AIDS and International Security
P.W. Singer

Aids as a national security threat:
- Increase occurrences of war and its impacts
- Severely “hollows out military capabilities as well as state capacities in general”
- Creates a new pool of military recruits who decrease international stability
- AIDS and warfare used in conjunction increase occurrences of war and its impact even more.

I. The direct danger of AIDS
   a. One of the most threatening diseases mankind has ever known
      i. Over 22 mil. killed; 2005 = (projected) additional 100 mil. infected
   b. Africa
      i. Epicenter of the AIDS epidemic
         1. Seven countries= infection rates of over 20% of pop.
      ii. Rapidly increasing rates of infection
         1. South Africa: 1% of pop. = 1990; 20% = 2000
         2. Aids is expected to kill 1 in 4 African adults
   c. Other Countries
      i. Asia and the Pacific
         1. by 2010 the number of infections in this region could surpass Africa
      ii. Latin America
         1. Ranked third behind Africa & Asia
      iii. The former Soviet Union
         1. not as high infection rates but Russia’s HIV infected population doubled from 2000-2001
      iv. Central Asia
         1. Rates predicted to be as high as Asia and the Pacific
            a. Poor healthcare, high poverty, intravenous drug users
      v. W. Europe, United States, Middle East
         1. Expected to keep a cap on the spread of AIDS
            a. Middle East success to be attributed to “conservative social mores”, however infection is also on the rise.

II. Aids and the military
   a. Soldiers average infection rates are higher than equivalent civilian population age groups
      i. True of ALL militaries, magnified in developing countries
   b. Military personale do not use condoms when interacting with prostitutes and drug users in high risk regions
      i. African Army Infection rates
         1. (Average 30%) Uganda 66%, Malawi 75%, Zimbabwe 80%
         2. makes it difficult for these militaries to be effective fighting forces
      ii. Infection rates are high among officers
         1. leadership gap or hollowing out process leaves military without skilled leaders, difficult to modernize, and maintain combat readiness

III. Aids and state failure
   a. AIDS tends to affect educated, well off citizens who are more mobile
      i. Skilled individuals are especially important to society
         1. Africa; 10% of all teachers will die by 2005, 25-50% of all health care workers in Malawi will also die
   b. Workforce productivity and revenue both decrease
i. Expected to reduce GDP in many states by 20% in the next decade esp. in current regions with high rates of infection [developing nations]

c. Threat to Developed Nations
   i. Lack of government stability in trading and military allies
      1. makes it easier for “enemies of global order” to build bases and recruit new members
         a. al-Qaeda in Sierra Leone
   ii. New influx of refugees
      1. AIDS will reach pandemic levels in former U.S.S.R and Caribbean

IV. The new children of war
   a. AIDS targets mature to middle age adults; leaves “new pools of combatants”
      i. Young Men
         1. “Psychologically more aggressive under normal circumstances”
            a. increased violence and social disorder
      ii. Orphans
         1. 2.7 mil. in Nigeria, 120,000 in India (AIDS has not yet reached a crisis level here)
         2. The child soldier problem
            a. The sheer amount of children will overwhelm states and extended families (typical caretakers of orphans)
            b. Leaves children open to exploitation by corrupt leaders
               i. Undermines govt. stability
               ii. Technology makes weapons easier to use
               iii. Potential to make warfare “messy”
                  1. Child Solders are considered particularly expendable
                  2. Imagine the moral issues that developed nations would face in having to face an army of Child Soldiers on peacekeeping missions

V. Weakening Global Stability
   a. Peacekeeping missions bring U.N. officials in contact with infected individuals [sex industry]; new risk to where troops are deployed in the future and citizens at home
      i. Reluctance by other nations to accept peacekeepers with potentially infected militaries
         1. Liberia and Sierra Leone become new “hot zones” after accepting peacekeepers

VI. The new costs of war
   a. AIDS as a new weapon with an enduring impact
      i. Rwanda; between 200,000 and 500,000 were raped with the purpose of spreading the virus
         1. “We are not killing you. We are giving you something worse. You will die a slow death.”
      ii. Disease has always been a part of the costs of war, AIDS is just a continuation of this
         1. Dysentery – Crimean War, American Civil War
         2. Intervention in the Congo
      iii. Mixing of population
         1. civilians from rural areas are brought into urban zones
      iv. New strains of AIDS may decrease the effectiveness of already existing treatments

VII. Conclusion
a. “Militaries could crumble, states could fall, wars could be more deadly, more frequent and harder to contain – all because of a tiny virus that targets the human immune system.”

b. Solutions
   i. “Silence kills”
      1. people from all walks of life must overcome the taboo of discussing aids
   ii. Mo’ Money
      1. the current amount being spent to battle AIDS each year is $1 bil.
         However it is estimated that $7-10 bil. each year is needed to effectively combat aids
         a. May 2001; U.S. devotes $200 mil. to the fight against aids
            i. Globally $200 bil. was spent to combat the Y2K problem
            ii. Iraq War II; by June 2004 total costs were $151 bil. for the U.S.

c. The military
   i. Adequately funded prevention programs that would be integrated into military-assistance packages