

# ANGOLA

# 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

Angola has continued a slow rebuilding process after the end of a 27-year civil war in 2002. The Angolan population is estimated to be 12.1 million people, with an average life expectancy of 38.6 years. Portuguese is the official language of Angola, which has an estimated literacy rate of 67%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Angola's high growth rate is driven by its oil sector, with record oil prices and rising petroleum production. Oil production and its supporting activities contribute about half of the gross domestic product (GDP) and 90% of exports. The GDP per capita is \$3,200, with 70% of Angolans living below the poverty line.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Angola's general population is estimated at 3.7%. Angola has approximately 320,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Identified significant risk factors include blood transfusions and unprotected sexual contact. Most cases of HIV in Angola are spread through multi-partner heterosexual sex.

#### Military Statistics

The Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) is estimated at approximately 110,000. Angola allocates 8.8% of the GDP for military expenditures. The Charles R. Drew University 2003 military prevalence study estimated HIV prevalence in the military ranges from 3–11%, depending upon the location. HIV prevalence rates are highest near the border of Namibia (11%).

### PROGRAM RESPONSE

#### In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The FAA has continued its efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS in collaboration with the Drew Center for AIDS Research, Education, and Services (Drew CARES). Late fiscal year activities are designed to expand access to counseling and testing (CT). In Angola, peer education programs have been developed and implemented with the goals of increasing knowledge of HIV, increasing demand for HIV testing, and strengthening the physical, laboratory, and human resources infrastructure to conduct CT. Development of CT in



high-risk military operational sites will continue to provide the necessary infrastructure and expertise to create an operational and sustainable CT clinic that can serve these personnel.

### Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Angola was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This award was allocated for FY03-04, and 2003 funding was released for expenditure during the FY05. Although still in negotiation, the plan is to use the 2003 funding to procure CD4 count and viral load testing equipment, in addition to other supporting diagnostic supplies and reagents.

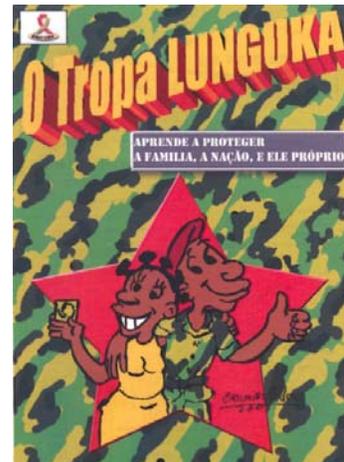
### Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal from Drew CARES on behalf of the FAA for activities in FY07. The primary objectives of the proposal included the expansion of CT centers for military members, including training of counselors and increasing CT accessibility. In addition, the peer educators already trained will attend refresher/new training to incorporate in their future messages information about CT and a referral link to services. The proposal was reviewed by a scientific panel and will be presented to the DHAPP Board of Directors.

## OUTCOMES & IMPACT

### Prevention

During FY06, the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science continued to provide exceptional results in its work with the FAA, specifically in the area of prevention, with expansion into CT. The 570 peer advocates trained last year have continued to train their fellow troops. These advocates have now reached 12,658 military personnel with comprehensive prevention messages. Twenty thousand brochures describing the significance of abstinence and fidelity in HIV/AIDS prevention have been distributed to the FAA. Two thousand four hundred and sixty-three military personnel have been interviewed regarding their practices regarding abstinence and fidelity to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Six-month follow-up interviews to detect any changes effected by the peer advocate training occurred from September–December 2005. Data are being analyzed. Six targeted condom service outlets were supported by the FAA.



In June, 18 members of the FAA Medical Division were trained in all HIV prevention forms. The training consisted of 7 days of instruction that entailed active participation by the participants. The participants represented 7 of 10 military regions of the country and all military branches. These participants are expected to return to their respective military regions and develop a work plan for training HIV advocates in each of the military units. Each participant was provided with all of the materials necessary for the delivery of effective training sessions, in addition to receiving a total of 10,000 newly created “mini-manuals” for HIV activists. Along with the work materials, they received paperwork that will be filled in on a monthly basis so they can report their activities to the

Health Division on a regular basis. Finally, a second comic book has been created for distribution to troops, with a new story line regarding the life of the “Soldier Lunguka,” specifically addressing vertical transmission of HIV. BBC Angola and the Drew CARES team have entered an agreement to produce a serial drama radio program for the FAA.

### Care

One service outlet provided HIV-related palliative care to military members and their families, including care for tuberculosis. Two CT centers provided HIV testing for FAA personnel. Sixteen nurses and lab technicians received CT training, including 5 days of theoretical instruction and 1 week of practical training at CT clinics in Luanda. These counselors are now offering services in two new locations of the capital city, the military hospital in Lubango and in Cunene, a high-risk border region. Information on number of military personnel tested and results will be received monthly. At present, the military follows national laws on testing for HIV; no mandatory testing is done, except for military personnel who will be involved in international peacekeeping.

**TU DEFENDES ANGOLA...  
COMO TE DEFENDES!  
USE CAMISINHA!**

