

Summary of Virus Outbreak

Location

Subic (pron."Sue-bick") Bay Region, The Philippines (see map)

Situation

Over the last three months, 18 people have died and more than 35 others have become sick. Those that have died or are sick span a diverse breadth of people, from Filipino citizens, to US Navy officers and European tourists. The diverse nature of the people afflicted by the outbreak has made it difficult to isolate a single cause for the outbreak.

Your task

A number of people from different backgrounds are involved in this investigation and have been brought together to discuss what is going on. In your groups, each person represents a single investigator of the outbreak, each with their own data, perspective and experiences to share. Together as a group, your task is to discuss the facts of this case and using what each of you knows to develop hypotheses about the causative agent of this virus outbreak and a mechanism by which it spreads. As a group, you will develop a plan of action to stop the spread of this outbreak and present this to class.

About the area

The Subic Bay region is situated on the island of Luzon (Loo-zon), about 40 miles from Manila, the capital of the Philippines. The Subic Bay region was the home to a US Naval base (Subic Bay Naval Base) and US Air Force Base (Clark Air Force Base) until 1991. In the time since the closing of the bases, the Subic Bay area has seen resurgence in activity as a hub for divers, hikers and eco tourists. The landscape is a mix of farmland, forest and medium to highly urbanized areas. Surrounding the region are forests preserves and national parks that are home to primary growth forests that have remained untouched compared to the forest of the rest of the Philippines. Mountains, caves and other geological features dot the landscape and add to the complexity of the animal habitats in the area. The Philippines is known to house many species of animal and plants that are not found anywhere else in the world. The forests around Subic Bay house some of these rare species. The area is also a hub of transportation and commerce. Traffic from Manila to other parts of the northwest cities of Luzon usually passes through the Subic Bay region.

Map of Subic Bay and surrounding region, the Philippines



Legend

- 1- Subic Bay
- 2- Roosevelt Forest Preserve
- 3- Olongapo City (pron. "O-long-apo")
- 4- Angeles City
- 5- Manila (Capital of the Philippines)
- 6- Bataan (pron. "Ba-ta-an") National Park

- 7- City of San Fernando
- 8- Formerly Subic Bay Naval Base
- 9- Formerly Clark Air Force Base