



*DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program  
Status Report  
May 2003 to September 2004*

*Madagascar*



## BACKGROUND

### Introduction/General Information

The population of Madagascar is 17.5 million people, with an average life expectancy of 56.5 years. French and Malagasy are the official languages of Madagascar, which has an estimated literacy rate of 68.9%, distributed among men by 13% over women. Agriculture, including fishing and forestry, is a mainstay of the economy, accounting for more than one fourth of Gross Domestic Product and employing four fifths of the population. The average annual per capita income is \$800.

### Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 1.7%, with 140,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. According to the US Agency for International Development, identified significant risk factors include unprotected heterosexual contact, low condom use rate, widespread poverty, low literacy rate, and high rates of sexually transmitted infections.

### Military HIV/AIDS Information

There are no reliable estimates of the size of Madagascar's armed forces. Additionally, Madagascar has not performed forcewide testing of its military personnel, making current HIV prevalence rates unavailable.

## PROPOSED PROGRAM

Madagascar submitted a proposal for HIV/AIDS prevention. The proposal was reviewed and approved for support and is commencing at time of report.

## PROGRAM RESPONSE

### Military-to-Military

DHAPP provided funds to support the following HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in the Madagascar military:

- Rehabilitate and equip an HIV/Sexually Transmitted Infections facility,
- Train laboratory technicians in HIV/STI diagnostic techniques,
- Train primary care physicians and healthcare professionals, and
- Establish safe blood program.

Requested medical equipment and supplies were transferred to the Madagascar Minister of National Defense in March 2004.



A DHAPP representative meets with Madagascar military leadership to plan support for HIV prevention in Madagascar's military.

## **PROGRAM IMPACT**

### **Master Trainers and Peer Educators**

To date, 51 members of the Madagascar military have been trained and certified as HIV/AIDS peer health educators.

### **Number of Troops Trained**

The cadre of 51 peer health educators presented HIV prevention training to 2726 military personnel and their family members.

### **Potential Number of Troops Affected**

Although the size of the Madagascar military has not been provided, the DHAPP-sponsored HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives are capable of training the entire force.

### **Counseling and Testing (CT)**

None during this reporting period.

### **Laboratory Capability/Infrastructure**

None during this reporting period.

### **Mass Awareness**

Extensive awareness efforts are in the planning stages at the end of September 2004.