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Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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PAAUZYUW RUICAA4649 2850425-UUUU--RUICAA.  
ZNR UUUUU ZDH ZUI RUEOMCH6359 2990002  
P 252315Z OCT 18  
FM HQ USPACOM J3  
TO RUEADWD/HQDA SURG GEN WASHINGTON DC  
RUIAAAA/CDRUSARPAC FT SHAFTER HI  
RUIAAAA/USARPAC COMMAND CENTER FT SHAFTER HI  
RUIAAAA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI  
RUIAAAA/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI  
RUIAAAA/PACAF CC HICKAM AFB HI  
RUIAAAA/HQ ALCOM ELMENDORF AFB AK  
RUACACJ/COMUSKOREA CP SEOUL KOR  
RUIAAAA/COMUSKOREA J3 EOC SEOUL KOR  
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN COMMAND CENTER YOKOTA AB JA  
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA  
RUICAA/JIATF WEST INFO  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC  
RUIAAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC  
RUJDAAA/COMMARFORPAC  
RUJDAAA/COMMARFORPAC G THREE  
RUICAA/COMSOPAC HONOLULU HI  
RUIHAAA/CDR USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL  
RUIAAAA/COMSEVENTHFLT  
RUJDAAA/CG III MEF G FOUR  
RUACMXI/KAIS 7AF OSAN AB KOR  
RHHJAKF/KCSS 7AF OSAN AB KOR  
RUICAA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUICAA/HQ USPACOM JOC  
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SUBJ/(U) USINDOPACOM FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION FOR POLIO IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)  
PAAUZYUW RUICAA4649 2850425-UUUU--RUICAA.  
ZNR UUUUU ZDH ZUI RUEOMCG4065 2850427  
REF/A/DOD/DOC/09 OCT 2004//  
REF/B/USINDOPACOM/MSG/260322Z SEP 2018//  
REF/C/DOD/DOC/28 DEC 2009//  
REF/D/DOD/DOC/08 FEB 2012//  
REF/E/DOD/DOC/ 17 JUL 2017//  
NARR/REF A IS DODD 6200.04 "FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION" OF 09 OCT 2004 CERTIFIED CURRENT AS OF 23 APR 2007. REF B IS "USINDOPACOM FY19 FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION GUIDANCE FOR USINDOPACOM AOR" MESSAGE OF 26 SEP 2018. REF C IS DODD 4500.54E "DOD FOREIGN CLEARANCE PROGRAM" OF 28 DEC 2009 INCORPORATING CHANGE 1 EFFECTIVE 24 MAY 2017. REF D IS DODD

6490.02E "COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH SURVEILLANCE" OF 08 FEB 2012 INCORPORATING CHANGE 2 EFFECTIVE 28 AUGUST, 2017. REF E IS "ARMED FORCES REPORTABLE MEDICAL EVENTS GUIDELINES AND CASE DEFINITIONS" OF 17 JUL 2017 AVAILABLE AT: [HTTPS:\(DOUBLE SLASH\)HEALTH.MIL/REFERENCE-CENTER/PUBLICATIONS/2017/07/17/ARMED-FORCES-REPORTABLE-MEDICAL-EVENTS-GUIDELINES](https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Publications/2017/07/17/armed-forces-reportable-medical-events-guidelines).

1. (U) THIS MESSAGE IS FOR ALL FORCES LOCATED WITHIN THE USINDOPACOM AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (AOR). PER REFERENCES (A) THROUGH (C), SERVICE MEMBERS MUST COMPLY WITH ALL DOD TRAVEL GUIDANCE. THE U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) ASSIGNED ALERT LEVEL 2 "PRACTICE ENHANCED PRECAUTIONS" STATUS AND ISSUED A TRAVEL NOTICE RELATING TO THE POLIO OUTBREAK IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) AT [HTTPS:\(DOUBLE SLASH\)WWWNC.CDC.GOV/TRAVEL/NOTICES/ALERT/POLIO-PAPUA-NEW-GUINEA](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/polio-papua-new-guinea). THE CDC ISSUED THIS NOTICE DUE TO THE ONGOING OUTBREAK CAUSED BY CIRCULATING VACCINE-DERIVED POLIOVIRUS.
2. (U) BACKGROUND: POLIO IS A HIGHLY INFECTIOUS, BUT VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASE THAT CAUSES SEVERE PARALYSIS. POLIO IS SPREAD BY CONSUMING FOOD OR WATER THAT HAS BEEN CONTAMINATED WITH FECES FROM INFECTED INDIVIDUALS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO CASES OF POLIO IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE 1979 DUE TO THE U.S.'S CHILDHOOD VACCINATION PROGRAM AND SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE. AGGRESSIVE GLOBAL IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGNS HAVE ALMOST ERADICATED POLIO FROM THE WORLD. HOWEVER, SOME COUNTRIES USE A LIVE VACCINE WHICH POSES A POTENTIAL RISK THAT THE VACCINE CAN MUTATE AND CAUSE DISEASE.
3. (U) RISK ASSESSMENT/OUTBREAK: AS OF 16 OCTOBER, PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS REPORTED A TOTAL OF EIGHTEEN (18) CASES OF POLIO SINCE APRIL 2018. THESE CASES HAVE OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO INCLUDE THE PNG HIGHLANDS AND THE CAPITOL, PORT MORESBY. THIS OUTBREAK REFLECTS THE SUB-STANDARD WATER AND SANITATION PRACTICES AND THE POOR IMMUNIZATION RATES FOR THEIR LOCAL POPULATION. IN JULY, THE CDC AND WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) RELEASED TRAVEL NOTICES ADVISING THAT TRAVELERS SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED AND IMMUNIZED AGAINST POLIO. IN RESPONSE TO THIS OUTBREAK, PNG HAS LAUNCHED A LARGE-SCALE IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN.
4. (U) PREVENTION: THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT INFECTION IS TO ENSURE ALL TRAVELERS TO PNG ARE ADEQUATELY VACCINATED. CDC RELEASED UPDATED COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SHORT- AND LONG-TERM TRAVELERS IN JULY 2018 WHICH IS LOCATED AT: [HTTPS://WWWNC.CDC.GOV/TRAVEL/NEWS-ANNOUNCEMENTS/POLIO-GUIDANCE-NEW-REQUIREMENTS](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/news-announcements/polio-guidance-new-requirements).
  - 4.A. (U) CDC RECOMMENDS ALL TRAVELERS TO PNG BE FULLY VACCINATED AGAINST POLIO WITH TWO VACCINE DOSES DURING CHILDHOOD. ADULTS WHO HAVE BEEN FULLY VACCINATED AND ARE SHORT-TERM TRAVELERS TO PNG (LESS THAN 4 WEEKS), SHOULD RECEIVE A SINGLE LIFETIME ADULT BOOSTER DOSE OF POLIO VACCINE (FOR A TOTAL OF 3 LIFETIME DOSES). DOD SERVICE MEMBERS SHALL HAVE THEIR MEDICAL/IMMUNIZATION RECORDS REVIEWED TO ENSURE AT LEAST 1 POLIO SHOT HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED (AND RECORDED) DURING THEIR ADULthood.
  - 4.B (U) LONG-TERM TRAVELERS TO PNG (4 WEEKS OR MORE), SHALL OBTAIN A POLIO IMMUNIZATION PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN COUNTRY (REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF PREVIOUS VACCINES), TO COMPLY WITH CDC AND WHO GUIDANCE. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT TRAVELERS HAVE ADEQUATE PROTECTION WHILE IN COUNTRY AND WILL ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT EXPORT POLIO UPON THEIR DEPARTURE. PROOF OF POLIO VACCINE ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS MAY BE REQUIRED WHEN DEPARTING FROM THE POLIO-AFFECTED COUNTRY.
  - 4.C (U) TRAVELERS WHO ARE UNCERTAIN AS TO THE EXPECTED DURATION OF THEIR STAY IN PNG SHALL COMPLY WITH PARAGRAPH 4B AND RECEIVE A POLIO IMMUNIZATION PRIOR TO ARRIVAL IN PNG.
  - 4.D (U) BOTH SHORT- AND LONG-TERM TRAVELERS TO PNG SHALL HAVE POLIO VACCINATION HISTORY DOCUMENTED ON THE CDC YELLOW CARD (CDC FORM 731). THE CDC YELLOW CARD IS THE ONLY

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AUTHORIZED AND INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED DOCUMENTATION. CLINICS CAN OBTAIN CDC YELLOW CARDS (FORM 731) FROM THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE ([HTTP://\(DOUBLES LASH\)BOOKSTORE.GPO.GOV](http://bookstore.gpo.gov)).

5. (U) COMMANDERS WILL ENSURE SERVICE MEMBERS AND DOD CIVILIANS TRAVELING TO PNG, WHETHER ON DUTY OR IN A LEAVE STATUS, ARE AWARE OF THESE TRAVEL NOTICES AND ARE COMPLIANT WITH ALL FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS. IN ANTICIPATION OF MILITARY MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) FORUM TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2018, MISSION PLANNERS NEED TO IDENTIFY WHICH UNITS/MISSIONS MAY BE IN COUNTRY MORE THAN 4 WEEKS AND BE AWARE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING POLIO VACCINATION AND DOCUMENTATION MAY CHANGE IF THE POLIO SITUATION WORSENS.

6. (U) EVOLVING THREAT: THE POLIO THREAT IN PNG IS EVOLVING AND PREDICTED TO REMAIN A CONCERN FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. BE AWARE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING POLIO VACCINATION AND DOCUMENTATION MAY CHANGE IF THE POLIO SITUATION WORSENS.

7. (U) REPORTING: REF (D) MANDATES THE REPORTING OF SIGNIFICANT INFECTIOUS DISEASES. CASE DEFINITIONS AND REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE LOCATED IN REF (E).

8. (U) PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE: THE PA POSTURE IS RESPONSE TO QUERY. THE CDC HAS THE OVERALL LEAD FOR COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING POLIO. MEDIA AND GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO USINDOPACOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT 808-477-1342.

9. (U) THIS MESSAGE MAY BE MODIFIED AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

10. (U) POC, INDOPACOM SURGEONS OFFICE, JOC-MED.PACOM(AT)NAVY.MIL; 808-477-7885.

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