



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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 Trinidad and Tobago is estimated at 1.1 million people, with an average life expectancy of 68.9 years. English is the official languages, and the in-country literacy rate is estimated at 98.6%. Independent since 1962, the country is one of the most prosperous in the Caribbean thanks largely to petroleum and natural gas production and processing and to the country's reputation as an excellent investment site for international businesses. Tourism is a growing sector. Annual per capita income is estimated at \$10,500.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated at 3.2%. Approximately 29,000 people in Trinidad and Tobago are living with HIV/AIDS. Most HIV transmission occurs through heterosexual contact. Youth and young adults are more severely affected than other age groups.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 3000. 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 Trinidad and Tobago and with collaborating partners. Program development and implementation, logistics and proposal planning were undertaken by the collaborative team in coordination with the Trinidad and Tobago military.

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago 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 Trinidad and Tobago. Specific objectives of the proposed project include developing a comprehensive education and training program, conducting a condom distribution and availability program, expanding counseling and testing (CT) services, developing an advocacy program, and hosting a multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS workshop.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

Current efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention projects for military members in Trinidad and Tobago 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 results indicate that one indigenous organization was provided with technical assistance for HIV-related policy development and institutional capacity building. The Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine worked to gain the support of host nation military leadership and supported the efforts of their program coordinator. Their program is not well established. Coordination/collaboration efforts with and between the US Military Liaison Office, US Agency for International Development, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and national and international agencies continue to develop in a very positive direction. Direct program support to the Trinidad and Tobago military is likely to improve in the next quarter.

