



ANNUAL HISTORICAL REPORT CY 2011

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

DIVISION MISSION

The 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 Army Medical Center in Bangkok, Thailand. The current Commander of the U.S. Component is COL Robert A. Bowden, MSC. The Institute is one of five U.S. Army and Navy overseas medical research labs and is a Special Foreign Activity of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) located in Washington, DC, which is subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), headquartered in Ft. Detrick, Maryland.

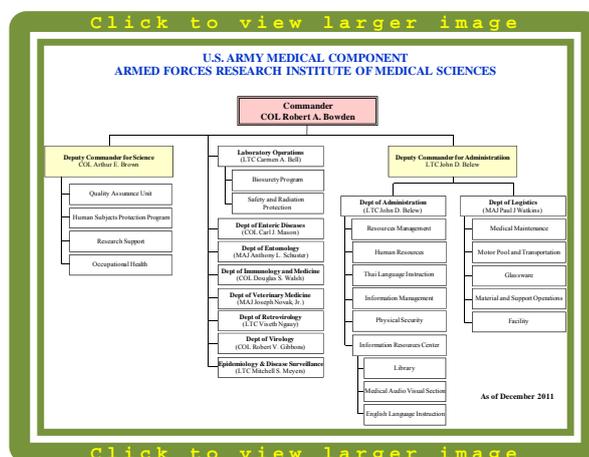
The mission of the USAMC-AFRIMS is medical research, disease surveillance, and development and evaluation of medical products for militarily important infectious diseases. These products are generally drugs or vaccines, but may be diagnostic tests or specialized knowledge. The USAMC-AFRIMS is an agency within the U.S. Embassy Mission and the Commander is a member of the Country Team. The diseases focused on by the Institute are public health problems in Thailand and the region, and thus are areas of common interest with the host country. These diseases include malaria, HIV/AIDS, dengue fever, hepatitis, and diarrheal diseases. The USAMC-AFRIMS Commander and staff also serve as subject matter experts for PACOM on medical issues and tropical disease threats in Thailand and other countries in Southeast Asia.

ORGANIZATION AND SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

Colonel Robert A. Bowden assumed command from Colonel James W. Boles on 1 July 2010, Lieutenant Colonel John D. Belew became Deputy Commander for Administration in mid-2011, and Colonel Arthur E. Brown continued as Deputy Commander for Science. Staffing during the year included 30 active duty Army personnel, 1 General Schedule (GS), 111 Foreign Service Nationals (FSN), 265 Cooperative Agreement (CA) employees, and 91 contractors. Operational funding for 2011 was approximately \$24 million. The Command occupies approximately 258,000 ft² of floor space in seven administrative and research buildings in Bangkok, and has fixed field sites in Thailand, Cambodia, Nepal, and the Philippines.



PERSONNEL



UNIQUE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

The Department of Veterinary Medicine's facility is AAALAC-accredited and contains a specific pathogen-free, Indian-origin, rhesus monkey breeding colony and an ABSL-3 animal suite.

The Institute is designated as a 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) field site, Sangkhlaburi, Thailand: The Department of Immunology and Medicine oversees a 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 clinical trials of malaria and other tropical infectious diseases, surveillance for endemic fever-causing infectious diseases, and training in clinical and laboratory aspects of tropical medicine.

Kamphaeng Phet – AFRIMS Virology Research Unit (KAVRU), Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand: a 5,000 ft² facility on the grounds of the provincial hospital in Kamphaeng Phet for conducting field studies of dengue, influenza, and other emerging diseases. A multi-year, phase 3 dengue vaccine trial began there in 2011.

Walter Reed/AFRIMS Research Unit – Nepal (WARUN) is located in Kathmandu, Nepal and has a trained staff of 23 personnel working in a leased, 4-story research building. The Unit conducts studies and performs surveillance of diseases of military importance which are endemic to Nepal, such as diarrheal disease, febrile illnesses, vector-borne diseases, and influenza.

The Philippines – AFRIMS Virology Research Unit (PAVRU) is located in Cebu, Philippines with additional personnel in Manila. The Unit conducts 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. A phase 3 dengue vaccine trial began in 2011.



SPECIAL EVENTS

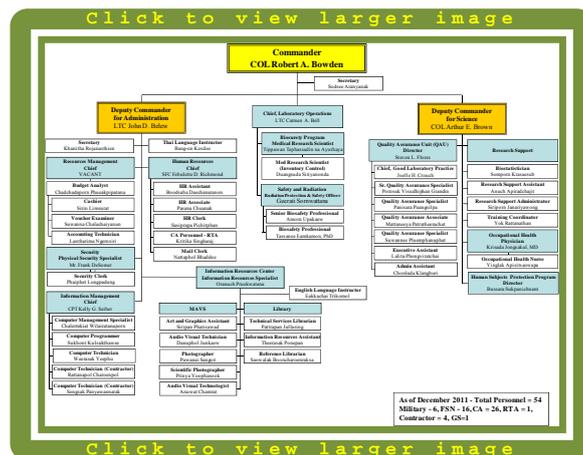
Non-applicable

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of the Department of Administration is to provide administrative support to the USAMC-AFRIMS research departments in the areas of personnel administration, resource management, protocol management, publication clearance, quality improvement, information management, library research, audio-visual products, physical security, Thai language instruction, English language instruction, safety, biosurety, radiation protection monitoring and occupational health.

PERSONNEL



IN-HOUSE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND OUTSIDE TRAINING OF PERSONNEL

In-House Training

- EIT PMO Training Program
- AFRIMS Policy Statement 07-04 Occupational Health and Safety Program
- Biological Safety Manual (version 2)
- Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL): 5th Edition
- BSL-3 Laboratory Equipments/SOPs Manual: PAPR, PLC, Laboratory Equipment per BSL-3 Laboratory
- BSL-3 Meeting Minutes: Lessons Learned from Previous Operations
- Physical Security Plan
- HSPP Training for New Investigators
- GLP Refresher
- GLP TFM Training
- Good Laboratory Practice Regulations