

PBCU

Portable Biocontainment Unit

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Portable Biocontainment Unit (PBCU) is the first and only domestic capability for long-range transport of multiple high-consequence infectious disease (HCID) patients.

The PBCU is a self-contained unit that can carry up to 10 HCID patients.

The unit can be transported by ground on the back of a standard 53" trailer or by air via C-130 or L-100 aircraft.

The unit weighs 24K lbs and is 30 ft long (358") by 9 ft wide (108").

Key features of the PBCU include:

- Seamless internal construction for easy disinfection.
- 14" walkway inset allows for fore/aft movement in the aircraft.
- Pressure monitor, intercom and CCTV.
- HEPA filtration, and generator or connection power.
- Entry from anti-chamber and patient pass-through.

In June 2025, the PBCU will be tested during the Tranquil Passport Exercise, the largest HCID patient movement exercise in HHS history.

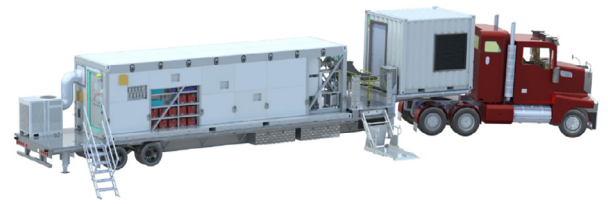
Over 50 federal, state, local, international, and nongovernmental organizations will participate in the exercise.

Exercise play will occur at airfields, hospitals, and emergency operations centers across four U.S. cities (Washington, DC; New York; Raleigh; and Atlanta) and one international city (Toronto, Canada).

The exercise is designed to test the processes and procedures for coordinating HCID patient movement among local, state, regional, federal, international, and nongovernmental partners.

During the exercise, patients will be delivered to five different HHS funded Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs) within the National Special Pathogen System.

This is the fourth full scale exercise collaboration between HHS, the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, and local, state, and international partners to test the movement of Americans acting as HCID patients from overseas to the United States for treatment.



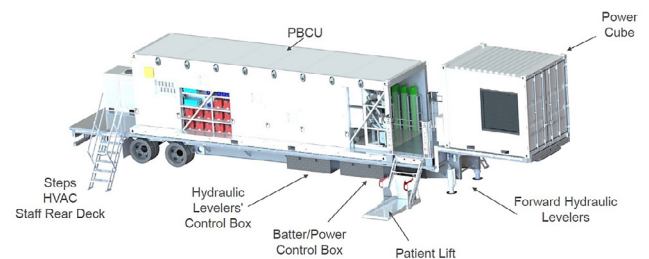
C-130 Military version



L-100 Civilian version

PBCU EXTERNAL DESIGN DETAILS

PBCU dimensions will occupy 4 pallet positions on aircraft



Tranquil Exercise Series Background

In 2015, ASPR established several programs to respond to Ebola and other high-consequence infectious diseases (HCIDs). Today, these programs include the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center, the National Special Pathogen System (NSPS), and the Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTCs).

ASPR also began working with the U.S. Department of State (DoS) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to develop specialized containment equipment to safely transport HCID patients via ground and air.

The federal response community recognized the need to test biocontainment equipment developed by ASPR and DoS and to validate the nation's ability to move HCID patients safely from international and domestic locations to RESPTCs in the United States. This led to the development of a full-scale exercise (FSE) series, with exercises held in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

This June, ASPR will conduct the Tranquil Passport FSE to build upon lessons learned from previous HCID patient movement exercises and field test ASPR's new, first-of-its-kind Portable Biocontainment Unit.



2025 TRANQUIL PASSPORT FULL-SCALE EXERCISE



EXERCISE PROGRAM

Execute existing plans, processes, procedures, authorities, and capabilities of HHS and other local, state, federal, international, and nongovernmental partners to coordinate the movement of a HCID patient cluster from Canada to the United States



SCENARIO

A novel viral hemorrhagic fever (unnamed) outbreak occurs during the 2026 FIFA World Cup



PARTICIPANTS

50+ federal, state, local, international, and nongovernmental organizations



CONDUCT DATES

June 24 – 27, 2025



LOCATIONS

Multiple transportation nodes, health care facilities, and operations centers