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USNS ROPE T-AP110

CINCPACFLTINST 6250.1
(95)
27 March 1967

CINCPACFLT INSTRUCTION 6250.1

From: Commander in Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet
To: Distribution List

Subj: Measures to Prevent Importation of Plague

Ref: (a) BUMED Memo-7222-WBH:11n 6310/Plague of 26 Jan 67 NOTAL
(b) DHEW PHS Div Foreign Quarantine Circular No. 141 of
22 Aug 66 NOTAL
(c) SECNAVINST 5430.54

1. Purpose. To emphasize the importance of reviewing current preventive medicine procedures relative to the prevention of plague and to make specific recommendations regarding rodent and flea control.

2. Background. As reported in references (a) and (b), rats and mice have been found on aircraft and ships coming from Vietnam and from other plague infected areas of the world. These findings point up the urgent need for increased vigilance against rodents which could introduce and establish plague in our seaports and airports. Although most of the ports in Vietnam are not listed as being plague infected at this time, it should be understood that much of the cargo picked up in these ports is from areas where plague does exist and that such cargo may carry plague infected rodents.

3. Rodent Control Measures.

a. Rodent inspections should be made on all ships and aircraft that arrive from Vietnam and other plague areas.

b. Rats, mice and any other rodents found on ships and aircraft arriving from plague ports should be examined for fleas and other ectoparasites and for the presence of plague.

(1) Assistance in examination for plague and in preparation of specimens for shipment and forwarding can be obtained from the Navy Preventive Medicine Unit, NSA, DaNang, the Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2, Taipei, the Navy Preventive Medicine Unit No. 5, San Diego, California, and the Navy Preventive Medicine Unit No. 6, Pearl Harbor. The U. S. Public Health Service requests that rodents and ectoparasites suspected of harboring plague be frozen in dry ice and shipped to the U. S. Public Health Service Laboratory, 15th Avenue and Lake Street, San Francisco, California for examination.

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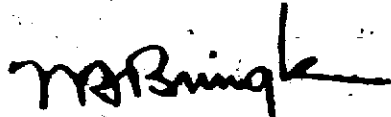
c. Immediately upon berthing at a pier and during the entire time a vessel lies alongside a pier, it should be fendered off at least 6 feet; all connecting lines will be properly fendered with fender guards; gangways and other means of access to the vessel will be guarded and well lighted or separated from the shore; cargo nets and similar devices extending between the vessel and the shore will be raised or removed unless in actual use.

d. The vessel will load only cargo that has been found free from or has been treated to destroy rats and fleas. Prior to departure, the vessel will be inspected for rats and fleas and measures will be taken to insure destruction of any that are present.

e. Appropriate sanitation and rodent control measures will be used on aircraft contacting airfields in Vietnam and other plague areas.

f. Rodent and Flea control measures should be supervised by certified pest control operators provided by the cognizant area public works facility, or by certified preventive medicine technicians in accordance with reference (c). Recommended measures include use of anticoagulant rodenticides, trapping devices, and rat proofing procedures. A spray of 2% malathion or dust of 2.0% diazinon or 5.0% malathion should be applied to all rat runs if fleas are detected. A 5% DDT spray or 10% DDT dust should be used if these are the only insecticides available.

g. Surveillance and control of rodents and their ectoparasites is the most effective measure for prevention of plague.


W. F. BRINGLE
Deputy Chief of Staff
for Operations and Plans

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