The DoD-GEIS Influenza Surveillance and Response Programs

Charge to the IOM Committee
19 December 2006

Colonel Ralph L. Erickson MD, DrPH
Director, DoD-GEIS
Briefing Sequence:

• Overview of DoD-GEIS
  – History
  – Scope of GEIS Programs
  – Congressional Supplement for AI / PI

• Tasks for the IOM Committee
Emerging Infectious Diseases: Recognizing the Problem

• IOM report - 1992
• Emerging Infections: Microbial Threats to Health in the United States
Emerging Infectious Diseases: Recognizing the Problem

• IOM report - 2003
• Microbial Threats to Health: Emergence, Detection, and Response
The Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System
Also known as “DoD-GEIS”
DoD-GEIS

• Tri-Service Organization (Army, Navy and Air Force)

• Funded by and Accountable to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

• “Executive Agent”: The Army Surgeon General
The DoD-GEIS Mission

- “The mission of the DoD will be expanded to include support of global surveillance, training, research, and response to emerging infectious disease threats.”

- “… DoD will strengthen its global disease reduction efforts through: centralized coordination; improved preventive health programs and epidemiological capabilities; and enhanced involvement with military treatment facilities and United States and overseas laboratories.”
Former DoD-GEIS Directors

COL (Ret) Patrick W. Kelley MD, DrPH
June 1997- June 2003

CAPT (Ret) Joseph L. Malone MD
June 2003 – February 2006
DoD-GEIS Critical Tasks

• Provides Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) consultation

• Identifies and addresses EID vulnerabilities in surveillance, response, and infrastructure

• Assists DoD partners in developing and implementing programs and projects to prevent and mitigate EID threats

• Provides coordination for assembling and sharing information on EID threats
DoD’s Unique Assets – Overseas Presence with OCONUS Labs
DoD-GEIS Partners
Since 1997 (N = 93)

Afghanistan  Colombia  India  Nepal  St. Lucia
Angola  Costa Rica  Indonesia  Nicaragua  St. Vincent
Antigua  Czech Republic  Iraq  Niger  Sudan
Argentina  Djibouti  Italy  Oman  Suriname
Azerbaijan  Dominica  Jamaica  Pakistan  Syria
Bahamas  Dominican Republic  Japan  Panama  Tajikistan
Bahrain  Ecuador  Jordan  Paraguay  Thailand
Bangladesh  Egypt  Kazakhstan  Peru  Trinidad & Tobago
Barbados  El Salvador  Kenya  Philippines  Turkey
Belgium  Georgia  Korea  Portugal  Uganda
Belize  Germany  Kuwait  Qatar  Ukraine
Bolivia  Ghana  Kyrgyzstan  Romania  United Kingdom
Brazil  Grenada  Laos  S. Korea  United States
Burma  Guam  Lebanon  Saipan  Uzbekistan
Burundi  Guatemala  Libya  Saudi Arabia  Vanuatu
Cambodia  Guyana  Malaysia  Singapore  Venezuela
Cameroon  Haiti  Mexico  Spain  Vietnam
China (Hong Kong)  Honduras  Mongolia  Sri Lanka  Yemen
Hungary  Morocco  St. Kitts
DoD-GEIS: Priorities for Surveillance and Response

1. Respiratory illness (especially influenza)
2. Gastroenteritis
3. Febrile illness (e.g. dengue and malaria)
4. Antimicrobial resistance
5. Sexually transmitted infections
DoD-GEIS Headquarters Staff

Uniformed Officers (7)

- Director, 06 (USA)
- WHO Liaison Officer, 06 (USN)
- Deputy for Epidemiology and Health Services, 05 (USAF)
- Deputy for Influenza and Zoonoses, 05 (USA)
- Drilling Reservist (IMA), 06 (USAR)
- OCONUS Labs Coordinator, 03 (USN)
- Federal Agency Liaison (USPHS) *

Civilians (14)

- Deputy for Administration
- Military Healthcare System Coordinator
- Laboratory Science Coordinator
- Influenza Team Leader
- Special Projects Coordinator
- Communications Center Chief
- IM/IT Specialist
- Senior Epidemiologist *
- Junior Epidemiologist *
- Health Education Specialist *
- Influenza Program Manager
- Administration Program Manager
- Administration Support Specialist
- Intern

* = Not yet hired
New Home of DoD-GEIS
(Since 1 October 2006)

- Proto Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center
- Co-location with Army Medical Surveillance Activity (on 2nd floor)
- Within ½ mile of WRAIR and Forest Glen Annex
- Continued Support from WRAIR and USAMRMC

2900 Linden Lane
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Congressional Supplement for AI / PI
Background

• Congress recognized the need for Pandemic (Avian Influenza) preparedness improvements
• H.R. 2863 DoD Appropriations Supplemental authorization passed 4 Jan 2006
• $39M for:
  – Increase worldwide surveillance
  – Upgrade existing surveillance
  – Upgrade laboratory capability
  – Establish surveillance information network among all elements
• FY06 funds (expire 30 Sep 06); no FY07 follow-on provision within this appropriation
• GEIS was tasked by DoD(HA) to develop a process and plan for allocation of the $39M
Process Timeline

- Summer 2005: ASD-HA prepares working document for influenza priorities
- 21 Dec 2005: ASD-HA approves DoD-GEIS Central Hub soliciting RFP
- 4 Jan 2006: Congress passes funding authorization ($39M)
- 15 Jan 2006: Deadline for receipt of AI/PI proposals (total $65M)
- 24 Jan 2006: External Review Committee reviews proposals
- 27 Jan 2006: External Review Committee reported its recommendations to Executive Agent
- 3 Feb 2006: External Review Committee recommendations reported to ASD-HA
- 8 Feb 2006: Force Health Protection Council briefed
Process Timeline (continued)

• 24 Feb 2006: COL Erickson becomes new Director, DoD-GEIS

• 16 Mar 2006: LTG Kiley signs memo as EA authorizing DoD-GEIS to oversee AI/PI FY06 funding activities

• 21 Mar 2006: Funding arrives through channels to DoD-GEIS

• Apr-May 2006: Partners receive funding and begin obligations

• 8 May 2006: DoD-GEIS & HJF Cooperative Agreement (3.5 Mill)

• 2 Aug 2006: Force Health Protection Council briefed
Previous IOM Review of DoD-GEIS:

- IOM report - 2001
- Perspectives on the Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System: A Program Review
- “Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do” - Goethe
Tasks for the IOM Committee:

• Make subcommittee visits to DoD elements in receipt of DoD-GEIS AI/PI surveillance funding.

• Evaluate the DoD-GEIS AI/PI surveillance program for:
  – Worth of each funded project’s contribution to a comprehensive AI/PI surveillance program.
  – Adequacy of program in view of the evolving epidemiologic factors
  – Responsiveness to the intent of Congress as expressed in Sec. 748, H.R. 1815, Pandemic Avian Flu Preparedness.
  – Consistency with the DoD and National Plans.
  – Coordination of efforts with the CDC, WHO and local governments.

• Produce a published report detailing the evaluation of the DoD-GEIS avian flu surveillance and response program and advice for improvement of that program.
Contact

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