

ANNUAL HISTORICAL REPORT CY 2009

UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL COMPONENT ARMED FORCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (USAMC-AFRIMS)

DIVISION MISSION

USAMC-AFRIMS is the U.S. Army Medical Component of a Royal Thai Army-U.S. Army joint command on the grounds of the Phramongkutklo Medical Center on Rajvithi Road near the Victory Monument in Bangkok, Thailand. The current Commander and Scientific Director of the U.S. Component is COL James W. Boles, VC. It is one of five Army and Navy overseas medical research labs and is a subordinate command of Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) located in Washington, DC, WRAIR, is part of the U.S. Army Medical Research Development and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) headquartered in Ft. Detrick, Maryland.

The mission of USAMC-AFRIMS is medical basic research, disease surveillance, and the development and evaluation of medical products, such as diagnostic test, drugs and vaccines, for militarily important infectious diseases. USAMC-AFRIMS is an agency of the U.S. Embassy Mission and its Commander is a member of the Country Team. As such it has an additional mission to collaborate with and assist the Thai Government in its efforts to battle infectious tropical diseases of mutual interest such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, dengue fever, hepatitis, and diarrheal diseases through bilateral research partnerships. The USAMC-AFRIMS Commander and staff also serve as technical liaison and support for USPACOM on medical issues and tropical disease threats in Thailand and other countries in Southeast Asia.

ORGANIZATION AND SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

Colonel James W. Boles assumed command from Colonel Bonnie L. Smoak on 3 October 2007, with Lieutenant Colonel John B. McNally as the Deputy Commander for Administration, and Lieutenant Colonel Arthur E. Brown as the Deputy Commander for Science. Staffing during the year included 27 active duty Army personnel, 1 General Schedule (GS), 117 Foreign Service Nationals (FSN), 267 Cooperative Agreement (CA) employees, and 62 contractors. The operational funding level for 2009 was approximately \$22.8 million. The Command occupies approximately 241,616.45 feet² of floor space in 9 main administrative and research buildings in Bangkok, and operation of 35-40 field sites in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal, and Philippines.



PERSONNEL



UNIQUE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

AAALAC Accredited Veterinary Medicine Facility with a specific pathogen free Indian-origin rhesus monkey breeding colony and BSL-3 animal suite.

Designated World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Diagnostic Reference, Training and Investigation of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

ESTABLISHED FIELD SITES

AFRIMS Kwai River Christian Hospital (AKCC), Sangkhlaburi, Thailand: The Department of Immunology and Medicine, USAMC-AFRIMS, oversees a purpose-built screened in-patient (20 beds) and out-patient clinical research facility with attached support laboratories co-located with Kwai River Christian Hospital in western Thailand, along the Thai-Burmese border. The facility supports malaria and other tropical infectious diseases clinical trials, surveillance for endemic fever-causing infectious diseases, training in tropical diseases, and practicing medicine in austere conditions.

Kamphaeng Phet-AFRIMS Virology Research Unit (KAVRU), Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand, has a 5000 ft² facility on the grounds of the provincial hospital in Kamphaeng Phet for conducting field studies of dengue, influenza, and other emerging diseases. Phase 3 dengue vaccine studies are planned for 2011.

WARUN, Kathmandu, Nepal-USAMC-AFRIMS has a trained staff of 23 personnel working in a rented 4-story research building in Kathmandu, Nepal. Their mission is to conduct studies and perform surveillance of diseases endemic to Nepal such as diarrheal disease, febrile illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and influenza.

Philippines-AFRIMS Virology Research Unit (PAVRU) is located in Cebu, Philippines with additional personnel in Manila. The mission is to conduct field studies for emerging and re-emerging diseases to include dengue and influenza. PAVRU facilities consist of a research office and laboratory/data management space in Cebu City. Phase 3 dengue vaccine studies are planned for 2011.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Non-Applicable