

# GHANA

# DHAPP

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HIV/AIDS  
PREVENTION PROGRAM

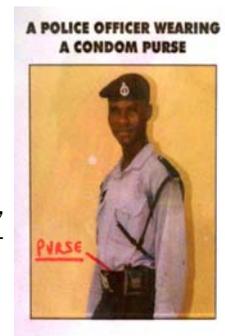
REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF HIV/AIDS  
AMONG UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN  
SELECTED AFRICAN NATIONS AND BEYOND

## WINNING BATTLES IN THE WAR AGAINST HIV/AIDS

### BACKGROUND

#### Country Statistics

The population of Ghana is estimated to be 21 million, with an average life expectancy of 58.5 years. English is the official language; literacy is about 74.8%, disproportionately distributed between men and women. Ghana has a developing economy with vast natural resources; however, the domestic economy continues to revolve around subsistence agriculture, which accounts for 34% of gross domestic product and employs 60% of the workforce, mainly small landholders. The annual per capita income is estimated at \$2,300.



#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 3.1%, with an estimated 350,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. Identified risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact, sexual contact with commercial sex workers, and having a sexually transmitted infection. Heterosexual intercourse is the mode of transmission for about 80% of HIV cases, with mother-to-child transmission accounting for an additional 15% of cases. HIV prevalence is generally higher in urban areas, in mining and border towns, and along main transportation routes.

#### Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 7000. A nationwide HIV prevalence study done in 2001 indicated an HIV prevalence rate in the military of 6.7%, which is significantly higher than the general population.



### PROGRAM RESPONSE

#### Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Ghana was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. Specific equipment purchases are currently being negotiated by US Embassy and DHAPP staff. Plans to purchase a CD4 counter and viral load analyzer are under way.

### Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the military of Ghana for the 2006 fiscal year. The overall goal of the proposed project is to provide training for provision of care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. This would be achieved through capacity building, equipping military hospital laboratories, training laboratory staff, training health workers in adherence counseling, and training medical officers in clinical management of HIV/AIDS.



## OUTCOMES & IMPACT

### Prevention/Care/Treatment

DHAPP is currently engaged in a collaborative interaction with military officials and US Embassy staff in Ghana for the implementation of important HIV/AIDS prevention efforts among military members there. During FY05, the Ghana Armed Forces AIDS Control Program made steady progress specifically in the areas of prevention and care. The Ghana Armed Forces reported that 71 individuals received counseling and testing and 2 individuals received prevention of mother-to-child transmission services according to national or international guidelines.

DHAPP staff members look forward to expanded collaborative efforts in the GAF AIDS Control Program in the coming year.

