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Police kill suspected shooter in Indonesia

TIMIKA, Indonesia (AP) — Government forces shot and killed a man they suspect in the fatal shooting of two U.S. teachers and one Indonesian in Papua province, and troops on Sunday searched through jungles and thick fog for a band of separatist insurgents thought to be behind the attack.

Saturday's ambush on a convoy close to a huge gold and copper mine operated by a U.S. corporation highlighted the Indonesian government's tenuous hold over the region and underlined the risks for foreign businesses investing in outlying Indonesian provinces.

Maj. Gen. Mahidin Simbolon, the Papua regional military chief, said the suspected insurgent was killed in a shootout Sunday morning near the site of the ambush. Papua's police chief, Brig. Gen. I Made Pastika, said a soldier was wounded in the exchange of fire with gunmen.

Police claim that about 15 rebels took part in Saturday's attack, which also wounded 10 people, a few miles from the Grasberg mine. The mine has the world's largest deposits of gold and ranks second in copper.

"We are going all out to catch the people behind this act of terror," Simbolon told reporters.

Some 250 troops were searching the surrounding jungles, though officers said thick fog was hampering the hunt.

The ambush was the bloodiest incident involving foreigners in almost four decades of intermittent warfare between government forces and separatist rebels in Papua.

The two slain Americans, Ted Burgon and Rickey Speer, were teachers at a school at the mine, and six of those wounded were also Americans. Burgon was earlier identified as Burcon, but his family called to correct the spelling.

The six wounded Americans and two injured Indonesians were airlifted to Australia, where two underwent immediate surgery at Townsville Hospital in the far north of Queensland state. One woman remained in serious condition Sunday night.

The two others injured were flown to Jakarta, the Indonesian capital.

Troops also cordoned off the mine, which has long been viewed by Papuans as a symbol of Indonesia's occupation and economic exploitation of the resource-rich province.

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West Nile

Continued from page 1

pool covers, buckets, barrels and cans with standing water and clean out rain gutters that might contain water, Olson said.

Anyone who experiences flu-like symptoms for more than a couple of days should contact a doctor. West Nile has proven most deadly in the elderly and in children, but 18 to 30-year-olds are also at risk for developing a serious condition.

The Southern House mosquito carries West Nile. These mosquitoes tend to breed in places such as polluted puddles and dilapidated underground water lines, Olson said. They live only a span of a month and fly in a half-mile to a mile radius.

Also found in Brazos County as a carrier of the virus is the Asian Tiger mosquito, which likes to bite in the late afternoon, Olson said.

"These mosquitoes will breed in something as little as a footprint," Plitt said.

Mosquitoes become infected with the virus when they feed on infected birds, which then can infect humans, Olson said. If they get trapped

inside a house or dorm they have nothing else to feed on if humans get in the way.

To date, 65 counties in Texas have tested positive for the West Nile Virus, extending as far as the Panhandle and East Texas.

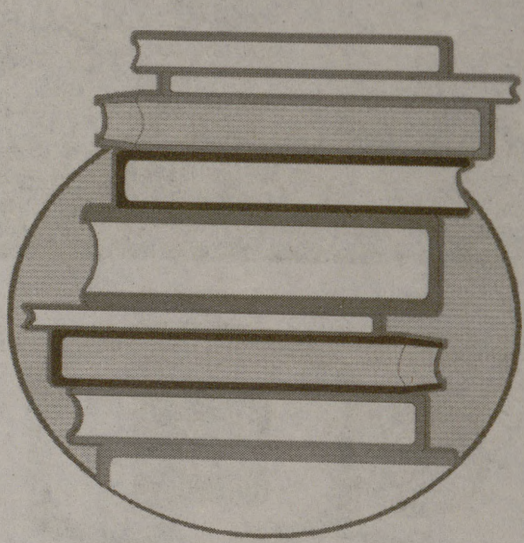
West Nile has been commonly found in humans, birds and other vertebrates in Africa, Eastern Europe, West Asia and the Middle East, but until 1999 had not previously been documented in the Western Hemisphere. It is not known where the U.S. virus originated from, but it is most closely related genetically to strains found in the Middle East.

"It has made a 'C' pattern across the United States, starting in the east and making its way south over the last three years," Olson said.

Even as fall begins and the weather cools, West Nile will still be a threat here, Olson said. A new species of mosquito that can fly within a 25-mile radius is expected to arrive in the area, as well as several more species of birds flying south for relief of cold weather.

"The bottom line is that no one is exempt, even if you are sitting in the middle of campus," Olson said. "So please do it right and don't let mosquitoes bite."

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