



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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February 25, 2020

(U) Italy: COVID-19 Outbreak Origin, Locations, and Response

(U) This memo responds to an intelligence question from the Deputy Secretary of Defense about the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy.

(U) 1. What is the point of origin for COVID-19 in Italy and who was the first patient?

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

On 25 February, the WHO reported 229 total cases of COVID-19 in Italy, of which 3 infections were likely from exposures in China and 121 involved likely exposure in Italy, but the source of exposure is under investigation for the remaining 105 cases.^s

Based on an analysis of international travel from China, researchers believe two-thirds of cases exported from China have been undetected, according to a university report.^s

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(U) 2. Where are the COVID-19 cases in Italy—are they clustered or spread out?

(U) The two most infected areas of Italy are Lombardy and Veneto, both in the north near Milan and Venice, respectively, according to open press.^s

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

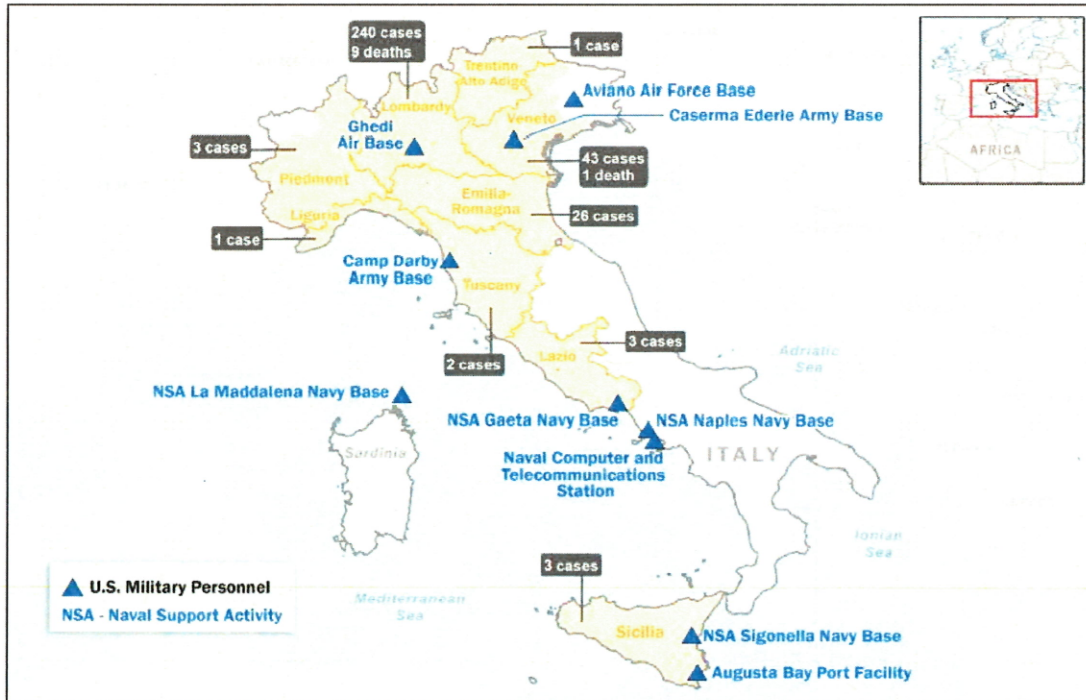
(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(6)

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Italy: Locations of COVID-19 Cases and U.S. Military Bases

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(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

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424

(U) 3. How did COVID-19 get into Italy? Does Italy screen/quarantine at points of entry or have in place any travel restrictions or special measures? How was Italy placed at risk?

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c)

Italy has limitations in its ability to rapidly respond to a disease

outbreak because of issues with emergency planning and risk communication, according to a 2019 academic study.^{13 14} Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte admitted to the public on 25 February that improper protocols at a northern Italian hospital contributed to the rapid spread of COVID-19, according to U.S. press.¹⁵

(b)(1);
(b)(3):50
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3024(i);
Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

(U) Source Endnotes

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

⁶ (U) World Health Organization (b)(3):10 USC 424 (U) Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report-36; Classification of extracted information is U; Overall classification is U

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

⁸ (U) Journal, Imperial College London; 20 Feb 2020; 20 Feb 2020; (U) WHO Collaborating Centre for Infectious Disease Modelling MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis Abdul Latif Jameel Institute for Disease and Emergency Analytics (J-IDEA) Imperial College London; (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)

⁹ (U) Business Insider; (b)(3):10 USC 424 (U) 12 towns in Italy are on coronavirus lockdown after at least 229 cases and 7 deaths made it the most infected country outside Asia; Classification of extracted information is U; Overall classification is U

(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

¹³ (U) Internet, Global Health Security Index | 31-Jan-2020 | 31 Jan 2020 | (U) 2019 Global Health Security Index (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):10
USC 424;
(b)(3):50
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3024(i)

¹⁵ (U) CNN; (b)(3):10 USC 424 (U) Rapid coronavirus spread puts Italy on the backfoot as Conte admits hospital mess-up; Classification of extracted information is U; Overall classification is U

(b)(3):50
USC 3024(i)