

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF HIV-1 INFECTION IN YOUNG THAI MEN AFTER SEROCONVERSION

Khunakorn Kana¹, Pochaman Duriyapunt¹, Jariyanart Gaywee¹, Pradith Kaewsatien¹, Narongrid Sirisopana¹, Carl J. Mason², Rodney L. Coldren², Michael D. Lewis², Prasert Meesuksabye², Rapida Padmasankha²

1. AFRIMS 2. ARMY INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY

PROGRESS REPORT

A Unit-Based Surveillance Project was formed by the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS) in collaboration with AFRIMS Thai and US components, Phramongkutklo Hospital, and one of the army forces in the Southern area of the North-Eastern part of Thailand in order to investigate and monitor any potential hazardous diseases threatening the military working along the border.

A pilot project was implemented along the border area of Buriram, Surin, Srisaket and Ubon-Ratchathani provinces in the year 2001. The main focus was the study of effective methods and procedures of reporting data on infectious cases from the border area to The Royal Thai Army Medical Department and AFRIMS in a timely manner so that appropriate controls and responses could be implemented. According to the current operation, some field units had their own personal computers (PCs) to do data entry while some still submitted the relevant data to the headquarters of army forces via hand-written fax, where data entry was conducted before submission to the central unit. The data collected between January 1-December 31, 2004 showed that there were a total of 875 cases reported, of which the most frequent symptoms were fever, common cold, sore throat, headache and cough, respectively.

Feedback from the field suggested that the project team should provide each unit an efficient PC so that a report can be sent directly to the central collection point more efficiently. The additional telephone costs for connecting to the internet should be centrally supported to diminish extra expenses to the military unit. This reliable communication system will help the central unit to respond faster to disease outbreak alerts.