STRATEGIC MEDICINE AND AND THREATS TO THE USA

Michael S. Baker, MD, FACS Rear Admiral, Medical Corps, USN (ret)



MILITARY MEDICINE IS MOSTLY OPERATIONAL

- PROTECTION OF TROOP ASSETS TO MAINTAIN THE FIGHTING FORCE
- VACCINATION, PROTECTIVE MEASURES, TREATMENT OF DISEASE and INJURY

Traditional Operational Diseases

- Diarrhea
- Influenza
- Hepatitis
- Japanese encephalitis

- Malaria
- Dengue
- Typhus



THE MISSION OF STRATEGIC COMMAND

Deter major military attack on the United States and its allies; and if deterrence fails, employ forces

DISEASE HAS MAJOR OPERATIONAL IMPORTANCE

- CAN DISEASE HAVE MAJOR STRATEGIC THREAT ??
- CAN THE USA BE
 MORTALLY WOUNDED BY
 DISEASE ??

WMD --PROLIFERATION

- Easily Acquired equipment
- Dual-Use Applications
- Increasingly Hard to Distinguish from honest users
- Research / development Info on the internet







NEW DISEASE THREATS WITH STRATEGIC IMPACT

- HIV / Aids
 - Measles
 - SARS
- Tuberculosis
 - Avian Flu

HOW EASILY CAN DISEASE SPREAD?

- Import-Associated Measles Outbreak— Indiana, May-June 2005
- MMWR. 2005;54:1073-1075

- TEENAGER
 WORKED AS
 MISSIONARY
- WHILE FLYING HOME GOT RUNNY NOSE + FEVER
- ATTENDED CHURCH SOCIAL NEXT DAY

- 34 CASES 1 MED
- 10% HOSPITALIZED
- INTENSIVE CARE
- "OPTED OUT OF VACCINATION"
- 530,000 CASES / YR
- BIG KILLER IN REFUGEE CAMPS

STRATEGIC MEDICAL THINKING

- ARE THERE CREDIBLE MEDICAL THREATS TO THE SAFETY OF THE UNITED STATES??
- CAN DISEASES BE USED BY NON-STATE PLAYERS??
- -DO WE HAVE A STRATEGIC
 DEFENSE FOR THESE THREATS??



THREAT OF INFLUENZA

- 20% of world's population get it every year
- Half a million die yearly
- 1918 epidemic killed more people than WWI over 20 million

INFLUENZA

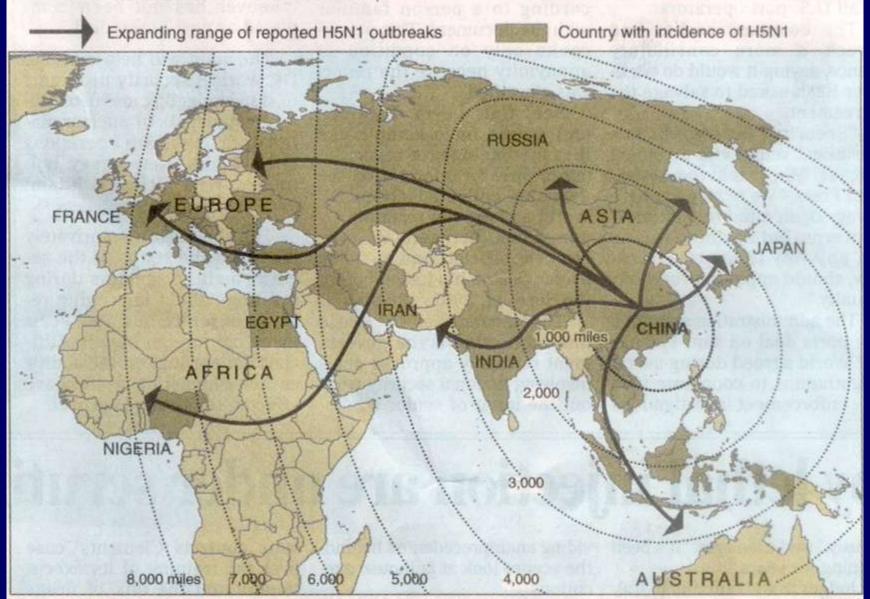
- RNA VIRUS mutates frequently
- Spread through droplets and contact
- Avian flu strain thought to be related to 1918 variety
- NO IMMUNITY EXISTS

CLOSE CONTACT BETWEEN
PEOPLE AND ANIMALS LEADS
TO A JUMP OF THE
INFECTION ACROSS THE
SPECIES



Virus tracked outside of Asia

After its appearance, the current bird flu virus (H5N1) seemed confined to a few east Asian countries. In the past four months, it has moved into Europe and Africa. World health experts say the virus could change into a disease contagious to humans.



INDEX CASE HITS USA



DISEASE SPREADS RAPIDLY IN FLORIDA VULNERABLE Groups



Millions of chickens culled in Hong Kong

■ Avian flu sweeps 10 markets; the danger of mutated strains lingers

By Mark Landler NEW YORK TIMES

HONG KONG — With chickens dying by the hundreds and public alarm mounting, Hong Kong on Friday ordered the slaughter of 1.2 million chickens and other poultry to halt the spread of a deadly flu virus.

The slaughter, which echoes Hong Kong's drastic response to a similar virus in 1997, will eliminate every chicken from the city's markets and all market-age poultry from its farms.

Hong Kong also halted the importation of live birds from mainland China, which supplies much of its poultry and so far has taken no action against the virus.

Lily Yam, the secretary for the environment and food, said that unlike the previous virus, which killed six people, there is no evidence that this strain affects human beings.

But it has killed nearly 1,000 chickens in seven markets over the past week, prompting the government to take what it called

comprehensive measures.

On Wednesday, after scientists at the University of Hong Kong detected a recurrence of the avian flu, the city shut down three markets and slaughtered 6,600 chickens.

But chickens in other markets fell ill, and further tests showed that the virus had spread to 10 markets.

"We are dealing with an acute and virulent virus," Yam said. "The bird flu is spreading rapidly. If we do not take speedy action, it is difficult to predict how this will develop."

In late 1997, Hong Kong killed 1.4 million birds — said to be every chicken in the territory — in an effort to stamp out a strain of avian flu.

The campaign put an unwelcome spotlight on Hong Kong six months after its return to Chinese sovereignty, but succeeded in containing the virus.

Since then, Hong Kong has inspected markets for signs of a recurrence of the virus, known as H5N1. In February, officials found an H5N1 virus similar to the current one.

But until this week they had not found a strain that killed

TREATMENT IS LIMITED

VACCINES OF LIMITED VALUE + HARD TO MAKE

CONTAINMENT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE

AVIAN FLU MEANS SLAUGHTER THE CHICKENS EN MASSE

NO CHICKENS -- MEANS
NO CHICKEN NUGGETS
NO CHICKEN SOUP

WHAT WILL
REPLACE
CHICKEN
SOUP??

THE GALLEY
WILL FIND
SOMETHING
GOOD FOR
YOU



CHICKEN RANCHERS AND KFC =





IMPACT OF A SIMPLE NAME AND **VIRUS**

TB case prompts questions; Patient sidestepped federal safeguards

- Copyright 2007 Chicago Tribune Company
- June 1, 2007
- DENVER In a time of widespread worry over pandemic flu and bioterrorism, the case of Andrew Speaker offered a prime chance for international health agencies to show how they would prevent the spread of a potentially deadly disease.

Tuberculosis Spreads Through Crowded City Buses, Cornell Researcher Reports

• <u>Science Daily</u> — February 1, 1999
The crowded metropolitan bus system in Buenos Aires could be responsible for 30 percent of new cases of tuberculosis in the city, a new study shows.

THE RISK ??

• Because of antibiotics and other measures, the TB rate in the United States has been falling for years. Last year, it hit an all-time low of 13,767 cases, or about 4.6 cases per 100,000 Americans.

Tuberculosis kills nearly 2 million people each year worldwide.

ARE THERE other DISEASE THREATS WE SHOULD FOCUS ON??

• CAN THE USA BE HARMED BY SIMPLE TOOLS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE SOPHISTICATED LAB, RESEARCH, OR DELIVERY SYSTEMS??

WHERE'S THE BEEF?



BEEF INDUSTRY

- 800,000 ranchers and cattlemen in USA
- 2004 CASH RECEIPTS = \$45.6 billion
- Jan. 1, 2005 -- 108 million cattle in the USA

PORK INDUSTRY

- 60 million animals in USA
- 2 BILLION LBS/YR EXPORTED
- \$12,000 Million sales projected in 2005

Tests affirm first case of mad cow disease

MADRID, Spain — The government reported Spain's first case of mad cow disease on Wednesday and said it is investigating a second possible case.

Tests by government veterinarians in the northwest Galicia region revealed a confirmed case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, late Wednesday morning, Agriculture Minister Miguel Arias Canete said. He said Spanish authorities sent samples of the second animal to British experts for further analysis.

"The first case is conclusive. There is no room for doubt," Arias Canete said.

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALITIS

- MAY HAVE DERIVED FROM INGESTION OF NERVOUS SYSTEM PARTS
- RELATED TO SCRAPIE IN SHEEP
- NO TREATMENT

MAD COW DISEASE

- COULD INFECT THE US BLOOD SUPPLY
- COULD DESTROY THE BEEF INDUSTRY
- ALREADY HAS HAD SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC IMPACT

MAD COW DISEASE

- JACOB-CREUTZFELD OR KURU
- BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALITIS -- BSE or vCJD
- Prion which is passed through meat products, blood transfusion, and contact
- Not destroyed by standard operating room sterilization !!!
- Slow nervous system degeneration

lations, the BSE prion is un-

did not) Last a

Deaths from rare disease worry Colorado hospital

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — Two patients have died at a Colorado hospital this year from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, an illness similar to mad cow disease, and there is concern that other patients may have been exposed, a hospital spokeswoman said Friday.

The patients, both over 60, died in January and February at Exempla St. Joseph Hospital, said Steve Krizman of Kaiser Permanente, the health maintenance organization that cared for them.

Hospital official Kathleen Ferguson said at least six other patients may have been exposed to Creutzfeldt-Jakob through surgical instruments used in treating one of the two who died.

The instruments were sterilized after each use, but no studies have

been done to show whether sterilization procedures are effective against the proteins that cause the disease, said Dr. Cathy van Blerkom, chairwoman of the hospital's Department of Pathology and Infection Control.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or CJD, attacks the brain, killing cells and creating gaps in tissue. The brain takes on a spongelike appearance.

Symptoms include memory problems, mood changes and lack of coordination. The disease progresses to shakiness and dementia. Victims are eventually unable to move or speak.

"We had four cases in 2000 and two or three a year before that," said Cindy Parmenter of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. "It's not totally unusual."

FDA Ponders Products to Avoid Prion Transmission

THE EFFICACY OF THE

TREATMENTS IS NOT BACKED BY

SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE AND THEY

ARE TOO CORROSIVE.

BY CHRISTINE KILGORE Placeter Global Medical News

GALTHERSBURG. M.D. about the possible spread of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy through contaminated surgical instruments has prompted the Food and Drug Administration to consider how best to evaluate new products designed to reduce infectivity

The FDA has not yet received such products for premarket evaluation. But advances in research on transmissible spengiform encephalopathy (TSE) and infection control, and a rise in concern about bovine spongiform encephalopathy and an unknown prevalence of asymptomatic variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, has the 11)A anticipating such products will be coming

The FDA's Ceneral Hospital and Personal Use Devices Panel told agency officials in September that they should be able to reasonably validate a claim for "reducing TSE infectivity' by using prions derived from animals. The panel cautioned. however, that research should use human prion sources as much as possible, as well as instrument "proxies" that replicate surgical instruments more closely than the thry stainless steel wires coated with inoculum that are used in current studies.

Surgeons, meanwhile, are eager for new products or processes that are "less butdensome" than the procedures many hospitals now follow for preventing latrogenic TSE transmission, said John Conte Jr., M.D., a surgeon who spoke during the public comment session of the meeting.

Current practice is to throw out tems suspected of TSE contamination. "It's lair to say that major medical centers are attempting to identify patients with possible prion disease, and then are discarding nourosurgical instruments" after an operation, said Dr. Coote of the department of hosthe University of California, San Francisco, The FDA has estimated a risk of 0.25

latrogenic infections a year in patients undergoing neurosurgery with reprocessed neurosurgical instruments But this estimare does not take into account a possible undetected incidence of variant

Creuzfeldt Jakob disease or the evidence that transmission may involve many types of nonneural tissues, meeting participants said.

"It's difficult to fathorn what the real risk is, ' said panel chair Charles E. Edmiston Jr. Ph.D., of the department of surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwankee. The true risk, he explained, is "a moving target."

TSEs are progressive, fatal neurodegenerative diseases, affecting both humans and animals, that result from accumulation of an abnormal isoform of a prion protein. The estimated annual incidence in the United States of Creutzfeldt-lakob Disease (CID), the major form of human TSU, is one case per million, FDA officials said at the meeting.

Most cases of CID are sporadic, or idiopathic, and some are familial. But variant CID-CID caused by cross-species transmission is heightening the FDA's interest in the transmission potential of pital epidemiology and infection control at \ phons. In a background paper, the FDA referred to the epidemic of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the United King

> dom and said that surveillance for variant CID has identified 141 cases since 1994. 'Although the number of cases of variant CID report ed annually is now declining, CID can have a very long incubation period,"

the paper said. "It is possible that the incidence of variant CID may increase again. in future years."

One patient—a U.K. emigrant—has developed variant C| Yin the United States, FDA officials said at the meeting. (Two cows infacted with hoving spongiform encephalopathy have been identified in the United States so far; both were born in Canada and did not enter the food supply)

The only reported cases of CID transmission by contaminated surgical instruments -seven in all-came from Europe. between 1954 and 1980. Hive of them involved neurosurgical instruments, and two involved depth EEG electrodes.

Another approximately 260 cases of ia-

trogenic CID transmission were reported in patients receiving corneal transplants, dura mater grafts, gonadotropin, and, most frequently, human pituitary growth hormone. One or two cases of CID from blood transfosions have also been reported, said Sheila Murphey, M.D., chief of the L'DA's Intection Control Devices Branch.

Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization state that precautious should be taken for invasive CNS procedures in patients with dementia of uncertain origin and patients known or suspected of having TSB.

The CDC-WHO guidelines recommend discarding surgical instruments, quarantining them until a diagnosis is confirmed, or treating them with one of three processes shown to have some effect in reducing TSE transmission: immersion in sodium livdroxide, prevacuum steam sterilization, or gravity steam sterilization.

But as Dr. Conte and others at the meeting see it, efficacy of the treatments is not backed by sufficient evidence, the treatments are too corrosive, and sodium hy droxide is too toxic for hospital use.

Industry representatives told the FDA panel that human CIO prious appear in new research to be significantly more resistant to sterlization procedures than the animal-derived prions used in almost all studies to date. Still, the industry officials said, disinfectants being tested-such as acidic sodium dodecyl sulfate-may prove effective in eliminating human prions from surgical instruments.

CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS of INFECTED LIVESTOCK

- Beef exports during January-September 2004 totaled 293 million pounds, 15 % of exports for the same period a year prior
- Mexico and Canada were the only two major markets to permit U.S. beef shipments the first three quarters of 2004.

THERE GOES STEAKS



WALL STREET JOURNAL SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 2007

• BRITAIN IMPOSED a voluntary ban on exports of livestock and livestock products after an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in southern England. Premier Brown said authorities were working to track the source of the outbreak

HOOF + MOUTH

- Picornovirus
- Breath, saliva, feces, and urine; milk and semen
- Meat and by-products
- No real treatment

HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE

- HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS
- EFFECTS Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Camels
- NOT SEEN IN US IN MANY YEARS
- Endemic in ASIA and Mideast
- COULD DEVASTATE THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY AND RELATED ECONOMIES

HOOF AND MOUTH

• DELIVERY SYSTEM CAN BE BY HAND OR MAIL – NO MISSILE NEEDED

• VIA CONTAMINATED PRODUCTS – Leather, meat....



HOOF AND MOUTH = CONTAINMENT

- QUARANTINE AND SLAUGHTER HERDS WHEN A CASE APPEARS
- COULD WIPE OUT \$100 BILLION BEEF INDUSTRY
- PORK, SHEEP ETC

CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS

- QUARANTINE AND HERD SLAUGHTER
- 100 MILLION CATTLE + 60 MILLION HOGS
- DEVASTATE THESE INDUSTRIES
- RIPPLE EFFECT CATASTROPHIC -- RESTAURANTS, FAST FOOD, GROCERY, EXPORT MARKET



WATCH
BEEF
AND PORK
INDUSTRY
FALL

FAMOUS STEAK RESTAURANTS AND BARBECUE JOINTS MUST CHANGE MENU AND NAMES

If you worked here - How would you answer the phone?





PROBLEMS

NO MATTER HOW GREAT AND DESTRUCTIVE YOUR PROBLEMS MAY SEEM NOW, REMEMBER, YOU'VE PROBABLY ONLY SEEN THE TIP OF THEM.

VACCINES

- 26 US COMPANIES MADE VACCINES IN 1950'S
- ONLY 4 US COMPANIES IN 2004
- VACCINE INDUSTRY WORTH \$ 6.7 BILLION
- OUTSTANDING LAWSUIT CLAIMS EXCEED \$ 30 BILLION

WHERE DO OUR VACCINES COME FROM??

- Hemaphilus Influenza
- DTAP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)
- SKB HEPATITIS A
- INFLUENZA
- TETANUS –
- MOST ALL ARE FROM FRANCE

ARE WE PREPARED??



VACCINE MANUFACTURE

- REQUIRES ENORMOUS EXPENSE
- REQUIRES FASTIDIOUS TECHNIQUE
- OFTEN TAKES 6 MONTHS ON THE PRODUCTION LINE
- VIRUSES CAN BE ENGINEERED TO RESIST CURRENT VACCINES AND MEDICINES

CONFLUENCE OF EVENTS

- PANDORAS BOX OF BIO HAZARDS IS OPEN
- More Diverse, Less Predictable Threats
- -- non-state players, readily accessible tools
- Evolve Strategic Thinking Beyond Nuclear Weapon
 Deterrence index patient can deliver the strike
- Shape Strategic Force for 21st Century industrial capacity for disease fight
- Food, water safety, and disease spread are our major vulnerabilities
- Economic Devastation can result from accidental or intentional spread of disease

STRATEGIC IMPACTS IN DISEASE SPREAD

• WHAT WOULD A SERIOUS INFLUENZA OR SARS OUTBREAK DO TO ECONOMY AND INDUSTRY?

Avian flu pandemic could cause recession, report finds -- Dec 9 2005

- WASHINGTON A severe avian flu outbreak would cost the U.S. economy \$625 billion -- about 5 percent of the gross domestic product -- as employers struggled with absenteeism, lost production and a sharp decline in consumer spending, a new government report has found..
- The estimates are based on a pandemic that would sicken 90 million people in the United States and kill about 2 million. KNIGHT RIDDER

HOW TO OBTAIN INFO

• WWW.CDC.GOV

• WWW.CIA.GOV

• <u>WWW.FDA.GOV</u> -- for BSE info

• WWW.ERS.USDA.GOV

• AFMIC – 301-619-7574

COULD WE HANDLE AN OUTBREAK??

• COULD WE QUARANTINE PEOPLE LONG ENOUGH TO DEVELOP VACCINES??

• DO WE HAVE INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY OR ADEQUATE STORAGE OF ANTIVIRALS??

WHERE IS OUR INDUSTRIAL VACCINE SURGE??

- WE HAVE LIMITED INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY TO MAKE VACCINES
- WE MIGHT HAVE TO RELY ON FOREIGN PRODUCTION
- VACCINES TAKE A LONG TIME TO MAKE

PROJECT BIOSHIELD

- In 2004, US funded with \$5.6 Billion
- To create drugs and vaccines to protect USA from bioterrorism or epidemics
- As of Feb 2007, no new drugs or vaccines have been produced (JAMA Feb 14, 2007)
- VAXGEN in Calif got \$877.5 Million for
 75 mil doses of anthrax -- cancelled

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO AGRIBUSINESS, THE RESTAURANTS, THE MARKETS IF HOOF + MOUTH OR BSE GET LAUNCHED ??

CAN WE AFFORD
\$200 A POUND FOR HAMBURGER
OR \$25 FOR MILK ??



QUESTIONS ??

WHY WORRY??

- SHOULD AIRLINES ALLOW SICK PEOPLE TO FLY??
- DO WE NEED VIGOROUS PRE-EMPTIVE DISEASE SCREENING AT TSA and IMMIGRATION ??

PERSONAL READINESS

- ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY READY TO BE QUARANTINED IN YOUR HOME FOR A MONTH??
- DO YOU HAVE FOOD, WATER, EMERG POWER??