

# CÔTE D'IVOIRE

# 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 Côte d'Ivoire is estimated at 17.3 million, with an average life expectancy of 48.6 years. French is the official language of the country, which has a literacy rate of 50.9%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Côte d'Ivoire was recently embroiled in a bitter civil war that has effectively partitioned the country into two parts. The economy is heavily dependent on agriculture and related activities, engaging roughly 68% of the workforce. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$1,500.



#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 7%. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS is approximately 570,000. Of these, 78% are adults 20–49 years old. Other vulnerable groups include military personnel, displaced and mobile populations, and commercial sex workers. HIV prevalence is higher in urban than in rural areas. Identified significant risk factors for HIV include early initiation of sexual activity, significant poverty, and unprotected heterosexual contact.

#### Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 8000. Côte d'Ivoire has not performed force-wide HIV testing; however, the HIV infection rate in the military has been estimated at 9%.

### PROGRAM RESPONSE

During fiscal year 2005, bilateral military programs for HIV prevention in the Côte d'Ivoire military were suspended due to instability in the area. DHAPP staff members look forward to future successful collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire.

### OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Although programming for the Côte d'Ivoire military has been suspended, DHAPP personnel have maintained roles as members of the core team for the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, offering support to the in-country team in their country operational planning process for funding under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in Côte d'Ivoire.