

INDIA

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 India is estimated to be 1.09 billion people, with an average life expectancy of 69.8 years. Hindi is the official language in India, which has an estimated literacy rate of 59.5%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Despite impressive gains in economic investment and output, India faces pressing problems such as the ongoing dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, massive overpopulation, environmental degradation, extensive poverty, and ethnic and religious strife. The gross domestic product per capita is \$3,400, with 25% of the Indian population living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in India's general population is estimated at 0.9%. There were 5.7 million people living with HIV in 2005. The predominant mode of HIV transmission is through heterosexual contact, followed by intravenous drug use. Identified risk factors include high-risk heterosexual contact, intravenous drug use, and contact with commercial sex workers.

Military Statistics

The Indian Armed Forces (IAF) is estimated at approximately 1.3 million active-duty troops and more than 500,000 reserves. Although military HIV prevalence rates are unknown, AIDS is documented as the fifth most common reason for death of IAF members.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The US Pacific Command (USPACOM) and its implementing agent, the Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE), have continued to collaborate with the IAF for the following in-country activities: laboratory infrastructure and capacity building, early peer education efforts, and equipping counseling testing (CT) centers.

In addition, DHAPP staff attended the *Asia Pacific Military Medicine Conference* in India in March 2006, where they participated in sessions on HIV/AIDS in the military and met with COE and USPACOM representatives.



Proposed Future Activities

DHAPP received a proposal for fiscal year 2007 activities, from EngenderHealth on behalf of IAF. The proposed program will build upon and expand current USPACOM and COE activities. Proposed activities for FY07-08 include using the EngenderHealth Men as Partners (MAP) Program to develop and implement a skill-based, peer-education training program to address negative gender constructs that increase risk of HIV in IAF personnel. Specific goals include training 40 MAP master trainers and 200 military peer educators to conduct military-specific training, reaching over 1000 troops.

The proposal was reviewed by a scientific panel and will be presented to the DHAPP Board of Directors.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention

The IAF program is relatively new, with most activities in early stages of implementation. During the fiscal year, 2 peer leader training workshops (in New Delhi and in Mumbai) have been planned for execution early in FY07.

Care and Treatment

Counseling and testing supplies (HIV test kits, disposable supplies, testing supplies for opportunistic infections) were procured during the fiscal year and are currently in the process of delivery to the IAF. Delivery is expected early in FY07. A CD4 counter and reagents have been procured and are expected to be delivered in the next fiscal year.

