

10 August 2012

# Army Public Health Weekly Update

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U.S. Army Public Health Command



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**National  
Immunization &  
Influenza  
Vaccination  
Awareness Month -  
August 2012**

The month of August has been designated as National Immunization & Influenza Vaccination Awareness Month. It is critically important that every Soldier, family member, Department of the Army civilian and health beneficiary receive all required immunizations and obtain their influenza vaccinations to ensure the Army is a healthy and mission ready force.

In the U.S., influenza results in over 25 million reported cases, over 150,000 hospitalizations due to serious complications and over 30,000 deaths annually. Vaccination is the primary method for preventing influenza and its complications.

**STAND-TO!**

## U.S. MILITARY

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### Health of women after wartime deployments: Correlates of risk for selected medical conditions among females after initial and repeat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, Active Component, U.S. Armed Forces

July 2012 - This report extends the findings of previous MSMR reports regarding threats to the health of women in relation to wartime military service. The report focuses on conditions that were identified as "relatively excessive" in previous analyses of the post-deployment experiences of recently deployed female service members. While the conditions considered here are a select few, they do affect diverse organ systems and physiologic functions and have various underlying causes, pathophysiologic mechanisms, exacerbating factors, clinical manifestations, clinical courses (e.g., acute, chronic, relapsing), and epidemiologic characteristics. As such, they are a broad and diverse representation of the clinical expressions of threats to the health of women who participate in warfighting. For each of the conditions considered here, the strongest independent predictor of diagnosis of the condition after deployment was diagnosis of the condition before deployment. The finding has been documented previously among both male and female participants in warfighting and peacekeeping operations. [Medical Surveillance Monthly Report](#)

### Military anthrax vaccination not linked to long-term disability

6 August - No overall increase in the risk of subsequent disability status in US military personnel can be attributed to anthrax vaccination while on active duty, according to a study published online yesterday in *Vaccine*... The researchers carried out a case-control study of active-duty soldiers who separated from the US Army between Dec 1, 1997, and Feb 1, 2005, to determine whether exposure to AVA was associated with long-term disability status. Cases included those determined by the military to be disabled before separation (N=5,846) and those receiving disability compensation after separation (N=148,934); controls, who numbered 782,925, were those separated from the military without disability. The proportion of soldiers vaccinated against anthrax was comparable in the two case groups but was higher for controls. [CIDRAP News Scan](#)

### Toxicology report on Fort Bliss soldier who died in custody pending

26 July - Commission told KFOX14 they're waiting for a toxicology report on a Fort Bliss soldier who died an hour after being sedated at the El Paso County Jail. Sgt. James Brown reported for a voluntary two-day sentence July 13 and died July 14. El Paso County Sheriff's officials said Brown became combative and was sedated by injection. They said within an hour of the injection, Brown's organs shut down and he started bleeding out of every orifice. [KFOX](#)

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## U.S. starts landmark Agent Orange cleanup in Vietnam

8 August - ... Dioxin, a persistent chemical linked to cancer, birth defects and other disabilities, has seeped into Vietnam's soils and watersheds, creating a lasting war legacy that remains a thorny issue between the former foes. Washington has been slow to respond, but on Thursday the U.S. for the first time will begin cleaning up dioxin from Agent Orange that was stored at the former military base, now part of Danang's airport... The \$43 million project begins as Vietnam and the U.S. forge closer ties to boost trade and counter China's rising influence in the disputed South China Sea. Although the countries' economic and military ties are blossoming, progress on addressing the dioxin legacy has been slow. Washington still disputes a claim by Hanoi that between 3 million to 4 million Vietnamese were affected by toxic chemicals sprayed by U.S. planes during the war to eliminate jungle cover for guerrilla fighters, arguing that the actual number is far lower and other environmental factors are to blame for the health issues. That position irks Vietnamese, who say the United States maintains a double standard in acknowledging the consequences of Agent Orange. [Stars and Stripes](#)

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## GLOBAL

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## Gonorrhea evades antibiotics, leaving only one drug to treat disease

9 August - There's some disturbing news out today about a disease we don't hear about much these days: gonorrhea. Federal health officials announced that the sexually transmitted infection is getting dangerously close to being untreatable. As a result, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidelines for how doctors should treat gonorrhea. The guidelines are designed to keep one of the remaining effective antibiotics useful for as long as possible by restricting the use of the other drug that works against the disease... "Gonorrhea used to be susceptible to penicillin, ampicillin, tetracycline and doxycycline — very commonly used drugs," said Jonathan Zenilman, who studies infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins. But one by one, each of those antibiotics — and almost every new one that has come along since — eventually stopped working. [NPR](#)

## HIV prevention pill for heterosexuals at risk too

9 August - U.S. health officials said Thursday that doctors should consider giving an AIDS prevention pill to women and heterosexual men who are at high risk for getting the virus. The government previously advised doctors to give the once-a-day pill Truvada to high-risk gay and bisexual men only. However, more than a quarter of new HIV cases each year are heterosexuals, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "That's not a portion of the epidemic we want to ignore," said Dr. Dawn Smith, the CDC physician who was lead author of the new guidance. Truvada has been on the market since 2004 to treat

people who already have the AIDS virus. But after studies showed it could help prevent infection among gay and bisexual men, U.S. health officials last year said doctors could prescribe it as a preventive for men at high risk. Since then, studies have found it also can prevent the virus in women and heterosexual men. [NPR](#)

## The synthetic scare



4 August – Few things command attention like a random act of cannibalism. In May, after police in Florida shot a man who was eating the face of an unconscious victim, people took notice. Much of the speculation centred on “bath salts”, a previously obscure synthetic drug that is thought to induce euphoria, excitement and, occasionally, psychotic episodes... In October 2011 the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) added several of the ingredients most commonly used in “bath salts” to the controlled-substances schedule. More than 40 states have done the same, and last month Barack Obama signed a law banning them at federal level. Those laws have given law-enforcement officers more room to operate. On July 26th the DEA announced that 90 people had been arrested after a nationwide bust. Agents also seized around 5m packets of synthetic drugs and the supplies to make about 14m more. Most of the drugs in that bust, in fact, were synthetic marijuana, another relatively new drug... Abuse of bath salts (of the non-bathing kind) is troubling, but apparently not rampant. The number of people calling poison-control centres about the drug has dropped slightly since last year, and in June authorities in Florida produced a surprise. An autopsy had found no traces of bath salts in the cannibalistic attacker. The only drug involved, apparently, was marijuana—the old-fashioned sort. [Economist](#)

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## INFLUENZA

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### CDC reports cases 18-29 of H3N2v virus infection; continues to recommend interim precautions when interacting with pigs

3 August –This week CDC reports 12 additional human infections with influenza A (H3N2) variant\* virus in 3 states: Hawaii [📍](#) (1 case), Ohio [📍](#) (10 cases) and Indiana [📍](#) (1 case). The H3N2v virus contains the M gene from the human influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 (2009 H1N1) virus, as have the previous 17 cases detected since July 2011. All of this week’s reported cases occurred in people who had direct or indirect contact with swine prior to their illness. The 10 cases in Ohio were associated with attendance at a fair where reportedly ill swine were present. The H3N2v case reported by Indiana also occurred in a person who attended a fair where swine were present. CDC continues to recommend preventive actions people can take to make their fair experience a safe and healthy one. [CDC](#)

## CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

During week 30 (ending 28 July 2012), 5.6% of all deaths reported through the 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage was below the epidemic threshold of 6.6% for week 30. [FluView](#)

## European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview

During weeks 29-30 (16-29 July 2012):

- All countries reporting geographic spread were experiencing no activity of influenza-like illness/acute respiratory infection.
- Of 29 sentinel specimens, none tested positive for influenza virus. Since week 40/2011, 89.3% of sentinel influenza viruses detected have been type A and 10.7% type B. The A(H3) subtype made up 98.5% of sentinel influenza type A viruses subtyped during the 2011/12 season.
- Many of the A(H3) viruses reacted poorly with post-infection ferret antisera raised against the A/Perth/16/2009 H3N2 vaccine component, prompting the WHO's decision to recommend a change to the A(H3N2) component for the northern hemisphere 2012/13 influenza season. This is consistent with a low field vaccine effectiveness for the A(H3N2) component observed in observational studies. [Weekly Influenza Surveillance Overview](#)

## Google.org: Flu Trends

8 August – Estimates of flu activity based on flu-related Internet search queries indicate that the level of flu activity in the northern hemisphere is minimal to low and ranges from minimal to high in the southern hemisphere. High levels continue to be found in Australia and New Zealand. [Google.org Flu Trends](#)

## H3N2 found in most pigs tested following human cases

7 August – A high proportion of pigs tested for H3N2 influenza in connection with recent human cases of variant H3N2 (H3N2v) in Indiana and Ohio have been found to carry the virus, according to figures from state officials. About 30 people in the two states have had confirmed H3N2v infection in the past few weeks, most of them in connection with county fairs, according to previous reports. The virus carries the M or matrix gene from the 2009 H1N1 virus, which may increase the strain's ability to jump from pigs to humans, according to health officials. Denise Derrer, a spokeswoman for the Indiana State Board of Animal Health, said today that 29 of 30 pigs that were tested in connection with three recent county fairs had the virus. [CIDRAP News](#)

## Naval Health Research Center: Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update

For the week ending 4 August 2011, FRI surveillance at all eight U.S. military basic training centers indicated FRI rates were at or below expected values. [NHRC Febrile Respiratory Illness Surveillance Update](#)

## Two pharmacy chains begin offering vaccine for new flu season

7 August - Two pharmacy chains—RiteAid and Walgreens—yesterday announced that flu shots for the upcoming season are now available in their stores. The development follows recent announcements that four of five vaccine makers had begun shipping their first doses for the US market. Companies have said they expect to produce up to 149 million doses of flu vaccine for the 2012-13 flu season. RiteAid said in its press release that customers can receive flu vaccine at any of its 4,600 stores during pharmacy hours without an appointment. Walgreens said that the vaccine is available at its nearly 8,000 stores, including Duane Reade pharmacies in New York, as well as at more than 360 Take Care Clinics at select Walgreens stores. [CIDRAP News Scan](#)

## PANDEMIC AND AVIAN INFLUENZA

### Study: Sandy rice-field soil in Cambodia may inhibit H5N1 spread

7 August - Certain soil types contaminated with H5N1 avian flu viruses led to chicken deaths when added to their houses, but sandy topsoil collected from area rice fields seemed to resist that pathogen, a Cambodian study in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* yesterday revealed. Investigators studied sandy topsoil collected from around rice fields in Phnom Penh province, as well as building sand and soil-based compost from a local tree nursery... High-dose building sand and compost both led to a 100% fatality rate after 2 days, whereas high-dose sandy topsoil led to no deaths... The authors hypothesize that the sandy soil's acidity inhibits H5N1 spread. [CIDRAP News Scan](#)

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## VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

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### Russia: Deripaska's Agroholding kills 2,209 pigs in ASF outbreak

8 August - Kuban Agroholding, an agricultural company controlled by billionaire Oleg Deripaska's Basic Element, killed a herd of 2,209 pigs after its second African Swine Fever outbreak in 12 days, the company said. A veterinary commission is investigating the farm in the town of Ust-Labinsk in Russia's southern Krasnodar region. In the first outbreak at another farm in the same town on July 26, all 5,600 pigs were slaughtered, according to company data. There have been more than 20 outbreaks to date this year in the country, according to Rosselkhozadzor, the nation's food safety watchdog. [Bloomberg](#)

## U.S.: Multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* Enteritidis infections linked to ground beef

6 August - Case Count Update: A total of 40 individuals infected with the outbreak strain of *Salmonella* Enteritidis have been reported from 8 states. The 7 new cases are from 4 states: New York (4), Rhode Island (1), Vermont (1), and West Virginia (1). Among 40 persons for whom information is available, illness onset dates range from June 6, 2012 to July 9, 2012. Ill persons range in age from 3 years to 101 years, with a median age of 50 years; 53% are female. Among 33 persons with available information, 11 (33%) reported being hospitalized. No deaths have been reported. Illnesses that occurred after July 10, 2012 might not yet be reported due to the time it takes between when a person becomes ill and when the illness is reported. [CDC](#)

## U.S.: Tiny turtle *Salmonella* outbreaks expand



9 August - A series of 6 *Salmonella* outbreaks linked to contact with small turtles is now affecting 168 people from 30 states. That's up from the 149 illnesses reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in its last update July 3. The 19 new cases have been connected with 4 of the 6 outbreak strains tied to these reptiles, including *Salmonella* Sandiego, strain A; *Salmonella* Pomona; *Salmonella* Poona, strain A and *Salmonella* Pomona, strain B. No new cases of *Salmonella* Sandiego, strain B or *Salmonella* Poona, strain B have been detected according to the CDC update issued Wednesday. A total of 34 people have been hospitalized. [Food Safety News](#)

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### WELLNESS

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## CDC says graphic anti-smoking ads work, more on way

7 August - The ads, which ran for 12 weeks in spring and early summer, aimed to get 500,000 people to try to quit and 50,000 to kick the habit long-term. "The initial results suggest the impact will be even greater than that," says Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which spearheaded the \$54 million campaign. The ads showed real Americans talking about how smoking caused their paralysis, lung removal and amputations. He says it's the first time the U.S. government has paid for anti-smoking ads, although some media ran them free. The CDC doesn't have a tally yet on how many people actually tried to quit, but it says the ads generated 192,000 extra calls — more than double the usual volume — to its national toll-free quit line, 800-QUIT-NOW, and 417,000 new visitors to [smokefree.gov](#), its website offering cessation tips. That's triple the site's previous traffic. [USA Today](#)

## Dieting vs. exercise for weight loss



1 August - Two groundbreaking new studies address the irksome question of why so many of us who work out remain so heavy, a concern that carries special resonance at the moment, as lean Olympians slip through the air and water, inspiring countless viewers to want to become similarly sleek. And in a just world, frequent physical activity should make us slim. But repeated studies have shown that many people who begin an exercise program lose little or no weight. Some gain. To better understand why, anthropologists leading one of the new studies began with a research trip to Tanzania. There, they recruited volunteers from the Hadza tribe, whose members still live by hunting and gathering... It's long been believed that a hunter-gatherer lifestyle involves considerable physical activity and therefore burns many calories, far more than are incinerated by your average American office worker each day. And it was true, the scientists determined, that the Hadza people in general moved more than many Americans do, with the men walking about seven miles a day and the women about three. The implication, the scientists concluded, is that "active, 'traditional' lifestyles may not protect against obesity if diets change to promote increased caloric consumption." That is, even active people will pack on pounds if they eat like most of us in the West. [New York Times](#)

## Few follow car safety guidelines for kids

7 August - Many American children are not meeting recommended car passenger safety guidelines for their age group, a new study finds. Too many of these youngsters are also riding in the front seat before they're ready, putting them at greater risk on the road, according to research published in the September issue of the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*... The AAP advised that children be placed in rear-facing car seats until they are at least 2 years old. Next, children should use forward-facing car seats with a five-point harness until they reach the maximum height and weight requirement recommended by the seat's manufacturer. Children should continue to use a booster seat until they are about 57 inches tall (the average height of an 11-year-old child) and an adult seat belt fits them properly. Children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat, the AAP said. [WBRC](#)

## ICD shocks explain part of decline in VF cardiac arrests in Dutch study

7 August - Cardiac arrests from ventricular fibrillation (VF) in northern Holland decreased from 63% of all arrests to 47% of all arrests over the past decade, and a third of this decline can be attributed to successful shocks from implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), researchers report [1]... This novel study used robust methodology, he added, and showed that "appropriate use of ICDs contributes to a decline in the frequency of [out-of-hospital cardiac arrests] from VF and thereby saves lives." The team also found an increase in non-VF-related out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, and "the reasons for this increase... are unknown but merit investigation," Estes noted. [The Heart.org](#)

## Sleeping less may dampen vaccine response

6 August - An observational study has found evidence that people who sleep less may be less likely to benefit from a vaccine. Scientists gave 125 generally healthy men and women the hepatitis B vaccination — two doses one month apart and then a booster six months later. For the seven days surrounding each of the shots, they equipped the participants with sleep-monitoring devices and had them keep diaries describing their sleep subjectively. They drew blood after the second and third shots to determine the subjects' immune response to the vaccine by measuring blood levels of hepatitis B antibodies. After adjustment for other factors that affect antibody response, the researchers found that duration of sleep as measured by the monitors predicted the blood level of hepatitis B antibodies after the second shot and the likelihood of having high enough levels to be clinically protected after the six-month booster. [New York Times](#)

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### USAFRICOM

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## Away from the famines, Africa confronts a new killer: obesity

9 August - In the public mind, sub-Saharan Africa is a region plagued by war, famine and disease. Now it faces a new threat – obesity. It is not a problem widely associated with a continent where millions live on less than a dollar a day. But growing rates of obesity are posing a significant risk to the health of the next generation. With a population that has passed one billion, Africa is starting to experience the ills of the developed world, driven by changing diets, urbanisation and increasingly sedentary lives, according to research published in *The Lancet*. The reasons for the steep rise in obesity among some of the world's poorest nations is hotly debated. One theory is that the global increase is a legacy of evolution. People from Africa, Asia and Polynesia are particularly prone to obesity because they are more likely to have inherited the genes that encourage fat storage.

[Independent](#)

## Mali: USAID official on humanitarian crisis

5 August - The United States is gravely concerned by the multiple crises that are affecting the people of Mali: a political crisis following the military coup d'état of March 21, a security crisis as a result of conflict in the North and the actions of several armed groups, a food security crisis affecting populations across the country, all resulting in a complex humanitarian crisis that is affecting the people of Mali as well as its neighbors in the Sahel. 4.6 million Malians face severe hunger; 175,000 Malian children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition; and more than 450,000 have fled their homes because of ongoing violence coupled with food insecurity... Coupled with the hundreds of thousands of people now seeking refuge in neighboring countries, we are deeply concerned that ongoing instability

and humanitarian crisis here in Mali could further exacerbate an already dire regional food crisis. [allAfrica](#)

## Uganda: WHO says Ebola outbreak under control

7 August - Officials say Uganda's Ebola outbreak, which has so far killed 16 people, is now under control. It has now been almost one week since the last reported death from the virus, though teams continue to search for unreported infections. Though the Ebola outbreak in western Uganda's Kibaale District is not yet fully contained, Dr. Joaquim Saweka of the World Health Organization says it is under control. "It is under control in the sense that we have isolated and we are treating all suspected and confirmed cases. We are tracing all the possible contacts," Saweka said. One patient was diagnosed with the virus yesterday, bringing the total to 60 since the outbreak was confirmed on July 28. Of those patients, 30 remain in isolation. A team from Uganda's ministry of health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the WHO have also tracked nearly 400 people who came into contact with patients diagnosed with Ebola. About 250 are still being monitored for signs of the virus. They will not be declared clear until 21 days after they last came into contact with one of the patients. [Voice of America](#)

## Zimbabwe: CSOs petition government over typhoid, cholera

8 August - Civil Society Organisations in Zimbabwe on Wednesday petitioned the Inclusive Government to immediately address the outbreak of typhoid fever and cholera which have broken out in Harare and Chitungwiza... The CSOs demanded that government immediately set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the occurrence of the outbreaks throughout the country and recommend solutions that would bring an end to the problem. The government, the CSOs said, should come up with long term strategies that include a clear plan for the provision of clean water and the mobilization of funds and technical resources. [The Zimbabwean](#)

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### USCENTCOM

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## Pakistan has second highest rate of hepatitis: WHO

9 August - World Health Organization (WHO) has rated Pakistan as 2nd Country in the world having high rates of chronic infections. About 8.6 Million Pakistanis are affected with Hepatitis C, the WHO report said. Hepatitis C is found worldwide and countries with high rates of chronic infection are Egypt (22% of population), Pakistan (4.8% of population) and China (3.2 % of population). The main mode of transmission in these countries is attributed to unsafe injection using contaminated equipment. Pakistan is among the top syringe consuming countries where 2.4 billion syringes are used every year. The use / reuse of

suspect quality syringes is posing a serious threat to the life, safety and health of our masses / patients by spreading the menace of lethal infectious diseases like Hepatitis B & C in the country. More than 15 Million Pakistanis have already been affected by Hepatitis B & C mainly attributed to re-use / suspect quality syringes. [Pakistan Observer](#)

## Syria: Severe shortages of drugs, medicines

7 August - Many of the main drugmakers in conflict-torn Syria have closed down, causing severe shortages of medicines for treating chronic diseases and a rising number of casualties, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday. Hospitals or health centers have stopped functioning due to a lack of staff or supplies, while others have been damaged or taken over by fighters, the U.N. agency said. Before the 17-month-old revolt against President Bashar al-Assad, Syria produced 90 percent of its medicines and drugs. But production has been hit by the fighting, lack of raw materials, impact of sanctions and higher fuel costs, it said. [Reuters](#)

## Syria: Senator urges Russia, US to rid Syria of chemical arms

8 August - U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, a veteran disarmament campaigner, has urged Russia and the United States to put aside their differences over Syria and work together to remove its stockpile of chemical weapons. In Moscow for talks with foreign and defence ministry officials, he said the proposal was his own, had not been officially sanctioned and the initial response from Russia had been cool... Moscow, which has a naval maintenance facility in Syria, sells it arms and wants to keep a foothold in the Middle East, has repeatedly opposed efforts backed by Washington to tighten sanctions on Damascus and remove Assad from power. [Reuters](#)

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### USEUCOM

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## Bulgaria: State of emergency declared, people evacuated from village in S. Bulgaria due to fire

8 August - Elderly people and people who find it hard to walk have been evacuated from a neighborhood in the southern village of Gorna Kula, municipality of Krumovgrad, announced the press center of the Bulgarian Interior Ministry. A fire broke out on Wednesday at 2:41 p.m. local time. It engulfed dry grass and bushes and damaged six barns. Krumovgrad Mayor Abidin Hadzhimehmed declared a state of emergency and some of the people living in Zlatolist neighborhood were evacuated. About 30 people live in the neighborhood. Only the elderly people, those who find it hard to walk and farm animals

were taken to a safe place. Three teams of firefighters were sent to the site immediately after the signal. Three more teams were sent from the towns of Krumovgrad and Kardzhali. Volunteers also joined the firefighting. [Focus Information Agency](#)

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## USNORTHCOM

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### Mexico: Tropical storm Ernesto skirts Mexican Gulf coast, kills two



9 August - Tropical Storm Ernesto skirted the coast of the Gulf of Mexico on Thursday, sending wind gusts and showers across the state of Veracruz, home to some of Mexico's busiest ports and oil installations. The storm had maximum sustained winds of 60 mph and was drifting slowly just off the coast in the southern Gulf of Mexico, about 5 miles north of Coatzacoalcos, the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said in its 2 p.m. EDT advisory. Mexico's government downgraded a hurricane warning for the coast of Veracruz to a tropical storm warning and the NHC said further weakening was expected as Ernesto moved over mountainous terrain on the mainland. However, torrential rain and flooding was expected in Veracruz and authorities reported two deaths. Officials from state-run oil company Pemex said there were no reports of disruptions to facilities in the region, which include the Minatitlan refinery, producing 185,000 barrels of crude per day. [Reuters](#)

### U.S.: Kids' cholesterol down; fewer trans fats cited

7 August - Finally some good news about cholesterol and kids: A big government study shows that in the past decade, the proportion of children who have high cholesterol has fallen. The results are surprising, given that the childhood obesity rate didn't budge. How can that be? Some experts think that while most kids may not be eating less or exercising more, they may be getting fewer trans fats. That's because the artery-clogging ingredient has been removed or reduced in many processed or fried foods such as doughnuts, cookies and french fries. [ABC News](#)

### U.S.: Health risks from cell phones needs review, U.S. GAO says

7 August - The U.S. should reassess standards for radiation exposure from mobile phones, the Government Accountability Office said in a report that found federal guidelines lagging behind international standards. Limits set in 1996 by the Federal Communications Commission may not reflect recent research on radio-frequency energy from phones, and testing requirements may not identify maximum exposure in all usage conditions, the



10 likely voters say gun laws in their individual states should be made more strict, new Quinnipiac University/New York Times/CBS News polls find. But as many voters in Virginia say the laws should stay the way they are, as do about half of voters in Colorado and Wisconsin. (Most interviews in Wisconsin were conducted before Sunday's shooting at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis.) The polls found that 6 percent in Wisconsin, 8 percent in Colorado and 9 percent in Virginia want their gun laws made less strict. Many voters seem to lack confidence in the effectiveness of more stringent laws. About 6 in 10 voters in Virginia and Wisconsin and two-thirds in Colorado say stricter laws would not deter gunmen intent on mass shootings. [New York Times](#)

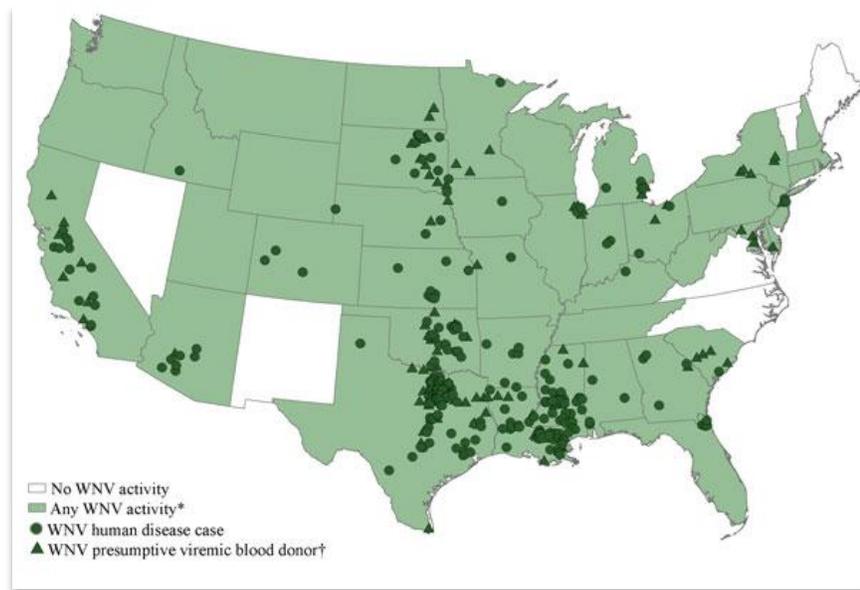
## U.S.: Six in 10 adults now get physically active by walking

7 August - Sixty-two percent of adults say they walked for at least once for 10 minutes or more in the previous week in 2010, compared to 56 percent in 2005, according to a new Vital Signs report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, less than half (48 percent) of all adults get enough physical activity to improve their health, according to data from the National Health Interview Survey. For substantial health benefits, the [2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans](#) recommends at least 2 ½ hours per week of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity, such as brisk walking. This activity should be done for at least 10 minutes at a time. [CDC](#)

## U.S.: Utah military camp wildfire burns near artillery

8 August - A wildfire burning on a Utah military installation has officials concerned about the potential it could spread to an area littered with thousands of unexploded shells, which could still detonate. Utah National Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Hank McIntire said Wednesday the wildfire was moving away from an artillery practice area, but it has previously gotten as close as a few hundred yards. Officials worry about what could happen if it marches back. "We can't actively fight the fire in that area because of the threat to personal safety," McIntire said. McIntire said the practice area covers hundreds of acres and has collected shells for nearly a century, since 1914. The unexploded shells could still ignite in a wildfire, sending shrapnel flying. The Pinyon Fire on Utah National Guard's Camp Williams about 40 miles southwest of Salt Lake City has scorched 4.7 square miles since it was started by lightning on Sunday. It was 40 percent contained Wednesday morning. [ABC News](#)

## U.S.: West Nile virus human infections reported to ArboNET, by state (as of August 7, 2012) [CDC](#)



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### USPACOM

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## Burma, Thailand tackle malaria, dengue

6 August - Health authorities in Burma and Thailand are cooperating to contain the spread of malaria and dengue fever along the two countries' border after noticing severe outbreaks of the two diseases, the Thai News Agency has reported. Last year, Thai health officials reported that a total of 1,344 people were infected by the mosquito-borne diseases in border areas, around 70 percent of them in the Kra Buri border district in Thailand's Ranong Province. [Irrawaddy](#)

## China: 2,000 arrested in counterfeit drug crackdown

5 August - Chinese government authorities have detained nearly 2,000 people as part of a nationwide crackdown on the sale of fake or counterfeit drugs and health care products, according to a report on Sunday from Xinhua, the official news agency. The government said that it had mobilized more than 18,000 officers in recent weeks to break up drug counterfeiting rings and that officials had seized about \$182 million in fake medicine, including fraudulent drugs for the treatment of cancer, hypertension and diabetes. The crackdown comes amid growing concerns about the prevalence of counterfeit drugs and tainted food supplies in China, and increasingly sophisticated counterfeiting operations.

[New York Times](#)

## China: Typhoon Haikui wreaks havoc after landing in E China



8 August - Typhoon Haikui, the 11th typhoon of the year, has brought downpours and floods to east China after landing in Zhejiang Province early Wednesday morning, the provincial observatory said. Haikui landed in Hepu Township, Xiangshan County near the Sanmenwan Gulf in central Zhejiang at 3:20 a.m. with a maximum wind speed of 150 km per hour, the observatory said. Provincial authorities have evacuated 1.5 million people in preparation for the storm, as it is expected to remain in the province for 24 hours before moving to neighboring Anhui Province, said Li Jian, head of the provincial meteorological bureau. Rain-triggered flooding stranded about 130 people in three hotels in the city of Lin'an, local rescuers said, adding that 123 people have been rescued thus far. Roads to the hotels were flooded, forcing the rescuers to walk the last two kilometers on foot. Another 300 tourists were stranded in a scenic area in Anji County after a bridge linking the scenic spot and the foot of a nearby mountain was destroyed Tuesday, county officials said. [Xinhua](#)

## Philippines begins clean-up after monsoon rains kill scores

9 August - The Philippines began a massive clean-up on Thursday after floods swept the capital and nearby provinces, forcing residents to wade through shoulder-deep waters in some places after nearly two weeks of monsoon rains killed 91 people. Power, water and communications services were restored as floodwaters started to recede, allowing many to return home to fix their houses. Nearly 300,000 people remained in temporary shelters, disaster officials said. "It's getting better in the capital region," Susana Cruz, regional head of the civil defense office, told reporters. "We're still distributing food and potable water to the affected communities, but we're also helping local government units in their clean-up efforts. "Schools remained shut for the third day to house displaced families. Public and private offices reopened. [Chicago Tribune](#)

## Philippines: U.N. urges Philippines to pass reproductive health bill amid protests from Catholic Church

6 August - The United Nations has urged the Philippines to pass a bill that will allow the government to provide free contraceptives," BBC News reports (8/5). "UNFPA country coordinator Ugochi Florence Daniels said the [reproductive health (RH)] bill is important for the Philippines to achieve its health-related targets in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)," including maternal health, HIV/AIDS and infant mortality. [Kaiser Daily Global Health Policy Report](#)

## Viet Nam: South VN faces threat of dengue

7 August - People in southern parts of the country have been warned to take precautions against the spread of dengue fever, as the risk of getting the disease rises next month... According to department reports, dengue is rapidly spreading over southern cities and provinces, with more than 1,000 fever cases recorded per week, infecting nearly 15,000 people and killing 11 during the first seven months of this year. The number of people to catch dengue fever during this period is 4.4 per cent higher than the same period last year. The area at greatest dengue fever cases is HCM City, followed by Dong Nai and Khanh Hoa provinces and Can Tho city. Although many other areas in the south and central regions also face high threats of outbreaks. [Viet Nam News](#)

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### USSOUTHCOM

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## Chile bans marketing of toys in children's food



1 August - A new law in Chile aims to take some of the fun out of fast-food by forcing McDonald's, Burger King, KFC and other restaurants to stop including toys and other goodies with children's meals. The companies are still using toys to draw in Chile's increasingly chubby children more than a month after the ban took effect on June 7, Sen. Guido Girardi said as he filed a formal complaint Wednesday with the health ministry. "These businesses know that this food damages the health of children and they know that the law is in effect. They're using fraudulent and abusive means," Girardi said. The complaint also targets makers of cereal, popsicles and other products that attract children with toys, crayons or stickers, as well as markets that sell the food. If Chile's health ministry upholds his allegations, the companies could be forced to remove the goodies or face nominal fines. [CBS News](#)

## Venezuela, Argentina to provide joint aid for Haiti

9 August – Venezuela's National Assembly has approved for the first time a joint cooperation programme with Argentina aimed at supporting Haiti after the damage caused by natural disasters this year. The programme, called Development of the Agricultural and Health Sectors in Haiti, shows Venezuela and Argentina's commitment to the Caribbean nation and will allow for the development of family agriculture, with which the Haitian economy is expected to recover. [Bernama](#)

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