style, specific performing artist or arousal properties of the songs. Even the humorous violent songs increased aggressive thoughts, the study said. The group said the study contradicts a popular notion that listening to angry, violent music actually serves as a positive catharsis for people. [View Article](#)

## Traffic Pollution Damages Sperm

30 April – New Scientist reported traffic pollution damages sperm and may reduce fertility in young and middle-aged men, according to an Italian study of motorway tollgate attendants. The attendants, who spend six hours a day sitting in a roadside booth, showed poorer sperm quality than men of the same age living in the same area but not exposed to the same level of exhaust fumes. Researchers blamed nitrogen oxides and lead for the adverse effects. Although the sperm counts of tollgate workers were normal, their sperm performed less well in tests measuring the ability to reach and penetrate an egg. [View Article](#)

# USEUCOM

## False Nuke Alarm Creates a Panic

28 April – The Moscow Times reported fears of a [nuclear accident](#) at the Kurchatov Institute, the largest center for nuclear research in the country, had much of the city in a panic until it became clear that it was a false alarm. People painted their necks with iodine and swallowed [iodine tablets](#) to prevent damage to the thyroid glands. Advice was quickly passed around by e-mail and telephone on how to combat the effects of radiation, with some suggesting two iodine tablets and others a glass or two of red wine. Some schools and kindergartens gave out iodine tablets to their young charges, several Russian newspapers reported Saturday. The rumors are believed to have arisen after a civil defense exercise was run in the western part of the city that simulated a radiation leak from the Kurchatov Institute, Izvestia reported Saturday. The simulation was taken as real and reported on a number of web sites. [View Article](#)

## Russia: Flare of Diphtheria Closes School for Quarantine in Nizhny Tagil

02 May – ProMed reported free vaccines against [diphtheria](#) are now being administered to children in the Russian city of Nizhny Tagil after an outbreak of the disease hospitalized 20 children and a teacher and closed the school they attended. All of the affected children had been vaccinated, leading Yelena Romashina, chief doctor of the city's sanitary and epidemic monitoring service, to suggest they might be dealing with a new form of the disease resistant to the existing vaccine. (It should be noted however that if the original vaccine was inadequately handled immunogenicity will be diminished.) Cases of diphtheria have also been recorded in other area schools and nurseries, as well as among some of the patients' family members. [View Report](#)

## Tanzania: Disease Breaks Out Among Baboons

01 May – ProMed reported Tanzanian wildlife researchers are frantically working around the clock to unravel a mystery [venereal disease](#) that has hit olive baboons at Manyara National Park. Male baboons in the park are reported to be dying in excruciating pain after contracting the as yet unidentified disease. The growing regional interest was sparked by fears that this outbreak in Manyara National Park may spread to baboon population in the nearby Kenyan Tsavo National Park and elsewhere. Tanzanian authorities have confirmed that over 200 baboons are reported to have contracted the mystery disease, which attacks the animal's reproductive organs. Conservation officials are not yet sure whether the disease is sexually transmitted, although local rangers and park employees are describing the disease as syphilis. Kihwele confirmed that Tanzania's top conservation scientists were examining samples from the infected baboons in an attempt to pinpoint the exact nature, cycle, and possible cause of the disease. Wardens are also closely monitoring affected baboon troops in a bid to prevent them from moving to new areas. [View Report](#)

# USCENTCOM

## AIDS Takes Toll on Kenyan Army

01 May - The Kenyan army has set up an AIDS unit, warning that [HIV](#) is affecting the armed forces at all ranks. Lieutenant General John Koech, deputy chief of the Kenyan general staff, said that between 50 and 60% of beds at the Forces Memorial Hospital in Nairobi were now occupied by AIDS/HIV sufferers. The effects of the virus were causing loss of continuity at command level and within the ranks and, in turn, increasing the costs of recruiting and training replacements, he was quoted as saying in the East African Standard. Other African armies such as South Africa's have also been badly hit by the virus, with soldiers seen as a particularly vulnerable group given the time they spend away from home. [View Article](#)

## Cholera Strikes Basra, Epidemic Feared

07 May – CBS News reported two hospitals in southern Iraq have reported 17 confirmed cases of [cholera](#), and the World Health Organization said it fears far more have gone unreported. “An outbreak of cholera, affecting probably several hundreds of people, is occurring,” warned Fadela Chaib of the U.N. agency, which dispatched a team to the southern city of Basra this week. Initial cases were seen in children age under 4 from the northern part of the city. Two local hospitals, Al-Tahir Teaching Hospital and Basra Maternal and Child Hospital, have confirmed 17 cases so far. More samples have been sent to a laboratory in Kuwait for confirmation, and final results are expected by Thursday. No deaths have been reported so far. Health officials said they feared the problem is already reaching epidemic proportions. [View Article](#)

## U.S. Appoints Iraqi Health Official, Pays Workers to Return

03 May – Nando Times reported the U.S. picked a new head of Iraq's Health Ministry on Saturday - a Baath Party member whose appointment was so critical that U.S. officials designated the announcement "Public Notice No. 1." The appointment of optometrist Ali Shnan al-Janabi came as the Americans started paying Health Ministry workers \$20 to return to work, and as U.N. officials warned of humanitarian disaster if quick action is not taken to restore vital services. UNICEF rushed rehydration salts, milk and protein biscuits to poor Iraqi neighborhoods Saturday to help children sickened after drinking tainted water from pipes shattered in the fighting. The U.S. civil administration said that by making al-Janabi's appointment the subject of its first public notice since taking charge, it was indicating that health issues are a high priority. [View Article](#)

# USNORTHCOM

## CDC Reports 103 Pregnancies Among Recipients of Smallpox Vaccine

01 May – Reuters reported despite the fact that pregnant women are advised to opt out of the [smallpox vaccine](#), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Thursday that 103 women have either received the vaccine while pregnant or conceived shortly thereafter. In all cases, women received the vaccine when they did not know they were pregnant, conceived within 28 days after being vaccinated, or were in close contact with a person who had been recently vaccinated. However, since the program began, almost 70,000 women of reproductive age have received the vaccine. Consequently, the number of accidentally exposed pregnancies is much lower than would be expected if there were no attempts to screen and

educate women about the risks of vaccine exposure in pregnancy. The CDC has received two reports of miscarriage among the six non-military women exposed to the vaccine in pregnancy. However, miscarriage occurs in between 16 and 31 percent of pregnancies in general, so it was unclear whether the vaccine was responsible. The CDC is continuing to monitor the other pregnant women, most of whom have not yet delivered. [View Article](#) [View MMWR Report](#)

## HHS Offers Guidance on Air-filtration, Air-cleaning Systems to Guard Buildings Against Attacks

02 May - HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced the release of new guidance to help facility specialists in business and government strategically select and use air-filtration and air-cleaning systems to protect occupants in buildings from [chemical, biological, or radiological attacks](#). The guidelines will help building designers, building engineers, and others who make technical decisions to improve air filtration in buildings such as offices, retail facilities, schools, transportation terminals, indoor malls and sports arenas. The HHS document, [View Document](#) was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), in collaboration with a working group at the White House Office of Homeland Security, now the Department of Homeland Security. [View Article](#)

## Lyme Disease Treatable with Fewer Antibiotics

05 May – Reuters reported people with Lyme disease typically take antibiotics for at least 21 days. However, new research suggests some patients may fully recover with less than half as many days of treatment. The investigators found that people with the most common form of early Lyme disease, characterized by a rash and, in some cases, flu-like symptoms, were just as likely to recover whether they took the antibiotic doxycycline for 10 or 20 days. Moreover, adding another antibiotic to try to combat the spread of the Lyme disease bacterium to the nervous system appeared to offer no additional benefit and increased the risk of diarrhea. [View Article](#)

## Men's Shorter Life Span Called 'Silent Health Crisis'

30 April - The Journal of Public Health published an article where U.S. men die on average almost five years before women, far sooner if they're minorities, and a medical journal is calling the disparity a "silent health crisis." Doctors and census takers have long pointed out the difference. The journal cites a number of reasons for discrepancies between men and women. Men are more likely than women to be in prison, to be homeless or to use of illegal drugs, wrote sociologist David Williams of the University of Michigan. Minorities are more likely to live in poverty, he notes. And while 17 percent of white men are uninsured, 28 percent of black men and almost half of Hispanic men have no insurance. Then there are cultural beliefs about projecting masculinity, undermining preventive health care. For example, women are twice as likely as men to visit a doctor each year, and men's visits are shorter and less likely to include advice on behaviors that improve health, Williams said. [View Article](#)

## SARS Report of Cases in the United States as of 05 May, 2003

State	Total Cases	Suspect Cases	Probable Cases	State	Total Cases	Suspect Cases	Probable Cases	State	Total Cases	Suspect Cases	Probable Cases
AL	1	1	0	ME	2	2	0	OH	13	12	1
AZ	1	1	0	MD	4	4	0	OR	1	1	0
AR	1	1	0	MA	19	16	3	PA	12	11	1
CA	64	41	23	MI	3	3	0	RI	1	1	0

CO	11	8	3	MN	9	7	1	SC	2	2	0
CT	8	6	2	MS	2	1	1	SD	1	1	0
FL	18	15	3	MO	2	2	0	TX	7	7	0
GA	5	4	1	NV	3	3	0	UT	7	6	1
HI	6	4	2	NH	1	1	0	VT	2	2	0
IL	16	14	2	NJ	4	3	1	VA	9	5	4
IN	1	1	0	NM	1	0	1	WA	23	21	2
KS	2	1	1	NY	38	29	9	WI	7	6	1
KY	4	3	1	NC	8	8	0	<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>65</b>

[\\*Case definition](#)

For more information, visit this CDC [SARS web site](#).

## Study: Overworked Nurses Put Patient Care at Risk

05 May – Reuters reported survey results indicate hospital nurses in America are caring for too many patients and that understaffing is resulting in poor patient care and nurse burnout. At a time when the nation is struggling to attract more young men and women to the nursing profession, a majority of nurses say the situation for registered nurses is the same (30 percent) or getting worse (49 percent). AFT Healthcare, which commissioned the survey, said medical-surgical nurses are responsible for an average of eight patients during a shift. More than two-thirds are overseeing six or more patients at a time. Nurses say their typical patient load greatly exceeds optimal levels. Two-thirds believe they should be responsible for five or fewer patients in a single shift, according to the poll, conducted in March by Peter D. Hart Research Associates. [View Article](#)

## USA: Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Georgia

05 May – ProMed reported local health officials are warning residents to protect themselves from mosquito-borne disease after a Guyton horse died from eastern equine encephalitis. [Eastern equine encephalitis \(EEE\)](#) is rare in Georgia. This case is the first case in at least 5 years. But humans as well as horses can contract this infection from mosquitoes, and when they do, the infection is likely to be severe. [View Report](#)

## USA: Minnesota Reports First West Nile Virus-positive Equine in 2003

02 May – ProMed reported a mare near Brainerd has tested positive for [West Nile virus](#), the nation's first case in a horse this year. Minnesota veterinarians and health officials had expected the mosquito-borne disease, which humans can contract, to emerge in late June or July, but it hit nearly 2 months early. The 5-year-old quarterhorse in Crow Wing County had been sick about a week before it was destroyed on Sat 19 Apr 2003, said Dr. Ann Domagala, the veterinarian who treated it. She said the horse owner decided not to give booster vaccinations against West Nile virus infection because of concern over the vaccine's effects on fertility and pregnancies. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that no new cases have been reported in humans this year, but that it has been detected in birds in Georgia, Louisiana, and Florida. [View Report](#)

# USPACOM

## India: Outbreak of Kyasanur Forest Disease in Shimoga District

03 May – ProMed reported 8 people are reported dead in Shimoga district, in Karnataka, where an outbreak of the [Kyasanur Forest disease](#), or Monkey disease, has affected more than 500 people. This virus was first reported in the same area in 1957, when it was first recognized, and there were subsequent epidemics in 1981 and later in 1983-84. Doctors in the area are worried that there could be more deaths if preventive measures are not taken quickly. The disease is transmitted from infected monkeys by ticks that subsequently bite humans who might venture into the forest for firewood or other reasons. The symptoms are high fever, headache, vomiting, and eventually bleeding from the nose and throat. There is no specific treatment for the disease, but it can be prevented by: Vaccination of the population at risk; controlling the tick population by chemical spraying; and personal protection by using insect repellents on clothing. [View Report](#)

## Indonesia: 5 Bogor Residents Die Mysteriously

06 May – ProMed reported 5 residents of the same neighborhood in Kampung Parung Alen in Cikeas village, Sukaraja district, Bogor regency, died from a mysterious illness within 10 days of each other. The victims were a girl aged 15, her mother aged 60, her mother-in-law, also aged 60, and 2 others aged 35 and 13. They died between 9 and 19 Apr 2003. The head of the local Epidemiology Surveillance and Immunization Office, Eulis Wulantari, said she suspected that 2 patients died due to kidney failure, while 2 others may have died from [dengue hemorrhagic fever](#), and the 5th may have had typhoid. She said the Bogor health agency had checked 45 houses and found the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which transmit dengue fever, in 4 houses. Dengue hemorrhagic fever is common in the densely populated Kampung Parung Alen. Sanitation in the area is poor and houses are located close to dirty goat enclosures. [View Report](#)

## Japan: Inspections Show 30,000 People Infected with Hepatitis C

02 May — Japan Today reported a total of 30,000 people or 1.6% of those who underwent health inspections conducted by local governments nationwide in fiscal 2002, were found to be infected with the [hepatitis C virus](#), the healthy ministry said. The infection rate, made clear from data compiled by the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry, are the first on hepatitis C on a nationwide level based on actual inspections. A ministry official said that the figure roughly matches ministry predictions based on data from past research. [View Article](#)

## Japan Researchers to Test Possible Malaria Vaccine

07 May – Reuters reported researchers at a Japanese university have developed a possible vaccine for malaria and plan to begin safety tests on laboratory animals next month. It will likely take at least six or seven years until the vaccine was ready for general use. The vaccine is based on a protein called serine repeat antigen (SERA), produced by the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*, which is spread by mosquitoes. In laboratory tests, antibodies against SERA that were developed and taken from mice killed the parasite. Studies conducted since 1995 by a group in Uganda found that infected individuals did not show symptoms of malaria if they had high amounts of antibodies against SERA. Around 20,000 units of the test vaccines were now being produced at a Health Ministry-approved facility, and safety tests will begin in June. If those tests, which are expected to last around a year, succeed, they would be followed

by human safety tests in Japan. Researchers said they would then aim to start trials on humans in regions affected by malaria such as Africa or Southeast Asia in 2005. [View Article](#)

## USSOUTHCOM

### Costa Rica: Concern Over Indifference to Increase in Number of Dengue Cases

05 May – ProMed reported in the canton of Guanacaste, there are 2 issues of great concern: the increase in the number of cases of [dengue fever](#), and the calmness with which the people are responding. In 2003, 371 cases have already been registered, whereas in all of 2002 there were 396 cases. However, the population regards the disease as "normal" and does not take the necessary preventive measures. The Santa Cruz outbreak originated in the locality of Tamarindo, and then spread to Brasilito, Guaitil, Villarreal, Santa Barbara, and the center of Santa Cruz. Cases have also been registered in San Martin de Nicoya, but the situation there is under control. The city of Filadelfia has not reported any cases. [View Report](#)

### El Salvador: Health Authorities Confirm the Presence of West Nile Virus

04 May – ProMed reported The Minister of Health of El Salvador announced that on 29 Apr 2003, 3 of 10 samples sent to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) a month ago were positive for [West Nile virus](#). The samples were taken from horses that died with symptoms of the disease in the locality of Usulután. Lopez Beltrán repeated on several occasions that, thus far, there have been no reports of cases of human infection. He explained that if a person presents symptoms of the disease (severe headache, fever, and malaise, among others) it is the responsibility of the staff of the Hospital Nacional in Usulután to handle the situation. [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: Rachel Gross, PhD  
[Rachel.Gross@APG.amedd.army.mil](mailto:Rachel.Gross@APG.amedd.army.mil)

Lorraine Bell, DrPH, MSN  
[Lorraine.Bell@APG.amedd.army.mil](mailto:Lorraine.Bell@APG.amedd.army.mil)

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