Executive Summary: As of 25OCT14, the current security situation in West Africa is stable and is expected to remain so for the near term. Tensions between locals and their governments continue to persist inside of the JOA. Reporting indicated on 24 and 25OCT14, a group of youth protested in front of the Ministry of Justice building over the West Point trial. Due to the incubation period of the Ebola virus, countries outside of West Africa remain vulnerable to cross border infection. This continues to be a concern because there is no travel ban in most countries to or from West Africa, as well as West Africa’s porous borders. As confirmed international cases of Ebola persist, countries will likely continue to recommend and impose travel restrictions with West African nations. Containment efforts in the U.S. and Mali continue after tracing measures were conducted from the recently affected patients. Tracing Ebola victims has proven to be an effective way to mitigate the spread in countries outside of West Africa. Social media spiked after the Mali government announced the death of the 2 year old girl, who was the first Ebola case in Mali. In the U.S., three others have been quarantined after tracing efforts from Dr. Spencer’s case. Reporting continues to highlight international assistance efforts focusing on donations, supplies, and personnel. Ethiopia’s contribution of sending reportedly 200 volunteer healthcare workers to West Africa will assist with an increasing disparity between the amount of current doctors and Ebola patients.

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1. (U) Complete Weather Update

2. (U) Ebola Update

(U) Analyst Comment: CDC published the newest numbers for the Ebola outbreak on 24OCT14. The last count occurred on 20OCT14. Of the affected countries, Liberia has the most significant increase in infected cases. Senegal still remains at 1 case and 0 deaths and hasn’t changed in the recent weeks. Sierra Leone’s case count increased from 158 to 296 cases while their death count increased from 17 to 59 cases. Liberia’s case count has increased from 173 to 416 and death count total has increased from 142 to 247 since the last update. Guinea’s case count decreased from 47 to 21 and their death count increased from 19 to 42. The overall case count is currently at 9911 with a death count at 4868.

By country counts (cases/deaths): Liberia 4665/2705, Guinea 1540/904, Senegal 1/0, and Sierra Leone 3706/1259.

As of 25OCT14, the Liberian Ministry of Health reported 50 cumulative Ebola cases in Liberia from 18-20OCT14, raising the country’s total number of reported cases to 4,744. Montserrado County experienced the latest and has the most reported cases between 18-20OCT14 with 33. The reported death count throughout Liberia between 18-20OCT14 increased by 28, raising the country’s total reported deaths to 2737. During this time period, Montserrado County experienced the most reported deaths with 25.
(U) **Assessment:** Due to the incubation period of the Ebola virus, countries outside of West Africa remain vulnerable to cross border infection. Containment efforts in the U.S. and Mali continue after tracing measures were conducted from the recently affected patients. Tracing Ebola victims has proven to be an effective way to mitigate the spread in countries outside of West Africa. Social media spiked after the Mali government announced the death of the 2 year old girl, who was the first Ebola case in Mali. In the U.S. three others have been quarantined after tracing efforts from Dr. Spencer’s case. Along with quick reactions by both governments to contain the spread further, there will likely be an increased demand by their respective populations for stricter regulations on border control. Currently, two U.S. states have adopted a mandatory quarantine for those individuals that return from Ebola affected zones. In the U.S. there will be a revisit to current screening procedures at airports, more support for travel ban discussions, and implementation of mandatory quarantines for those individuals coming back from West Africa. In Mali, they will likely look to increase border security and increased restrictions on travel to affected countries.

a. (U) **Three others quarantined in New York:** Health officials have been tracing Spencer’s contacts to identify anyone who may be at risk. The city’s health commissioner, Mary Bassett, said Spencer’s fiancée and two friends had been quarantined but showed no symptoms. Health officials say the chances of the average New Yorker contracting Ebola, which is spread through direct contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person, are slim. (http://globalnews.ca/news/1632457/doctor-in-new-york-city-taken-to-hospital-with-possible-ebola-virus/)

b. (U) **Two U.S. states to quarantine health workers returning from Ebola zones:** New York and New Jersey will automatically quarantine medical workers returning from Ebola-hit West African countries and the U.S. government is considering the same step after a doctor who treated patients in Guinea came back infected, officials said on Friday. The new policy applies to medical workers returning from the region through John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York and Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. In the first instance of the new move, a female healthcare worker who had treated patients in West Africa and arrived at the Newark, New Jersey, airport was ordered into quarantine. (http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/24/us-health-ebola-newyork-idUSKCN0IC2CU20141024)

c. (U) **Island mobile clinic releases 20 patients, 13 patients die from Ebola:** On 24OCT14, 20+ patients were released from the Island mobile clinic ETU. Also 13 patients passed away last night from Ebola. The Island clinic’s sample load should increase over the next few days as WHO will be admitting many new patients to maintain bed occupancy around 150. (20141024 Island mobile clinic update)

d. (U) **First confirmed Ebola patient in Mali dies:** The first confirmed Ebola patient in Mali has died, according to state TV reports, citing government health officials. The victim, a two year-old girl, had traveled to the country with her grandmother from Guinea. Earlier on Friday, the World Health Organization said that the girl had multiple opportunities to expose others to the virus. The girl first went to a clinic Tuesday after entering the country, WHO Assistant Director, General Marie-Paule Kieny said at a news conference in Geneva, Switzerland. The WHO said it was working to confirm media reports that the child's mother showed Ebola-like symptoms before her death. (http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/24/world/africa/mali-ebola)

3. (U) **Current Security Situation**

(U) **Assessment:** As of 25OCT14, the current security situation in West Africa is stable and is expected to remain so for the near term. On 24 and 25 OCT14, a group of youths protested in front of the Ministry of Defense building over the West Point trial. The concern by the population of West Point is that the UCMJ action will be insufficient and they believe that the AFL soldiers involved in the incident should be
tried under Liberian law, not the USMJ. The demonstration ended peacefully, but increased tensions persist between individuals, especially the youth of West Point and the Liberian security forces.

a. (U) Youth Protest AFL Case for Second Consecutive Day: On 25OCT14, a group of Liberian youth protested for the second consecutive day in the vicinity of the Liberian Ministry of Justice. The non-violent protests were over the trial of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) soldiers involved in the August shooting and death of one resident in the West Point neighborhood of Monrovia. The youth protestors want the AFL soldiers to be tried under Liberian judicial law instead of current plans to use the Liberian Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The Minister of Defense stated justice will be swift and served the same under the UCMJ as civilian law. (20141025 Embassy Reporting)

b. (U) Mauritania closes borders with Mali: The Mauritanian authorities announced on 24OCT14 that the eastern border with Mali will be closed after Mali has reported a confirmed case of Ebola. (Agence Nouakchott d’information in French 24 OCT 14)

4. (U) Internal and External Influences

(U) Assessment: Reporting continues to highlight international assistance efforts focusing on supplies and personnel support. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) recently declined 2 billion dollars from Australia and stated they needed nurses and trained professionals, not monetary support. As confirmed international cases of Ebola continue to increase, countries will likely continue to recommend and impose travel restrictions along West African nations. Ethiopia’s contribution of sending 200 volunteer healthcare workers to West Africa will assist with an increasing disparity between the amount of current doctors and Ebola patients. While some countries believe that creating a travel ban to and from the affected countries will only hinder relief efforts, other countries are insisting on closing the borders from the affected countries until the virus is contained. Trinidad and Tobago recently implemented a travel ban from Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Liberia.

a. (U) Ethiopia contributes to Ebola response efforts: The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has answered to the appeal made by the African Union Commission Chairperson, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, by insisting that Member States urgently contribute human resources to the fight against Ebola in West Africa. In their response, the Ethiopian Government has pledged to deploy 200 volunteer health professionals to West Africa and also donated $500,000 to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The healthcare professionals are comprised of medical doctors, nurses, field epidemiologists, environmental health personnel and public health specialists. (http://reliefweb.int/report/liberia/ethiopia-contributes-african-union-ebola-response-efforts)

b. (U) China pledges $82 million to fight Ebola: China’s President Xi Jinping, will provide Ebola hit countries in West Africa with new aid worth the equivalent of $82 million. China’s recent donation is in addition to the $38.2 million that Beijing reports, was provided to Ebola affected areas. China has donated a total of over $122 million since July 2014. China is Africa’s largest trading partner and Beijing’s diplomatic footprint across the continent has significantly expanded as it seeks resources to support its economy. (http://reliefweb.int/disaster/ep-2014-000041-gin/rss.xml)

c. (U) Japan firm donates high-tech masks for Ebola fight: Clever, a maker of air filters, said it is sending thousands of the $75 masks for use by doctors and other health professionals in Guinea, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The move comes on the heels of an announcement earlier this week by Japanese giant Fujifilm that it would increase its supply of an experimental Ebola drug to help stem the spread of the virus. Clever says its Pittarich mask -- originally developed for the Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus, known as the MERS, is coated in chemicals that kill 99 percent of viruses, including Ebola, when they come into contact with the specialized device. Tsuyoshi Nakagawara, a board member of the firm, Clever, said hit Sierra Leone was not on the list of countries that Clever is donating masks to because
there is no Japanese embassy in the small West African nation. (http://reliefweb.int/disaster/ep-2014-000041-gin/rss.xml)

d. **(U) Trinidad and Tobago ban travelers from West African nations:** In response to Ebola fears, Trinidad and Tobago (TT) joined other Caribbean nations in banning visitors from Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Liberia. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GOTT) established Ebola prevention and Response Team, opened up a 48-bed facility, and pledged $100,000 to international response efforts. Red Cross officials stated that TT was ill-equipped to handle an Ebola outbreak. TT authorities are mainly relying on screening protocols in other major transit hubs in Europe or the US to prevent infected passengers from arriving in the country. (AMEMBASSY Port of Spain)