Disease Occurrence -- Worldwide

(DI-1812-315-03, 26 Mar 2003)

General

(U) The DOWW, published under the auspices of the Department of Defense Intelligence Production Program (DoDIPP), reflects the Defense Intelligence Production Community position. The DIA's AFMIC is the designated DoDIPP producer for this subject.

(U) The weekly DOWW provides timely alerts and updates on militarily significant infectious diseases.

(U) Health events from 03/25/2003 through 03/26/2003 include:

CENTCOM

Iraq

(U) Forecast: Exposure to High Levels of Particulate Matter Unlikely to Result in Significant Adverse Health Effects

(U) Summary: US and Coalition forces deployed to the Middle East are exposed to high levels of airborne particulates of varied composition. The inhalation of respirable particulates (particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter) may cause irritation to the respiratory tract.

(U) Assessment: Airborne particulate levels are typically high in the Middle East region. Particulate matter concentrations in Saudi Arabia in 1991 exceeded established US air quality standards by as much as three to six times. The primary sources of particulates are from wind-blown dust and sand, industrial pollution, vehicle emissions, and oil fires. Frequent sandstorms can cause significant increases in local concentrations of
airborne particulates that may persist for days. Dust and sandstorms occur year-round, and are most severe between May and October.

(U) Air samples from the region in 1991 contained approximately 75 percent calcium and silica (from sand), 10 to 23 percent carbon (soot from a variety of sources including oil fires and industrial sources), and less than 10 percent from miscellaneous sources.

(U) The expected health effects associated with exposures to airborne particulates include eye, nose, and throat irritation, sneezing, coughing, sinus congestion, sinus drainage, and aggravation of asthma conditions. Long-term adverse health effects are unlikely.

(U) **Potential Risk to US Forces:** Adverse health effects experienced by US and Coalition personnel from exposure to high levels of airborne particulates are likely to be minimal. In addition, the expected duration of exposure is unlikely to result in significant long-term health effects.
Withheld pursuant to exemption
(b)(3) 10 USC 424, Non Responsive
of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act
Appendix

(U) **Request for feedback:** This Center has an ongoing effort to upgrade its worldwide epidemiological intelligence reporting and requests that any feedback be forwarded to the Defense Intelligence Agency, Building 6000, Washington D.C., 20340-5100, Attn: AFMIC, by electronic message to DIRAFMIC FT DETRICK MD, or through the comments/feedback link on the AFMIC home page on Intellink.

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(U) This product is now available on the Internet at [Internet URL], on SIPRNET at [SIPRNET URL], and on Intelink at [Intelink URL].

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CENTCOM

Bahrain
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
Qatar
Saudi Arabia

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