



**GUYANA**

**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**

Guyana's population is estimated to be 767,200 people, with an average life expectancy of 65.8 years. English is the official language of Guyana, which has an estimated literacy rate of 98.8%, evenly distributed between men and women. The Guyanese economy exhibited moderate economic growth in 2001-02, based on expansion in the agricultural and mining sectors, a more favorable atmosphere for business initiatives, a more realistic exchange rate, fairly low inflation, and the continued support of international organizations. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$4,500.

#### **HIV/AIDS Statistics**

The HIV prevalence rate in Guyana's general population is estimated at 2.4%, with approximately 12,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The majority of infected persons are 20- to 39-years-old. HIV is spread mainly through heterosexual intercourse, accounting for over 80% of AIDS cases. Approximately 18% of AIDS cases are attributed to men who have sex with men.

#### **Military Statistics**

The Guyana Defense Force (GDF) is estimated at approximately 2000 active-duty troops. Guyana allocates 0.9% of the GDP for military expenditures. HIV prevalence in the GDF has been estimated at about 0.64% among military recruits.

### **PROGRAM RESPONSE**

#### **In-Country Ongoing Assistance**

DHAPP staff members provided technical assistance to the GDF in the form of review, assistance, and preparation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Country Operational Plan (COP) for fiscal year 2007, as well as military-specific planning and technical assistance to the GDF and US Embassy personnel. DHAPP staff members represent the GDF as members of the PEPFAR Core Team, and have been involved in every level of country planning, ensuring that GDF programs are adequately addressed.

### Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful GDF and partner programming was expanded to include additional aspects of comprehensive prevention, care, and treatment for military members and their families. All proposed activities were submitted to the Guyana country team, and were included in the FY07 COP.

## **OUTCOMES & IMPACT**

### Prevention

During FY06, 528 troops were reached with prevention messages that emphasized abstinence and/or being faithful (502 men, 26 women). Thirty-four (34) military personnel were trained in the provision of these prevention messages. The GDF supported 24 condom service outlets. Two (2) outlets participated in blood safety activities, and 36 military members were trained in blood safety.

### Other

Three indigenous organizations were provided with technical assistance in strategic information, policy development, and institutional capacity building.

