



SERBIA- MONTENEGRO

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 Serbia and Montenegro is estimated to be 10.8 million people, with an average life expectancy of 74.7 years. Serbian is the official language; the estimated literacy rate is 96.4%. The country is a loose federation of two republics (Serbia and Montenegro), comprising most of the former country of Yugoslavia. Mining and manufacturing are the largest contributors to the economy. Agriculture is also important; wheat, corn, hemp, and sugar beets are the chief crops. The annual per capita income is estimated to be \$2,400.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 0.2%. The number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Serbia and Montenegro is estimated at 10,000. Youth and young adults are more severely affected than other age groups; approximately 45% of all HIV cases in the country are between 15 and 29 years of age. Relatively little is known about the factors that influence the spread of HIV in Serbia and Montenegro, although the early phases of the epidemic were primarily driven by intravenous drug use.

Military Statistics

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

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Military-to-Military Technical Assistance

DHAPP staff members maintained early collaborative contact with US Embassy staff in Serbia and Montenegro and with collaborating partners. Program development and implementation, logistics, and proposal planning were undertaken by the collaborative team in coordination with the Serbian and Montenegrin Armed Forces.

Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the military of Serbia and Montenegro for the 2006 fiscal year. The specific objectives of the proposed project include developing a train-the-

trainer program, developing a mass awareness campaign, conducting a condom distribution program, conducting an HIV seroprevalence study, training military medical personnel, and developing laboratory capacity.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

DHAPP staff members have continued collaborative efforts with military officials and US Embassy staff in Serbia-Montenegro to establish a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention/education program for military members in that country. DHAPP funding for these efforts was sent late in FY05. DHAPP looks forward to the commencement of the program in the Serbian Montenegrin Armed Forces.

