

'Space suits' join AIDS battle

By Sue Miller
Evening Sun Staff

The drama of life and death that is frequently played out in Baltimore's Shock-Trauma unit was once again unfolding.

A man in his 30s, critically injured in a car crash, needed surgery to repair a mangled hip joint.

But, as in an increasing number of instances, the threat of death was not confined to this patient. It reached out to surgeons on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic — the ones who care for its bloodiest patients, the trauma victims.

Doctors, nurses and technicians yesterday morning were hovering over the patient. He was considered at high risk for the AIDS virus but refused to take a blood test to determine whether he was infected by HIV, the virus that leads to the fatal acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

A short time later, Dr. David J. Brumback, a Shock-Trauma orthopedic surgeon, was ready for the six-hour operation that would begin with cleaning out the patient's wound.

Besides gloves, a reinforced gown and other protective gear that have become the norm since the advent of AIDS, he wore what surgeons across the country are referring to simply as "the space suit."

It's the trauma surgeon's ultimate protection in the operating room against AIDS, which in one decade has struck 132,510 Americans. Of those, 80,798 have died.

As the AIDS epidemic rolls relentlessly on, with no vaccine or cure



By Bo Rader — Evening Sun Staff

Doctor, wearing protective suit, performs surgery at Shock-Trauma Unit in Baltimore.

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the weekend crafting a new urban agenda dependent
on cities getting billions from the government after
a decade of cuts in aid.

Bombings arrest soon? Six months
after a string of four mail bombings in the Southeast,
FBI agents still won't discuss details of their investiga-
tion. But Savannah, Ga., Police Chief David Gellatly
said arrests will be made soon in the bombing that
killed an Alabama judge and a Savannah, Ga., alder-
man.

For the record: Volunteers in Galveston,
Texas, picked up seaweed and trash to get the beaches
ready for the first wave of tar balls today from oil
leaked by the supertanker Mega Borg, which was left
crippled after a June 8 explosion in the Gulf of Mexico.
... A rare beaked whale that could be as young as
1 month was rescued Sunday from the beach near
Pajaro Dunes, Calif., and marine biologists from the
University of California, Santa Cruz were working
yesterday to save its life. ... A cloud of irritating va-
por escaped from a chemical plant in Dedalia, Mo.,
early yesterday, forcing the six-hour evacuation of
about 1,500 people and sending 29 to a hospital for
treatment. No one was seriously hurt.

From wire services

weather

National Weather Service

st



Baltimore area extended forecast

Weds.
Cloudy
85/60

Thurs.
Prtly cldy
80s/60s

Fri.
Prtly cldy
80s/60s

Sat.
Stormy
80s/60s

Maryland forecast

Baltimore area

Fair tonight, lows in the 60s.
Increasingly cloudy tomor-
row, with a 30 percent
chance of afternoon show-
ers and thunderstorms,
highs in the 80s.

Eastern Shore/So. Md.

Fair tonight, lows near 60.
Increasingly cloudy tomor-
row, with a 30 percent
chance of afternoon show-
ers and thunderstorms,
highs in the 80s.

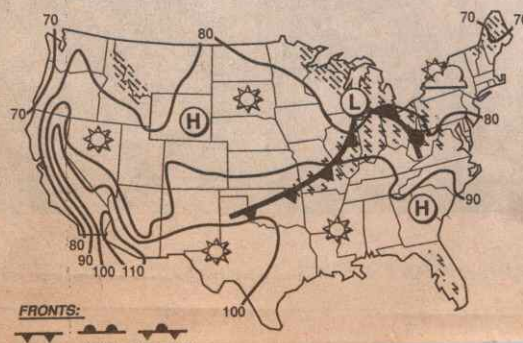
Western Maryland

Fair tonight, lows near 50.
Increasingly cloudy tomor-
row, with a 50 percent
chance of afternoon show-
ers or thunderstorms, highs
in the 70s.

Chesapeake Bay

Variable winds 5 to 10 knots
tonight. Waves less than 1
foot. South winds 10 to 15
knots tomorrow. Waves
building to 1 to 2 feet.

Tomorrow's U.S. forecast



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ort McHenry)
oday..... 8:36 p.m.
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oday..... 5:26 p.m.
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ed into full-fledged war. The army used helicopter
gunships and repeated machine-gun fire to repulse
an early morning attack by rebels on the Jaffna mili-
tary garrison. Jaffna is headquarters to the Liberation
Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the main rebel militia.

Canadian pact may fail: An accord
ending Quebec's constitutional isolation from Canada
appeared close to failure when Indian leaders opposing
the pact dismissed fresh federal proposals five days
from a crucial deadline. Native leaders in Manitoba
said the proposals, designed to win their support, fell
far short of their long-standing demands for self-gov-
ernment. The accord requires ratification by the legis-
latures of Newfoundland and Manitoba by Saturday.

Doe declares amnesty: President Samu-
el Doe, in a bid to bring anti-government rebels into
the political system, has lifted a ban on opposition
parties and declared an amnesty for all his regime's
opponents. There was no immediate response from
rebels who have waged a war since December to top-
ple Doe. But rebel leader Charles Taylor refused simi-
lar offers from Doe earlier this month.

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Iranians rebuild F-4 fighter's nose

Reuter

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iranian avi-
ation experts, hampered by a West-
ern arms embargo, have for the first
time reconstructed the nose of a
U.S.-made F-4 fighter-bomber, Ra-
dio Tehran said yesterday in a
broadcast monitored here.

It said experts at Iran's Avia-
tions Industries Co. had spent a year
to manufacture 919 parts and recon-
struct 168 other pieces to build the
nose.

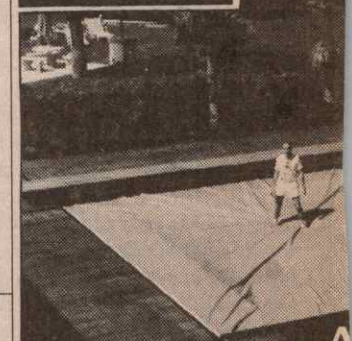
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6/19/90
The Eve Shaw

'Space suits' join AIDS battle

AIDS, From A1

in sight, the fear of exposure to HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) in trauma settings across the country intimidates doctors.

But, experts say, that's not driving large numbers of them out of their traditional role: saving lives.

Instead, trauma care providers — particularly orthopedic surgeons — are demanding and getting more effective AIDS protection for themselves.

The so-called "space suits" cost \$1,000 each plus \$60 for a disposable part that is used during each surgery, according to Brumback. Shock-Trauma has not purchased the basic equipment yet, but has one space suit on loan on a trial basis from an Indiana firm that produces them.

Shock-Trauma surgeons have used the space suit about six times during the last seven weeks, he said.

To use the space suit, a trauma specialist first places his head inside a cage or metal helmet — reminiscent of what deep-sea divers once wore.

Then, once he or she is scrubbed and sterile and about to put on a gown, a plastic windshield is pressed with Velcro against the cage. Attached to the disposable windshield is a disposable, high quality, impermeable paper gown.

The basic equipment, which is used over and over again, includes the cage, a battery-run filter system and circulating fans that, in some models, enable the wearer to live in his own environment.

"The wearer has his own source of air and does not breathe in air from the surgical field nor does he breathe the air out into the surgical field," Brumback said.

The idea is to make sure that the doctor does not come into contact with any "human dust" that could arise from HIV patients who undergo certain "drilling" procedures during cleaning of their wounds and surgery," said Dr. Bruce E. Cullen of Seattle, a speaker at a four-day International Trauma Anesthesiology and Critical Care Symposium which ended Sunday in Baltimore.

"As time goes on, the 'space suit' could conceivably be worn not only by surgeons but by every member of a 16-to-20-member surgical team," said Cullen, chief of anesthesiology at Harborview Medical Center, one of the largest trauma centers in the country.

Harborview has purchased three "space suits," he said, and a number of other centers "are beginning to use them."

Cullen likened working every day in a trauma setting to "living on the edge." He further said, "I worry about it a lot and so does my wife. But, I'm not quitting. I just have to be very careful."

Trauma care providers, he said, suspect patients are at high risk if they have needle marks on their arms or their medical history discloses they are homosexuals, bisexuals or intravenous drug users.

As many as 7 percent of patients seen in trauma settings are infected by HIV, he said. In patients who

come in with penetrating trauma — stabbing and gunshot wounds — the incidence is as high as 15 percent, he explained.

The push for anti-AIDS space suits has come from Dr. Lorraine Day, who earlier this year resigned as chief of orthopedic surgery at San Francisco General Hospital. At that time, she said she was leaving because the risks in the operating room for herself and her colleagues had become unacceptable.

AIDS at San Francisco General Hospital, and many other hospitals, is the only disease for which patients may not be tested without their permission. According to Day, that places health workers in extra, unnecessary danger.

"The patient has a right to confidentiality that supersedes my right to stay alive, and that's wrong," she was quoted as saying in a Newsweek article in January.

During the early years of the AIDS epidemic, health care providers were reassured by government officials that their risk of AIDS infection from patients was very small.

Now, the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta is taking a second look at the problem and has acknowledged the 25 cases of known AIDS infection among this population — most of them in trauma settings — may represent only a fraction of those who have been infected through exposure to contaminated blood.

New UM chief sees himself as 'p

LANGENBERG, From A1

He is a physicist who maintains a private personal life and blushes when asked to reveal his character or even to tell the name of his pet pig, Mae West.

Academicians and community leaders here know him as a highly skilled negotiator whose low-key approach to problem-solving has made the difference between disaster and success in the 1983 merger of two University of Illinois campuses, medical and liberal arts.

His Illinois colleagues believe he has enough leadership ability to fill the vacuum that has plagued the UM system since its inception two years ago.

In fact, that is the primary reason that Langenberg was chosen by the nine-member search committee this spring for the \$185,000-per-year position.

"He just made an immediate, good impression," said Ilona Hogan, a member of the UM Board of Regents who served on the committee. "He is going to give the system a feeling of strength at the head and the feeling that we can weather any storm."

"When we spoke with him, he had done his homework. He almost knew more about us than we knew about ourselves."

Langenberg said he was unaware that a UM system even existed when he was first contacted about the chancellor's job last year. He also said he was unfamiliar with details of the major reorganization of higher education in Maryland.

niques. The dean, who asked to remain anonymous, said Langenberg gets bogged down in long-range planning and loses sight of daily and routine operational problems.

Langenberg's success in merging the two UIC campuses has been tainted recently by huge losses at the University of Illinois Hospital, which the Illinois General Assembly bailed out with \$25 million in 1989. Most of the losses are from treating indigent patients who don't pay hospital bills, and the losses are draining cash

from the liberal arts programs, UIC officials said.

Langenberg will face no such deficits in the UM system's \$1.5 billion budget, but he will have to prove to Maryland lawmakers within seven months that the system and its programs are meeting guidelines mandated as the result of the 1988 overhaul.

"What is more difficult is achieving a philosophical and spiritual merger and to get people on the inside and outside of the system to

