



## **DRUG ABUSE SURVEILLANCE IN YEAR 2010-2011**

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### **Progress Report**

Drug abuse is a national security threat that affects the health of drug users, either physically or mentally. It also has a profound effect to the family and society. Moreover, it is a cause of crime, national security undermining, economic lost as well as a hindrance to national development. As the Royal Thai Army's awareness to this problem increased, the RTA began to regularly issue regulations, orders and directions regarding the prevention and suppression of drug abuse in the RTA. RTA order 94/2524 item 3.10 states that "physical examination and urinalysis of any personnel and civilians living in the RTA area will be performed regularly as necessary. New conscripts will have urine samples checked within a month of arrival to army installation. Those found with positive results will be transferred to the medic immediately".

The Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences has been assigned by the RTA Medical Department to be the principal unit to perform drug analysis of all types. This mission has been carried out since 1988 to survey for the spread of drug in army installations by collection of urine samples from army personnel, as well as from army schools. Urine samples were analyzed for morphine and its derivatives, amphetamine and cannabis in the year 2010 and 2011. A screening test done by immuno-chromatography from that 2 years with a total of 18,717 samples. In the year 2010 a screening test done by immuno-chromatography from a total of 7,986 samples and confirmed by gas chromatograph / mass spectrometry showed positive results for amphetamine and cannabis at 314 from 7,986 (3.93 %) and 69 from 3,590 (1.92 %) respectively. Morphine and its derivatives showed negative results. For the year 2011 a screening test done by immuno-chromatography from a total of 10,731 samples and confirmed by gas chromatograph / mass spectrometry showed positive results for amphetamine and cannabis at 400 from 10,731 (3.73 %), 128 from 6,321 (2.02 %) respectively and morphine and its derivatives showed negative results as well.

Drug abuse surveillance in year 2011-2012 revealed that the use of amphetamine was higher in proportion than cannabis. However, its trend seemed to decrease whereas a trend of the use of cannabis was increasing as seen from the result in the year 2010 and 2011. The RTA has launched the policy named "White Military Unit" which would be a good of effective measure to prevent our personnel from drug abuse.