

VIRUS

CDC probing possible first Zika case from US mosquito bite

By Jennifer Kay
The Associated Press

MIAMI » Health officials in Florida are investigating whether the Zika infection of a woman in the Miami area could be the first transmission of the virus from a mosquito bite in the continental United States.

Lab tests confirmed the Zika infection, according to statements from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Florida's Department of Health.

Health officials said the case had no apparent links to recent travel outside the country. They did not immediately respond Wednesday to questions about ruling out other methods of transmission, such as sex.

The patient is an adult woman who lives in Miami-Dade County, according to a health official familiar with the case who wasn't authorized to reveal details beyond the statements of the agencies involved, and thus spoke on condition of anonymity.

No other details about her case were released.

More than 1,300 Zika infections have been reported in the U.S., none involving bites from local mosquitoes; 14 of these were sexually transmitted and one lab worker was stuck with a contaminated needle.

Miami-Dade County has the most confirmed infections in Florida — 89, but so far all have involved someone who traveled outside the U.S. mainland to areas with Zika outbreaks, such as Latin America and the Caribbean.

Health officials predicted the virus would reach U.S. mosquitoes this summer and have mobilized to keep Zika from spreading beyond isolated clusters of cases.

According to a CDC response plan, health officials would want to see more than just one unexplained case before declaring that someone has been infected by a mosquito bite in the continental United States.

The plan suggests there should be two or more cases within a 1-mile area, in people who do not live together, who did not have sex with Zika-infected people, and who did not recently travel to countries

with Zika outbreaks.

Evidence of the virus in mosquitoes captured in the same areas also might help investigators declare Zika is spreading, but short of that, it might be difficult to determine with certainty that mosquito transmission has occurred.

Mosquito control inspectors in Miami have been going door-to-door in the area under investigation since health authorities alerted them late last week, spraying to kill mosquitoes and emptying containers of the water they need to breed. If the virus is there, they want to keep it from spreading through more mosquito bites.

"We're constantly in the area. We're doing hand-held spraying, and we'll do more truck spraying Thursday," said Gayle Love, a spokeswoman for Miami-Dade County Solid Waste Management.

Zika prevention kits and mosquito repellent — strongly recommended for women who are pregnant or planning to be — are being distributed in the area and can be picked up at the health department as well. Crews in Utah, meanwhile, are setting traps in old tires and junkyards and dumping mosquito-eating fish into ponds and abandoned pools after a man who cared for his dying father was infected with Zika as well. Since that case doesn't involve travel or sex, it has raised more questions about how the virus might spread.

"Our best option is to try find these mosquitoes quickly so that way we can eliminate them prior to their establishment," said Ary Faraji, manager of the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District. "Once they become established, it is extremely difficult to get rid of those species."

There is no vaccine for Zika. The main defense is to avoid mosquito bites. Zika also can spread through unprotected sex with someone who is infected.

In most people, Zika causes only a mild and brief illness, at worst. But it can cause fetal death and severe brain defects in the children of women infected during pregnancy.

CRIME



JOE LEDFORD — THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Kansas City Police Chief Terry Zeigler, center, pauses during a news conference at City Hall on Wednesday about the slaying of police Capt. Robert Melton, who was shot and killed, Tuesday in Kansas City, Kansas.

Authorities: Kansas officer's shooting death not an ambush

By Maria Sudekum
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, KAN. » The fatal shooting of a Kansas City, Kansas, police officer was not part of a planned ambush, but the work of "another criminal" trying to evade arrest, authorities said Wednesday.

Police Chief Terry Zeigler said during a news conference that authorities have two young men in custody, but declined to give details about possible charges. The department is working with prosecutors and planned to present the case to them "hopefully later today," Zeigler said, though the Wyandotte County district attorney's office said charges were not expected Wednesday.

While the attack isn't part of the recent string of shootings of police in the U.S., Zeigler said the hate against police must stop.

"This crime does not fit into the national narrative of planned attacks against

law enforcement officers, but it does fit the narrative when it comes to the fact that words matter. The hate and anti-police speech has got to stop because the consequences are real," said Zeigler, who paused briefly to compose himself at the news conference.

Capt. Robert Melton was by himself searching for a suspect in a drive-by shooting when he drove up to someone who matched that person's description just before 2 p.m. Tuesday. Before the 46-year-old could get out of his vehicle, he was shot several times through his passenger-side window, the chief said, adding that the department was reviewing its procedures.

Mayor Mark Holland also said it doesn't appear that Melton's death "was a planned ambush against police" and that the death is "another example of another criminal trying to escape arrest."

Melton was a 17-year veteran of the department. He

had also served in the Kansas Army National Guard and was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan before he retired in 2012, according to the guard. Melton had also been awarded several military honors, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster.

Melton, whose partner is expecting a child, also leaves three other children from previous relationships, police said. His family has asked for privacy.

At police headquarters, people have been leaving cards and flowers, which the department has arranged on a table draped in blue cloth and bearing Melton's photo. Kathryn Courtney, 31, of Kansas City, Kansas, brought a bouquet of yellow daisies Wednesday. She said she had known Melton for nearly 20 years, describing him as "born to protect and serve" and "a wonderful man with a heart of gold."

"Officers come to work

every day knowing they may have to die in the line of duty," Zeigler said. "Most of us go through our careers and never have to experience that."

It's the second time a Kansas City, Kansas, police officer has been shot and killed this year. In early May, detective Brad Lancaster was fatally shot near the Kansas Speedway, and Melton had served in the police honor guard at Lancaster's funeral. The shooting also comes as police departments across the country are on edge after ambush attacks left eight officers dead in Texas and Louisiana.

Mayor Mark Holland of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County referenced Lancaster's shooting Wednesday, saying that the community is still healing from that shooting, which was the first in the department in 19 years. Melton's "death reopens a raw hurt still festering within our community," Holland said.

APPEAL

US court reverses record forfeiture order over Iran assets

By Larry Neumeister
The Associated Press

NEW YORK » A record terrorism-related forfeiture order benefiting families of some Sept. 11 victims and others was reversed on appeal Wednesday, leaving in doubt what will happen to a \$1 billion Manhattan office building at the center of the legal case.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan rejected a judge's reasoning in ordering the sale of the 36-story office building and other properties to benefit family members of victims of terrorism attacks.

The families and the U.S. government had sued the Alavi Foundation and Assa Corp., the building's partial owners. U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara has said the sale of the buildings would constitute the largest ever terrorism-related forfeiture.

In 2013, Judge Katherine Forrest said revenue from the buildings passed through a state-owned Iranian bank, violating a U.S. trade embargo, and thus were eligible for forfeiture. They were to be sold by the U.S. Marshals Service, with proceeds distributed among 19 holders of over

\$5 billion in terrorism-related judgments against the government of Iran.

The appeals court disagreed with Forrest, casting doubt on evidence that the properties were controlled by Iran.

The 2nd Circuit decision written by Circuit Judge Richard C. Wesley said the buildings do not qualify as being owned by Iran under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act but a three-judge appeals panel left it for the lower court to determine at trial if they could be considered an agency or instrumentality of Iran under the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act.

"Given the lack of evidence demonstrating Iran's day-to-day control of Alavi, we conclude, as a matter of law, that defendants cannot be deemed Iran's alter egos," the appeals court said.

The 2nd Circuit noted that evidence showed Iran created Alavi in 1973 and supervised its board and controlled its affairs in the 1980s and 1990s. But it said the only recent evidence of Iran's control consisted of a 2007 meeting between Alavi board members and Iran's ambassador to the United Nations.

Lawyers for the families of terror victims did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Bharara spokesman Nicholas Biase declined comment.

Daniel Ruzumna, attorney for Alavi and 650 Fifth Ave. Co., said: "We are very pleased by the rulings of the Court of Appeals. We look forward to vindicating our clients' rights and interests at trial."

The U.S. government had said the Alavi Foundation's sole partner in the ownership of the Manhattan building was a shell company fronting for a secret interest held by the state-owned bank of Iran, Bank Melli. The Iranian government had been designated by the U.S. as a sponsor of international terrorism,

an allegation it has repeatedly denied. Creditors who stood to benefit from the sale of the buildings included families and estates of victims of the 1983 bombings of a U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia and attacks in Israel.

Buildings also were to be sold in New York's Queens borough; Houston; Carmichael, California; Catharpin, Virginia; and Rockville, Maryland.

The Fifth Avenue building was built in the 1970s on property acquired by a not-for-profit corporation formed in New York by then Iranian leader Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who was overthrown in 1979. It was valued at \$83 million in 1989.

MILITANT GROUP

Defense, foreign ministers to plan next steps against ISIS

By Lolita C. Baldor
The Associated Press

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MD. » Defense Secretary Ash Carter said Wednesday that leaders at a counter-Islamic State meeting expressed concerns about what happens after the expected defeat of the militant group, and whether countries are ready to help stabilize and rebuild the war-torn cities in Iraq and Syria.

Carter also said that some nations have agreed to step up their contributions to the fight, as battles for the key cities of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria loom.

Defense and foreign leaders from more than 30 countries are in Washington for two days of meetings on the next steps to be taken in the fight to defeat the Islamic State group, which still maintains control of large sections of Iraq and Syria.

Speaking to reporters after the first day's session wrapped up at Joint Base Andrews, Carter said a lot of the conversations were about identifying the needs for reconstruction after the battles are over. "The biggest strategic concern of this group of defense ministers was that the stabilization and governance effort will lag behind the military campaign," Carter said. "Making sure there's no such lag must be a significant strategic priority for us. We discussed it today and it will be an important focus of our conversation to-

morrow at the State Department with our foreign ministry counterparts."

British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said more must be done to ensure that residents will be able and willing to return to the Iraqi cities. The coalition, said Fallon, must be sure it is "able to support the government of Iraq in the work that will be required the day after Mosul is eventually liberated."

That includes efforts to get basic services turned back on and removing the threat of hidden bombs. He said "everything is booby-trapped," including the rubble, and the people won't have the confidence to return unless the explosives are cleared away.

In comments kicking off the meeting, Carter urged a gathering of defense leaders to do more in the fight against Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, as they huddled to map out the next steps in the campaign.

"We must ensure that our partners on the ground have what they need to win the fight and then hold, rebuild, and govern their territory," he said. "We must not rest."

Defense and foreign ministers are in Washington for two days of meetings as the fights for key cities in Iraq and Syria move forward.

The gathering comes as Iraqi security forces, aided by the coalition, are preparing to encircle and eventually attempt to retake the key northern city of Mosul.

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PUBLIC MEETING
MARE ISLAND NAVAL SHIPYARD
RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)
July 2016 MEETING

The Department of Navy (DON) invites interested members of the public to attend updates and presentations with members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) made up of representatives from the local community, Navy, Federal and State regulatory agencies. The DON encourages the public to keep informed about the environmental cleanup at Former Mare Island Naval Shipyards (MINS), Vallejo, California.

July 2016 Featured Topics

Remedial Action, Installation Restoration
Site 17 and Building 503 Area

Proposed Remedial Actions at
Cooling Water Loop-Intake Arm Area
Investigation Area C1

Date: Thursday, July 28, 2016
Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Mare Island Conference Center
375 G St., Vallejo, CA

Ask questions and voice your concerns. You Can Make a Difference!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Janet Lear, (415) 524-9944 or Myra Hayes, (707) 249-9633
Navy BRAC Web Page: <http://www.bracnavy.mil>