



EQUATORIAL GUINEA

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 Equatorial Guinea is estimated to be 536,000, with an average life expectancy of 49.7 years. Spanish and French are the official languages; the literacy rate is 85.7%, disproportionately distributed between men and women. This tiny country, composed of a mainland portion plus 5 inhabited islands, is one of the smallest on the African continent. The discovery and exploitation of large oil reserves have contributed to dramatic economic growth in recent years. Forestry, farming, and fishing are also major components of the economy. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$2,700.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 3.4%, with approximately 5900 people living with HIV/AIDS. Little is known about the factors that influence the spread of HIV/AIDS in Equatorial Guinea. The primary mode of HIV transmission is believed to be heterosexual contact. Women are believed to be more severely affected than men.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 1000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

With an interest in expanding their program, the Walter Reed–Johns Hopkins Cameroon Program (WRJHCP) traveled to Equatorial Guinea to establish a relationship with their government and local military teams to discuss possible project work in the future, possible objectives, and an implementation plan.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

The Walter Reed-Johns Hopkins Cameroon Program is committed to providing technical assistance to Central African militaries to improve their HIV/AIDS prevention programs. To meet this objective, a statement of work was refined for efforts in Cameroon, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, Chad, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Equatorial Guinea, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. During the latter part of FY05, initial efforts took place in Cameroon, as well as Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, and Chad, with emphasis on sexually transmitted infection treatment and care, training military peer educators, and training laboratory technicians on the use of rapid testing kits. Early FY06 efforts will involve Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Equatorial Guinea, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and will expand upon the efforts commenced during FY05. DHAPP anticipates successful programs in all seven Central African militaries and impressive toward these important targets in prevention and care.

