

VIETNAM

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 Vietnam is estimated at 83.5 million people, with an average life expectancy of 70.6 years. Vietnamese is the official language, and the in-country literacy rate is estimated at 90.3%. Vietnam became a unified country in 1976 after the armed forces of the communist north seized the south of the country. Agriculture employs about 63% of the population. Vietnam is working to promote job creation to keep up with the country's high population growth rate. Annual per capita income is estimated at \$2,700.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population has been reported to be 0.4%, with 263,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. Most infections are confined to two high-risk groups, injecting drug users and sex workers. People under age 30 are most severely affected, and men are much more severely affected than women. Injecting drug use has been identified as the most common mode of HIV transmission, followed by heterosexual intercourse.

Military Statistics

The size of the Vietnam Armed Forces is estimated at approximately 480,000 active-duty personnel. HIV prevalence in the military has been estimated at about 0.64% among military recruits.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

Proposed Future Activities

As a President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) focus country, the military of Vietnam submitted a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment proposal to the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) via their PEPFAR country team's overall Country Operational Plan. Military activities for fiscal year 2006 were approved by technical and program review committees at OGAC, as well as by agency principals, and these will commence in the new fiscal year.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

The Vietnam Ministry of Defense (VMOD) accomplished noteworthy progress during FY05 in its comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention program. During the fiscal year, 3450 troops were reached with community outreach prevention programs focusing on abstinence and/or being faithful (3450 men and 0 women). Of these, all programs had a primary abstinence message. In addition, 350 VMOD troops were reached with community outreach programs focusing on a comprehensive prevention message (350 men, 0 women). One hundred and fifty individuals were trained in providing this message to peers. The VMOD supported 150 targeted condom service outlets during the year.

One service outlet carried out blood-safety activities during the year.



Care

The VMOD supported 2 service outlets providing general palliative care for HIV infection. Of these, one provided tuberculosis-specific care. During FY05, 250 troops and family members received care for HIV (250 men, 0 women). One health care provider was trained in the provision of palliative care for HIV.

Counseling and Testing

One outlet provided counseling and testing services to military members and their families during FY05. During this time, 178 VMOD personnel were tested and received their results (178 men, 0 women).

Treatment

One military health care worker was trained in the provision of antiretroviral therapy. One laboratory functioned with the capability to perform CD4 and/or lymphocyte tests. Six laboratory professionals were trained in the provision of HIV laboratory services.

