

USACHPPM
HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

4 November 2002

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

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HOT ISSUES

Alertness pill seeks wider uses

30 October - New Scientist reported a drug designed to help people with narcolepsy, a particular sleep disorder to stay awake could soon be licensed to perk up sleepy shift workers and others affected by drowsiness. The prospect is stirring up a debate about the dangers of popping a pill to counter a sleep-deprived lifestyle. The clinical trial on shift workers is the latest of a string of studies showing how Provigil could benefit different groups of people. Critics of more widespread use of Provigil fear that the drug might give people a false sense that they can cheat their need for sleep, while in reality they may be accumulating a sleep debt that will ultimately harm them. Sleep deprivation leads to cognitive impairment, as well as seriously disrupting the immune and hormone systems, although it is not known how long these effects last. Paul Blake of Cephalon, the manufacturer of the drug acknowledges Provigil's limitations: "The drug isn't a replacement for sleep," he says. On the other hand, Provigil could help prevent accidents common among shift workers, and make a big difference to soldiers on sustained operations or rescue workers at a major emergency. [View Article](#)

Anthrax Drugs Side Effects Reported

30 October - Many postal workers, Senate office workers and media employees possibly exposed to anthrax reported mild side effects from the antibiotics, including stomach pain, nausea, headaches and dizziness. A few required hospitalization. Despite the problems, Dr. Colin Shepard of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the effectiveness of antibiotics during the attacks was "reassuring" because most of the side effects were mild and no one put on the antibiotics developed anthrax. Not surprisingly, officials found that people were more likely to stick to the program if they thought they were exposed to the potentially deadly bacteria. [View Article](#) [View CDC Survey Results](#)

Aquarium Seal Dies From West Nile

30 October – Newsday reported a harbor seal at the New Jersey State Aquarium died from the West Nile virus, the first recorded case in the United States of a marine mammal succumbing to the disease. The seal lived at the aquarium's outdoor saltwater exhibit since it opened 10 years ago. Aquarium officials said he had no health problems and it wasn't clear how he got the disease. Experts said there were no records of other marine mammals dying from the disease

in the United States. However, officials at the National Zoo in Washington are awaiting test results to see if a 23-year-old gray seal that died Sept. 2 had the virus. [View Article](#)

Depo-Provera Users Can Miss Unplanned Pregnancies

30 October - Reuters Health reported just a tiny fraction of the women who use the injected hormonal birth-control method called Depo-Provera become pregnant, but many of those who do don't realize they are pregnant until after the first trimester, US researchers report. In fact, almost one fifth of the women who became pregnant while receiving Depo-Provera received additional injections after they conceived, according to Dr. Lynn Borgatta of Boston University in Massachusetts and her colleagues. The risk of pregnancy is too low to warrant requiring women to submit to pregnancy tests each time they receive additional Depo-Provera injections if they show no signs of having conceived, the authors write. However, they suggested that both health care workers and women remain aware of the risk of pregnancy, even among those who use contraception. SOURCE: *Contraception* 2002;66:169-172. [View Article](#)

Disease Occurrence -- Worldwide

30 October – AFMIC has released its weekly Disease Occurrence World Wide (DOWW). This report, as well as other current medical intelligence reports can be viewed at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/> under “What’s new”.

Eating Fish Cuts Risk of Dementia

26 October – A study in the *British Medical Journal* reported elderly people who eat fish or seafood at least once a week are at lower risk of developing dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. This "protective" effect was partly explained by higher education of regular consumers. The authors suggest that, as well as providing vascular protection, the fatty acids contained in fish oils could reduce inflammation in the brain and may have a specific role in brain development and regeneration of nerve cells. [View Article](#)

Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings

25 October - The [CDC](#) has issued *The Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings*, which provides health-care workers (HCWs) with a review of data regarding handwashing and hand antisepsis in health-care settings. In addition, it provides specific recommendations to promote improved hand-hygiene practices and reduce transmission of pathogenic microorganisms to patients and personnel in health-care settings. New studies of the in vivo efficacy of alcohol-based hand rubs and the low incidence of dermatitis associated with their use are reviewed. Recent studies demonstrating the value of multidisciplinary hand-hygiene promotion programs and the potential role of alcohol-based hand rubs in improving hand-hygiene practices are summarized. Recommendations concerning related issues (e.g., the use of surgical hand antiseptics, hand lotions or creams, and wearing of artificial fingernails) are also included. [View Guidelines](#)

Link Suggested in Hypertension and Painkillers

27 October — The New York Times reported the pain relievers ibuprofen and acetaminophen, contained in scores of over-the-counter remedies, may increase the risk of high blood pressure, a study of women suggests. Skeptics say the connection needs more confirmation in better-designed studies, and the Harvard researchers who conducted the study do not recommend that people stop taking the medications. But the authors said their findings were plausible given what is known about how the drugs affect the body. [View Article](#)

Poverty, Education Are Factors in Fire Death Rates

October 25 - Reuters Health reported the rate of death by fire varies dramatically by state, according to a new report from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Every US state has seen a decline in the rate of fire deaths since 1980. Fire death rates depended largely on certain characteristics of the population, the NFPA explains. Residents of states with more people who smoked, fewer people who had completed high school and higher poverty rates were more likely to die in a fire than people living in richer states with fewer smokers and more highly educated residents. The five states with the highest rates of death by fire in 1999 were Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina and West Virginia, the report indicates, while the lowest fire death rates were seen in New Hampshire, Hawaii, Utah, Colorado and California. [View Article](#)

Quick Tests Identify Flu, Help Halt Bug's Spread

28 October - Reuters Health reported a strategy to quickly identify upper respiratory infections may help nip the flu bug in the bud, according to a study presented at the Infectious Disease Society of America's annual meeting. In a demonstration project at the 2002 Winter Olympics, researchers at the University of Utah School of Medicine showed that rapid detection and treatment of influenza can reduce symptoms, prevent spread to others and cut the use of antibiotics by convincing patients that these drugs have no affect on flu viruses. The strategy used two fairly new technologies: rapid flu tests and anti-flu medications. [View Article](#)

Red Cross Red Crescent to Train UNHCR Staff in First Aid

22 October - The Red Cross reports its expertise in first aid training has been recognized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR. The UN refugee agency has signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Federation under which National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will provide first aid training to UNHCR staff. The memorandum of understanding, signed in Geneva on 21 October stems from a decision by the UNHCR two years ago to reinforce the emergency preparedness and response capacity of its staff. As a result, it approached the International Federation about a plan whereby Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies would be the preferred providers of first aid training and equipment for UNHCR international and local staff. The International Federation and the UNHCR will develop guidelines, detailing the local implementation of first aid training to UNHCR staff members and dependents living with them in the field, the objectives and educational methods to be used, the evaluation process and the choice of equipment suitable to local living and working conditions. [View Article](#)

Sandia-aided method to heal wounded and diseased achieves US government acceptance

21 October – Sandia National Laboratories reports a disposable plastic bag resembling the common kitchen garbage bag, its interior fed by a simple oxygen canister monitored by inexpensive, deceptively simple plastic instruments, has been licensed by the federal government as a tool to heal the sick and the wounded in the nation's military, both active and retired. The product called the Numobag™ after its creator and distributor, Numotech Inc. of Northridge, Calif. was made commercially viable with the aid of inexpensive sensors and safety features developed at Sandia National Laboratories. The heightened oxygen content helps oxidize, or burn up, organisms on the skin or in wounds, in addition to helping flesh itself heal. Tests of the bag have produced clinical evidence that the technique acts to minimize scarring and shorten treatment times for skin wounds, such as pressure ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers, severe burns, and plastic surgery. The mobile, low-cost technique is of further interest to the military because it is also considered an effective treatment for smallpox and dermal anthrax. [View Article](#)

Stronger Breed of Head Lice Survives

28 October – The Associated Press reports over-the-counter shampoos are losing their effectiveness against head lice, parasites that can plague 12 million schoolchildren each year. John Clark and researchers at the University of California have been trying to find out why some head lice don't die when doused and scrubbed with pesticide-based shampoos. The pesticide-laced shampoos, which were made available without a prescription in the 1980s, helped the resistant strain of lice evolve, public health experts said. Clark states, "I would say that between five and 10 years at the most, they won't be effective at all. If we're going to get a handle on control, it's going to have to be done through very controlled prescription use of pesticides. When these things are sold over-the-counter, they're not used properly. And that leads to the problems we're seeing now." [View Article](#)

Synthetic Hormone May Someday Help in Osteoporosis Treatment

24 October – Voice of America News reported U.S. scientists have found estren, a synthetic compound mimicking estrogen, helps build bone in laboratory mice without affecting their reproductive organs. The finding offers hope that post-menopausal women might be able to take the treatment someday, without the cancer risks associated with estrogen replacement therapy. If small preliminary studies in people show results like those in mice, large scale human testing may occur in two to three years. [View Article](#)

USEUCOM

British Patients in Hospital Brain Disease Scare

30 October – Reuters reported - Twenty-nine patients at a hospital in northern England may have been exposed to the deadly brain disease sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) after infected equipment was used during surgery. The patients at Middlesbrough General Hospital all underwent operations using instruments that had been used on a person who had a brain operation in July. The patient was diagnosed a month later with sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, an extremely rare but fatal brain-wasting condition. "We have been working closely with the CJD surveillance unit to look at any possible risk to these patients, though it must be stressed it is extremely low," a hospital statement said. Only about one in a million people

contract sporadic CJD. Unlike the variant CJD strain--the human form of "mad cow disease" that scientists suspect is contracted by eating beef contaminated with BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy, sporadic CJD occurs randomly, usually in older people, and has no known genetic or environmental cause. British hospital guidelines specify that any equipment used in operations in any suspected CJD cases should be quarantined. [View Article](#)

England - Outbreaks of *Salmonella enteritidis* Phage Type 14b and 6a

25 October - The Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) has been working with local healthcare professionals to investigate the cause of an increase in cases of *Salmonella enteritidis* phage type 14b (PT 14b). 224 cases have been reported since 26th September, mostly acquired within England. The increase has involved two separate outbreaks from the London and Cheshire regions as well as cases scattered around the country, and evidence now indicates that one cause may be eggs, possibly imported. Dr. Sarah O'Brien of the PHLS stated the results of a case control study showed a strong link between the people who had been ill and food bought from local bakeries and local butchers or eaten from sandwich bars. A significant level of contamination in imported eggs tested was identified. The outbreak of phage type 14b is the biggest *S. enteritidis* outbreak investigated for over a decade. [View Article](#)

Italy Volcano Emissions Put Locals' Health at Risk

29 October - Reuters Health reports residents around the Italian city of Catania have been advised to wear protective masks due to Mount Etna's third full day of lava-spewing on Tuesday. Lava sand contains silicon, iron and sulphur particles, all of which are highly irritating to the lining of the airways. Such particles can also block the smaller airway branches within the lungs, or bronchi, doctors warned. "This puts at risk those who are already suffering from bronchial pathologies. Problems have been growing acute in several patients. We are also beginning to notice other effects in the population, such as eye irritations," Professor Nunzio Crimi of "Ascoli Tomaselli" hospital's institute for breathing diseases and allergology said. [View Article](#)

Low Levels of Influenza Activity in Europe

20 October - The first Weekly Electronic Bulletin of the 2002-2003 influenza season was released by the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS). In weeks 40/2002 and 41/2002, all of the networks that reported data to the EISS reported no influenza activity (i.e. the overall level of clinical activity was at baseline levels). Maps outlining influenza activity in weeks 40/2002 and 41/2002 can be viewed on the EISS website. The Weekly Electronic Bulletin presents and comments influenza activity in the 19 European countries (22 networks) that are members of EISS. In week 42/2002, ten networks reported clinical data and eleven networks reported virological data. [View Report](#)

Russia: Gas Was Opiate Fentanyl

30 October – Newsday reported Russia's top health official said that the gas used in the storming of a Moscow theater held by Chechen gunmen was based on fentanyl, a fast-acting opiate with medical applications, Russian news agencies reported. Health Minister Yuri Shevchenko said the compound was an anesthetic and would not normally cause death, the Interfax and ITAR-Tass news agencies reported. "By themselves, these compounds cannot

provoke a fatal outcome," Shevchenko was quoted as saying. But Shevchenko said that the deaths were caused by the use of the chemical compound on people who had been starved of oxygen, were dehydrated, hungry, unable to move adequately and under severe psychological stress. [View Article](#)

Typhoid Fever Menace Now Under Check

28 October – The East African Standard reported in many parts of Kenya typhoid fever cases are causing havoc. Poverty, congestion and unhygienic living conditions have worsened the situation. In 2000, Kenya Medical Association, the Federation of African Women Educationists, Howse & Mc George Laborex and Aventis Pasteur launched typhoid awareness and prevention campaign in Nyanza. The awareness campaign targeted primary and secondary school students. People were advised to be immunized against typhoid now that the typhoid vaccine typhim vi is affordable. Areas where the awareness has been conducted have reported significant reduction rate of the disease. [View Article](#)

Yellow Fever Outbreak in Senegal Alarms WHO

22 October – The World Health Organization Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response (WHO-CSR) reported as of 24 October, the Ministry of Health of Senegal has confirmed 41 cases and 4 deaths of yellow fever in Senegal. [View Article](#). Voice of America News reported this outbreak has raised concerns among officials at the World Health Organization. WHO fears the disease will spread if the government has to stop a mass vaccination campaign for lack of funds. All the yellow fever cases in Senegal have been reported in and around the city of Touba, which is northeast of the capital, Dakar. The Senegalese government began a mass vaccination campaign in the affected area on October 1, but is running low on vaccines and needs nearly \$1 million to buy enough vaccine to immunize hundreds of thousands of people who are at risk. [View Article](#)

USCENTCOM

Children in Pakistan Have High Lead Levels

29 October - Reuters Health reported roughly 80% of children living in or around Karachi, Pakistan have blood lead levels that exceed safe limits, new study findings have found. Children are especially susceptible to the toxic effects of lead, experiencing neurological problems, including learning disabilities and a drop in IQ if lead levels climb above 10 micrograms per deciliter (mcg/dL) of blood. Some environmental factors that appeared to contribute to higher blood lead levels included living closer to automobile congested intersections, using the lead-containing eye make-up surma around children's eyes, and having a father who had on-the-job lead exposure, the report indicates. The elevated lead levels in children living near traffic congestion suggests that gasoline in the country still contains lead, a practice halted in the US in the late 1970s. SOURCE: Bulletin of the World Health Organization 2002;80:769-775. [View Report](#)

Ethiopia: Largest ever polio vaccination campaign underway

25 October -United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported Ethiopia launched its biggest ever polio vaccination campaign as it was revealed that the country is almost totally free of the virus. More than 14 million children are to be targeted in the final immunization in Ethiopia in which more than 74,000 volunteers will take part. The Ethiopian army has also been mobilized to help with the campaign in areas that are deemed insecure. It also emerged that no cases of wild poliovirus had occurred in Ethiopia for the last 20 months since January 2001 - a major breakthrough for the country. To be certified polio-free, a country must have no cases of the virus for three years. A target of 2005 has been set for the global eradication of the disease. [View Article](#)

Sudan: Landmark Aid Deal Signed

28 Oct 2002– [IRIN](#) News reported the Sudanese government, the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) and the United Nations system on Saturday signed an historic agreement allowing unimpeded humanitarian access to hundreds of thousands of people in Sudan. The arrangement will last from 1 November and until the end of 2002, when peace talks being held in Kenya under the aegis of the regional Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) are scheduled to end. The World Food Program estimated the agreement would enable the UN food agency to provide food aid to an additional 558,000 people, on top of the 3 million people already targeted for assistance. Agreement on unfettered access would also allow a polio immunization campaign to go ahead as planned. [View Article](#)

USJFCOM

Bush Signs Two Health Bills

28 October - Reuters reported President Bush signed a pair of national health care bills Saturday, 26 October 2002, putting into law an expansion of the nation's community health center system and establishing a program aimed at speeding up the approval of medical devices at the Food and Drug Administration. The first bill, the Health Care Safety Net Amendments of 2002, is an act to authorize expansion and improvements at 3,400 community health centers across the country. The president's 2003 budget calls for Congress to fund the construction of 1,200 new centers, a move Bush said could expand health care access to more than 6 million people. The bill also establishes new programs to improve emergency medical services and dental care in rural areas. The president also signed into law the Medical Device User Fee Act, which will cut the time it takes FDA regulators to approve new high-tech medical devices like pacemakers and coronary stents. The bill sets up a program in which medical device makers pay user fees to FDA in exchange for legally required reductions in approval times. [View Article](#)

Cans of Refried Beans May Pose Botulism Hazard

24 October – DrKoop.com reported some 4,080 cans of Old El Paso Traditional Variety Refried Beans are being recalled in six states because they may be contaminated with the bacterium that causes Botulism, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says. Manufacturer General Mills

is recalling the product, which the company determined may have been undercooked, in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky and Missouri. No illnesses have been reported to the FDA so far. Affected 16-oz. cans have a UPC Code of 4600082121 on the label, and a production code imprinted on the can's top or bottom beginning with H2FF15. Other varieties of Old El Paso refried beans are *not* included in the recall. Consumers are warned not to use the product even if it does not look or smell spoiled, and to return it to where they purchased it. [View Article](#) [View FDA recall](#) [View FDA recall update](#)

FDA - Import Alert on Cantaloupes from Mexico

28 October - The [FDA](#) issued an import alert on cantaloupes from Mexico because of unsanitary conditions that have resulted in four Salmonellosis outbreaks in the last three years in the United States. These outbreaks were responsible for many illnesses including two deaths and at least 18 hospitalizations. This import alert recommends that officials detain without physical examination cantaloupe from Mexico offered for entry at all U.S. ports. The FDA also announced today that it would continue to work with the Mexican government on a food safety program for production, packing and shipping of fresh cantaloupes. The Mexican government has proposed a certification program based on good agricultural practices and good manufacturing practices that would allow FDA to identify firms that have adopted and implemented such a food safety program. This certification program is still under development. [View Article](#)

Newcastle Disease Confirmed in California

26 October – ProMED reports extensive testing and surveillance continue to show Newcastle disease virus to be limited to game fowl located in backyard premises in two adjacent counties in southern California. Clinical signs in infected birds include respiratory, nervous, and gastrointestinal signs. Mortality is up to 90 percent of exposed birds. No commercial poultry are affected. A total of 5,700 birds have been destroyed. Cleaning and disinfection of depopulated backyard premises are being conducted by State and Federal authorities. Additional backyard flocks are under quarantine. To prevent movement and assembly of this type of bird, the State of California has cancelled swap meets (locations where game fowl are sold and exchanged), and exhibits at fairs and other shows. [View Report](#)

Study: Few Older Men Given Osteoporosis Treatment

28 October – [CNN](#) reported few older men with hip fractures indicative of osteoporosis are tested or treated for the bone-thinning disease, which puts them at risk for debilitating illness and death, a study suggests. The researchers and other osteoporosis experts blame the findings on doctors' and patients' unawareness that the disease does not only affect women. Of the estimated 10 million Americans afflicted with the disease, about 2 million are men. But the percentage of men affected rises with age, and those studied were aged 80 on average. Still, just 4.5 percent of them had been prescribed osteoporosis treatment after they were discharged from a hospital following their fractures. Up to five years later, only 11 percent had had a bone-density test and just 27 percent were using any kind of osteoporosis treatment, the researchers found. [View Article](#)

US Advises Blood Banks on West Nile

25 October – Reuters reported US health officials advised blood banks of steps to take to minimize the risk of spreading West Nile virus through blood transfusions. The FDA told blood banks they should not take blood from anyone who has been diagnosed with West Nile until 14 days after their illness clears, or at least 28 days from the onset of symptoms or diagnosis, whichever is later. Bites from infected mosquitoes are the most common way, by far, that humans acquire West Nile. But officials said they found strong evidence this year that the virus may be transmitted via blood transfusion. As of Oct. 24, the CDC has recorded 3,346 West Nile cases and 183 deaths. [View Article](#) [View CDC West Nile Case Count](#)

VICORP Recalls Baked Fruit Pies Due to Undeclared Egg

25 October 25—The FDA reported VICORP of Denver, Colorado is recalling baked fruit pies due to undeclared egg. People who have allergies to eggs run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these products. The recalled pies were distributed in the states of Minnesota, Missouri and California. The recall was initiated after a label review, which revealed that the products were distributed in packaging, which did not reveal the presence of egg. Consumers who have purchased the aforementioned products are urged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact the company at 708.687.7650 x234. The lot numbers of the recalled pies can be found at http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/vicorp10_02.html

USPACOM

13 die of cholera in Philippines

30 October – Kyodo News reported at least 13 people have died in a cholera outbreak on a remote island off Basilan Province in the southern Philippines. Spokesman Cris Puno said at least 20 others were struck by the highly infectious disease in the village of Tung Amus on Tapiantana Island. [View Article](#)

AstraZeneca: 39 Drug Deaths in Japan

27 October – The Associated Press reported a spokeswoman for the Anglo-Swedish manufacturer, AstraZeneca Plc, said side effects from the cancer-fighting drug Gefitinib have now caused 39 deaths in Japan, The drug has caused debilitating lung injuries such as interstitial pneumonia in 125 patients, including the 39 who have died, said spokeswoman Fumiko Muramoto. ``We knew about the possibility of these side effects from our clinical trials," said Muramoto. ``But the number of safety incidents is increasing very rapidly. It's alarming and that's why we're issuing the warnings." Japan is the only country that has approved Gefitinib for advanced non-small-cell lung cancer. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Swiss health authorities are reviewing AstraZeneca's application to sell the drug in those countries. [View Article](#)

USSOUTHCOM

Nicaragua: "Dengue Fever Epidemic" declared

28 October – ProMed reported due to an increase in the number of cases of dengue fever in Nicaragua, the Ministry of Health (MINSAL) has declared a nation-wide state of "dengue fever epidemic." As of 24 Oct 2002, health units had confirmed 1366 cases of dengue fever, with 1258 cases of classic dengue fever and 108 cases of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF), from which there have been 7 deaths. The cities most affected by the epidemic are Nueva Segovia (254 confirmed cases), Managua (219 cases), Chinandega (162 cases), and Leon (134 cases). Nonetheless, the majority of the cases of DHF have been registered in Masaya (31 cases), followed by Managua (28 cases), Leon (18 cases), and Nueva Segovia (11 cases). [View Article](#)

WFP: Food Crisis in Central America Worsens

25 October – Voice of America News reported the United Nations World Food Program says it is working to alleviate food crises in three Central American countries, the latest in El Salvador. World Food Program spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume says the agency has just begun a special feeding program for 6,000 severely malnourished children in El Salvador. Ms. Berthiaume says the agency is also continuing its special feeding programs for tens-of-thousands of severely malnourished children and their families in Guatemala and Honduras. She says the program in Guatemala has saved the lives of 6,000 children. The World Food Program currently is assisting more than 1.5 million people in Central America. It says most of these people are suffering from chronic malnutrition, which results in stunted growth among children. Central America is suffering from drought and the cumulative effects of various natural catastrophes over the past decade. The fall in coffee prices is adding to the nutritional problems due too many people losing their jobs and an increase in poverty. [View Article](#)

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hiupdate/>.

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ACRONYMS

AFMIC - Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center

BBC – British Broadcasting Company

BMJ – British Medical Journal

BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

CIDRAP – Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy

CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CNN – Cable News Network

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

FDA – Food and Drug Administration

IRIN - Integrated Regional Information Networks, part of the [UN](#) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

MMWR – Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

NASA – National Aeronautic and Space Association

NIH – National Institute of Health

WHO – World Health Organization