

## **DEVELOPMENT OF A UNIT-BASED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM IN THE ROYAL THAI ARMY**

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Because many infantry and other battalion-sized or smaller units in the Royal Thai Army (RTA) are often stationed or deployed in areas not readily accessible to RTA medical care, data about the incidence of disease and chief complaints are not easily captured, if at all. Often if a soldier is acutely ill, they will be referred to the nearest hospital which may or may not belong to the RTA. In order to capture the data in this situation, AFRIMS has developed a semi-automated system combining the principles of NAMRU-2's EWORS and the United Nations de facto reporting system, EPINATO. A Microsoft ACCESS-based system, "EPI-THAI" allows the unit health care provider to record the chief complaint as either a syndromic presentation or in ICD-10 format. The pilot project is being fielded with the Suranalee Army Force along the Thai-Cambodian border and its headquarters serves as the central hub for collecting and analyzing the data while copying the data to AFRIMS for additional analysis. While the system is still in the early stages of development, plans will be discussed on the direction of the system and how it can be adapted for units deploying on UN missions.

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