

# HEALTH SECURITY

Marshall Center Security Forum - Ohrid 2015

- “the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and States” (Constitution of the World Health Organization, 1946: 1)
- “threats to health may compromise a country’s stability and security” (Oslo Ministerial Declaration, 2007: 1)
- “global health touches upon all the core functions of foreign policy: achieving security, creating economic wealth, supporting development in low-income countries and protecting human dignity” (UN General Secretary’s Report “Global health and foreign policy: strategic opportunities and challenges”, 2009: 2)

# HIV/AIDS

- one of the biggest threats to global health and “world’s leading infectious killer”
- 35 million people, 3.2 million of whom children (under the age of 15), are infected with this virus, with 39 million people having died of HIV/AIDS since 1981, when the first case was registered
- Africa is the worst affected region with 24.7 million people living with HIV, which amounts to 70% of the world’s HIV-infected population

- “as the HIV/AIDS pandemic erodes economic and security bases of affected countries, it may be a potential ‘war-starter’ or ‘war-outcome-determinant’“ (the US HIV/AIDS Strategy, 1995)
- “HIV directly impacts military readiness and manpower, causing loss of trained soldiers and military leaders and shrinkage of recruit and conscript pools” (the US HIV/AIDS Strategy, 1995)
- Angola 40-60%, Congo-Brazzaville 10-25%, Côte d’Ivoire 10-20%, Democratic Republic of the Congo 40-60%, Eritrea 10%, Nigeria 10-20%, and Tanzania 15-30% (The US National Intelligence Council, 2000).

- UN Security Council Resolution 1308 which classified HIV as a threat to stability and security and declared a “peaceful war against AIDS” (Economic and Social Council Press Release ECOSOC/5884, 2000).
- UN Security Council Resolution 1983 which emphasized the role of UN peacekeeping missions in the global response to AIDS (UN Security Council Resolution 1983, 2011).

# Infectious Disease

- In the last 25 years more than 30 new infections have been identified, some existing ones have reemerged, and the WHO has registered over 1,100 cases of epidemics.
- SARS 2003
- H1N1 2009
- Ebola 2014

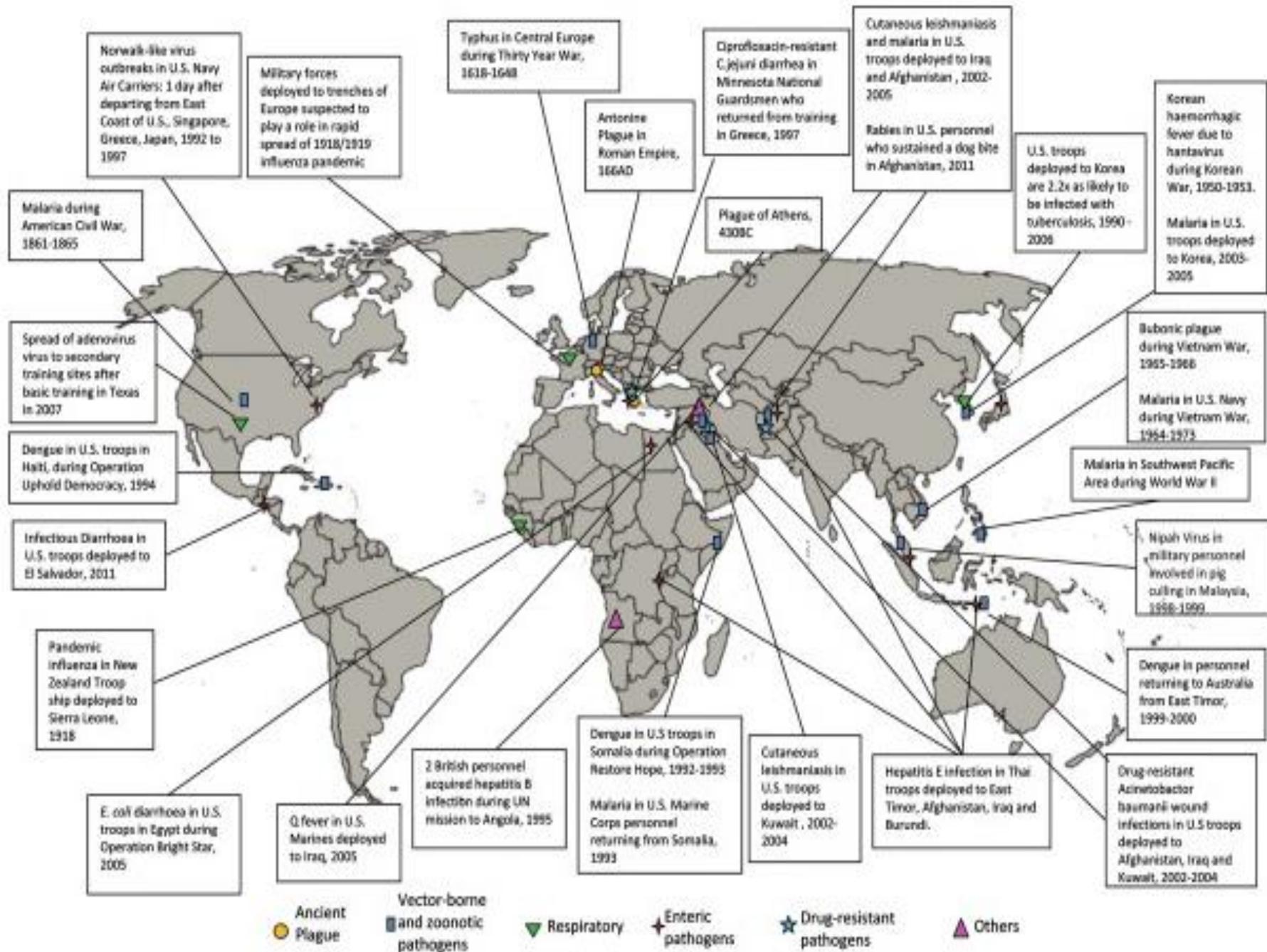
- World Bank analyses estimated the potential damage to the West African economy in 2015 to approximately \$1.6 billion in a “Low Ebola” scenario reflecting containment (rising to \$3.8 billion when 2014 losses were included). Estimated losses could have been as high as \$25 billion in 2015 in a “High Ebola” scenario (rising above \$32 billion when 2014 losses were included) (World Bank, 2015: 3).
- SC UN Resolution 2177 (2014): “the unprecedented extent of the Ebola outbreak in Africa constitutes a threat to international peace and security” (UN Security Council Resolution 2177, 2014).

# Health and national security strategies

- “the risk of human pandemic disease remains one of the highest we face” (HM Government, 2010: 30)
- the 2013 UK National Risk Register classified the risk of pandemic influenza as the highest priority risks (Cabinet Office, 2013).
- “we face the risk, in particular, of a new highly pathogenic and lethal pandemic caused” (The French White Paper on Defense and National Security, President of French Republic, 2013: 44).
- the 2015 National Security Strategy classifies severe global infectious disease outbreaks as top strategic risks to the national interest (The White House, 2015:14).

# The new role of the military?

- the three major health related functional areas where the military is directly involved in global health activities include: 1) medical force protection, 2) humanitarian assistance/disaster response, and 3) medical stability operations
- the French Military Influenza Surveillance System (MISS); the US Armed Forces Health Surveillance Centre Global Emerging Infectious Surveillance and Response System (AFHSC-GEIS)



# Health security: Serbian context

- the Law on Protection of Citizens against Infectious Diseases
- Law on Public Health
- Law on Health Care
- HIV and AIDS Strategy
- Republic of Serbia Public Health Strategy
- Influenza Preparedness Plan before and during Pandemic of the Republic of Serbia

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- “spread of infectious diseases in humans and diseases in animals represent a security risk that could be growing in the future“ (National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, 2009: 13)

- 3565 infectious disease epidemics with a 2.2% mortality rate were registered in Serbia between 1997 and 2007
- the high mortality rate of 14‰, which is among the highest in Europe
- the number of young people decreased from 16% in 2003 to 14.3% in 2013, while in the same period the number of old people increased from 16.8% to 17.8%
- from 1985, when the first cases of HIV/AIDS were reported in Serbia, to 2013, 1692 people were reported infected with HIV, 1061 (63%) of whom died

# The role of the SAF

- Peacekeeping operations: medical teams EUTM Mali; EUMAM RCA; EUTM Somalia
- the "Military Physicians in the Countryside" campaign: humanitarian blood donation campaigns, and providing medical assistance to the residents of rural areas
- biological decontamination



Thank you for your attention!

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