



## Disease X Developments – SIGCEN Preparations

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### Key Judgments:

The spread of Disease X has begun to result in travel restrictions as the president has declared martial law and brought in the National Guard to provide quarantine in some large cities. Anyone who is planning to relocate to another location should do so immediately as the window of opportunity is closing quickly, possibly already closed depending on your individual location.

Public areas and gatherings should be avoided if at all possible. Limit contact with individuals and do not consume meat products that have been obtained within the previous 3-4 months to reduce risk of contracting Disease X through the food supply. Avoid meats or use long-term supplies.

Likelihood of needing to staff the NC SIGCEN location for an immediate national emergency is being upgraded from “very likely” to “imminent”.

Progress was made yesterday (Wednesday) on prepping the SIGCEN for immediate use. (See progress made today in *Introduction* section)

AmRRON Corp members should continue to populate the SIGCEN with equipment and supplies for a long-term operation immediately. Consideration should be given to the likelihood that it will not be safe to leave the SIGCEN for an extended time period due to pandemic conditions.

All AmRRON members should be monitoring local, regional and national nets for information. Any relevant messages received should be relayed to regional SIGCENs as they come online and forwarded on to Natl SIGCEN. See the AmRRON SOI for AmRRON scheduled nets. As SIGCENs come online, information will be processed and distributed as it becomes available. Individual SIGCENs will have varying capabilities (HF, U/V/CH3, BlackEcho, etc.). Contact regional SIGCENs to obtain details on how they will be distributing information within their local areas.



## **Introduction:**

What appears to be a pandemic began in the mid-Atlantic states and then spread nationwide and eventually internationally. National news stations are reporting that the outbreak is an “actual bio terror attack” and referring to the situation as “an act of war”. Details supporting these statements is not available at this time.

The president has declared martial law and has called in the National Guard to quarantine big cities. Details on specific cities/locations is not available at this time.

Local news stations are reporting the Luke AFB has initiated quarantine with all personnel ordered to report to base. Everyone entering the base is being tested. Anyone testing positive is being denied access to the base. Emergency housing is being established for personnel and dependents. Unconfirmed reports of additional quarantine procedures at : Malstrom, Minot, Kirkland, Holloman, Cannon, Whiteman, Tinker, Barksdale, and Offut. Information on activity in other branches of the military is not available at this time.

In accordance with the AmRRON Mission Statement, members should begin preparations to support citizens on a national (and possibly international) scale in dealing with the pandemic and resulting conditions.

Progress in preparation of the NC SIGCEN made yesterday (Wednesday) includes:

### *Location:*

- Tables have been arranged and workstations established & labeled for 3 HF stations, one U/V/CH3 station, one ACE station, one BlackEcho station.

### *Equipment:*

- Setup of computers and auxiliary equipment for the ACE.
- Setup of computers and recording/editing equipment for the BlackEcho station.
- Some auxiliary equipment and fixturing staged onsite.

### *Food/Water:*

- Some food staged onsite.
- One case of bottled water staged onsite.
- Two propane gas tanks are full.

### *Protective gear:*

- Basic self-defense tools (handgun, rifle, knife, and ammunition)... should not be left onsite until manned on a continuous basis for security. Keep these items with you.

### *Miscellaneous:*

- Coax for one of the G5RVs was attached and ran into the SIGCEN.

See ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-07-17-B for complete list of SIGCEN Preparation recommended action items.



## **Background:**

What is now being referred to as “disease X” was first identified in wildlife populations in the eastern panhandle of WV. Disease X is an aggressive form of chronic wasting disease (CWD). CWD is a prion based disease that causes cavities to form in the brain of infected animals leading to death. Disease X has migrated from wildlife to domestic livestock and now into the human population. There are unsubstantiated reports of outbreaks in Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Great Britain. Officials from the CDC, DHS, HHS and FEMA have now recommended that individuals limit travel and avoid large gatherings. Individuals are instructed not to go to the hospital if symptoms are detected, instead to contact their local public health department and report symptoms to them.

There has been no indication of a cure for Disease X once it is contracted in wildlife, domestic animals, or the human population. There has been no indication of a vaccine for wildlife, domestic animals, or the human population to prevent contracting Disease X.

The SIGCEN site has been used in the past for training exercises as well as ARRL Field Day events. Each of these events has provided valuable training as well as “lessons learned” that were captured in part in After Action Reports. While the structure and utilities is in place, almost all of the radio and computer equipment is removed to home QTHs after each exercise.

As a result of reports of the pandemic conditions being present in wildlife and domestic livestock over the past few months, some upfitting of the SIGCEN site has been performed over the past couple of weeks. These activities have increased in momentum in the last 24-36 hours with equipment, food, water, etc. now being accumulated at the SIGCEN.

## **Substantiation:**

2018/07/18 – The local GA and SC ARES coordinators are trying to reposition members in response to the reports of supply shortages and possible cases of human infection. Unfortunately, the number of members and their capabilities are limited. The coordinators have knowledge and are supportive of AmRRON and its capabilities and have requested assistance.

2018/07/18 – Source: Local New... LUKE AFB initiating quarantine. All personnel ordered to report to base, dependents encouraged to also relocate on base. Testing for all personnel entering base. Testing positive resulting being denied access to base. Emergency housing being established for personnel and dependents. Unconfirmed reports of additional quarantine procedures at: Malstrom, Minot, Kirkland, Holloman, Cannon, Whiteman, Tinker, Barksdale, and Offut. No information regarding additional military branches.

2018/07/18 – Twitter social media posts from Glendale, AZ report unusually large number of cargo planes arriving and departing Luke AFB

2018/07/18 – (Message 5% incomplete)... SOURCE: National NeOssa,,wRq otVr<sup>e</sup>nt calls health events with animals an "actual bio terror attack. lls it "an act of war". News reporting president has declared martial law and has called the National Guard to quarantine big cities. No further details from press story at this time.



## Scope / Context:

This pandemic will affect all area AmRRON members and their families.

## Outlook:

### Large Scale Impact

#### *Impact - Immediate:*

- Moderate human deaths due to infection with Disease X.
- Contact with infected animals and humans carries a high risk of acquiring Disease X.
- Food shortages (especially meat products).
- Travel restrictions and National Guard checkpoints.

#### *Impact – Coming Days:*

- Increasing numbers of deaths due to infection of Disease X.
- Food shortages leading to civil unrest and crime.

### Local/Direct Impact

All members of AmRRON should begin taking immediate steps to provide food, security, and communications for their families and neighborhoods. Mutual assistance groups should begin implementing pre-defined plans.

## Sources:

1. ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-07-17-A
2. ExSum – PT AmRRON 2018-07-17-B
3. Various communications (as noted above)

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