

UBS, The Early Warning System For Medical Threat Along Thai Borders; Phase III

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The early warning system for medical threat in the military areas of operation (AOs) along Thai borders has been developed to monitor any diseases of military importance in real time manner in order to rapidly respond for outbreak control. The system was designed as a military unit-based surveillance where medical information is collected, entered into a database and electronically sent to AFRIMS for analysis. Evidence of outbreak, if occurs, will be immediately reported to the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and the Royal Thai Army Medical Department for outbreak response. The system called Unit Based Surveillance (UBS) has been implemented in AOs along Thai-north Cambodia border since 2002 and along Thai-south Myanmar border in 2004. Over the past 6 years, project outcome was not only the accumulative medical information in these AOs where the routine surveillance of MOPH was unable to cover, but also the lessons learned from both success and failure. The 6 year-experience resulted in plan for phase III “face lift”. In this phase, several enhancements were made including development of a new database version to allow incorporation of surveillance data into the MOPH’s national surveillance system as well as improving capability of data transmission. In conclusion, a practical early warning system along Thai borders was developed and tested. The system has the potential to operate in fully real time manner when continuing the practice and the obstacles solving. Ultimate goal is to fully implement the system to establish a reliable national disease surveillance system.

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