

TAIWAN

1. Per USCINCPACINST 6200.2, Commanders are responsible for an effective Force Health Protection Plan for personnel deploying to locations within the USCP AOR, ensuring implementation of the Plan, for appointing a FHP Officer and assistant who will serve as the Commander's focal point for the planning, coordination, and execution of "real world" force health protection planning for a specific deployment. This is applicable to all assigned and attached personnel, all Department of Defense personnel performing official duties within locations in the AOR, and all US contractor personnel employed directly by the DOD in locations in the AOR.

2. FHP Planning must include the following elements:

a. Health Threat Assessment. This assessment must evaluate known and anticipated health threat/hazards and the appropriate countermeasures to be taken for each.

b. Health Record and Readiness Screening. This task is ongoing and must be validated before deployment.

c. Health Threat Briefing. Must be performed prior to deployment. Attendance must be documented. Minimum contents of a Health Threat Briefing for Taiwan include the following material:

(1) Immunizations.

(a) Personnel must be up to date on all routine immunizations for personnel on deployable status (tetanus booster, hepatitis A, MMR, typhoid, influenza).

(b) Japanese encephalitis vaccine is indicated if traveling to rural areas for prolonged periods.

(2) Chemoprophylaxis for malaria is not recommended. Malaria is not endemic.

d. Personal Protective Measures.

(1) Safe Food and Water. In general, low risk of traveler's diarrhea. Community sanitation is generally good, and health concerns related to foods and beverages are minimal.

(2) Sexually transmitted diseases. HIV transmission is established. Abstinence is the most effective preventive measure. Latex condoms should be used if sexually active, but may not prevent transmission of all STDs, even if used correctly.

(3) Endemic diseases.

(a) Hepatitis E is endemic; an overall seroprevalence of 7.6 percent was found in 1994. Hepatitis E is transmitted primarily by fecally contaminated water. Ensure proper sanitation methods are utilized.

(b) Schistosomiasis infection occurs secondary to skin penetration by waterborne larvae that develop in snails in freshwater habitats. Avoid exposure to ponds, lakes, irrigation canals, and slow moving streams/rivers.

(c) Lung fluke disease is reported. To prevent this disease, avoid eating raw crab or crayfish.

(4) Environmental factors. Taiwan's climate, influenced by prevailing monsoon winds and surrounding seas, is tropical in the south and subtropical in the north. Relative humidity is 75 to 90 percent throughout the year in most areas of the country. Temperatures vary from approximately 30°C (86°F) during the warmer months (April through October) to 15°C (59°F) during the cooler months (November through March). Necessary precautions include drinking water frequently, on a schedule, to avoid dehydration; adhering to safe work-rest cycles

during extreme conditions; and careful observation of teammates to detect warning signs of heat injury such as mental status changes and cessation of sweating.

(5) Hazardous animals. Rabies is not a risk. Scorpions, spiders, and centipedes are known to inflict a painful sting or bite, but none of them are known to be life-threatening..

(6) Motor Vehicle and General Safety.

(a) One of the greatest risk when traveling overseas is motor vehicle accidents. Seat belts and extreme caution in and around vehicles must be practiced. Driving conditions in Taiwan are made worse by large numbers of scooters and motorcycles.

(b) General safety. Exercise caution in all activities to avoid injury.

3. Assistance with Health Threat assessments, briefings, and countermeasures planning, as well as for the most up to date information, can be obtained from the following sources:

a. Air Force: Pacific Air Force Public Health Officer, Hickam Air Force Base, phone (DSN or 808) 449-2332, x269.

b. Army: Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Department, Tripler Army Medical Center, phone (DSN or 808) 433-6693.

c. Navy: Epidemiology Department, Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit 6, phone (DSN or 808) 473-0555.

d. Up to date State Department advisory and Consular Information Sheet can be obtained at <http://travel.state.gov>.