Disease Occurrence -- Worldwide


General

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

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

(U) Health events from 03/26/2003 through 03/27/2003 include:

CENTCOM

Iraq

(U) Disease: Diarrhea - cholera

(U) Date: Ongoing since March 2003

(U) Location: Al Basrah and As Sulaymaniyyah Governates

(U) Summary: Despite earlier reporting of an outbreak of "blackwater fever" in Al Basrah, now attribute the outbreak to cholera. Water supplies have been severely degraded throughout Al Basrah since 22 March. The number of cases is unspecified, but deployment of supplies sufficient to treat 1,000 people is awaiting stabilization of the city. The area around the city has a history of severe outbreaks of cholera even during peacetime.

(U) Increased rates of diarrhea also have been reported among children under 5 years of age in a refugee camp near Mawat in northern Iraq.

(U) Assessment: Cholera and other diarrheal diseases are to be expected in areas that have inadequate supplies of potable water. Numbers likely will increase until potable water and other humanitarian aid
supplies are able to reach the populace.

(U) Potential Risk to US Forces: Infrequent or sporadic numbers of personnel consuming local food, water, or ice could develop symptomatic infection.

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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(b)(2), 27 Mar 2003

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