



BARBADOS

DHAPP

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HIV/AIDS
PREVENTION PROGRAM**

**REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF HIV/AIDS
AMONG UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN
SELECTED AFRICAN NATIONS AND BEYOND**

WINNING BATTLES IN THE WAR AGAINST HIV/AIDS

BACKGROUND

Country Statistics

The population of Barbados is estimated to be 279,300 people, with an average life expectancy of 72.6 years. English is the official language, and the in-country literacy rate is estimated at over 99%. A former British colony and a member of the Commonwealth, the economy of Barbados is based on tourism, manufacturing, and agriculture. One of the wealthiest of the Caribbean countries, annual per capita income is approximately \$16,400.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 1.5%, with approximately 2500 people living with HIV/AIDS. HIV prevalence in men exceeds that in women by almost 3:1. The primary mode of reported HIV/AIDS transmission in Barbados is thought to be heterosexual contact.

Military Statistics

The size of the Royal Barbados Defense Force is approximately 1000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

Barbados received funding late in 2005, so the majority of the assistance effort will be conducted in 2006. Significant work has been planned with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine.

Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the military of Barbados for the 2006 fiscal year. The overall goal of the proposed project is to develop a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention program for the armed forces in Barbados. Some specific objectives of the proposed project include the establishment a center of excellence in HIV prevention, a media library, and a counseling and testing program. Other goals include sending medical staff to courses and

conferences, enhancing laboratory capabilities, and conducting a condom distribution program.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

Current efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention projects for military members in Barbados are being undertaken by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) as part of a collaborative agreement between DHAPP and USUHS. Toward the end of FY05, DHAPP funding was released to the implementing partner for commencement of activities.

Early efforts have yielded preliminary results. One indigenous organization was provided with technical assistance in HIV-related policy development and institutional capacity building. Fifteen individuals were trained in HIV-related policy development, institutional capacity building, stigma and discrimination reduction, and community mobilization.

The Center for Disaster & Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM) successfully gained the support of host nation military leadership. Coordination/collaboration with and between the US Military Liaison Office (USMLO), US Agency for International Development (USAID), International Agencies (e.g. Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS), and national agencies continues to develop in a positive direction. Direct planning and execution of projects is being coordinated.

