

BACKGROUND

Physicians from militaries around the world have had the unique opportunity to visit the United States for 30 days to participate in this training. Trainees experience in-depth lectures, tour US medical facilities, and take part in rounds and counseling sessions with HIV/AIDS patients. Trainees are exposed to the most up-to-date advances in HIV/AIDS prevention and care, specifically anti-retroviral therapy (ART), opportunistic infections (OIs), and epidemiology. The *Military International HIV Training Program* (MIHTP), which is administered several times per year, involves intense study, collaboration, and coordination. DHAPP staff examined results from the training sessions that took place during fiscal year 2006 to determine the program's effectiveness.

MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS

Pre- and post-tests have been developed with the expertise of the physicians and epidemiologists affiliated with DHAPP, Naval Medical Center San Diego, University of California San Diego, and San Diego State University. The test consists of 40 multiple-choice questions taken directly from the lectures, covering topics such as ART, military policies, OI, and statistical analysis. Pretests are administered during the trainees' orientation prior to any lectures; if necessary, the test is translated into the trainees' native languages. Posttests are administered during the out-briefing following the 30-day training program. The test comparisons allow for evaluation of the trainees' competence in the subject matter, and identification of areas for improvement, emphasis, or deletion.

RESULTS

March-April 2006: Mali, Benin, and Ghana Djibouti Results

Seven (7) trainees attended the program during March and April (2 from Mali, 1 from Ghana, 2 from Benin, and 1 from Djibouti). The table below shows the pretest scores, illustrating a varied competence level among the trainees. Pretest scores ranged from 32.5% to 75.0%, while post-test scores ranged from 47.5% to 85.0%, making the learning experience valuable for everyone. The result of a *t* test from pretest to posttest was significant, with an alpha .023, indicating a significant difference in test scores.

	Trainee 1	Trainee 2	Trainee 3	Trainee 4	Trainee 5	Trainee 6	Trainee 7
Pretest score	62.5%	40.0%	32.5%	70.0%	37.5%	50.0%	75.0%
Posttest score	85.0%	55.0%	52.5%	65.0%	47.5%	62.5%	77.5%

September–October 2006: Ghana and Mozambique Results

Four (4) trainees attended the training program in September and October (2 from Mozambique and 2 from Ghana). The table below shows the pre-test scores, illustrating a somewhat similar competence level among the trainees. Pre-test scores ranged from 50.0% to 62.5%, while posttest scores ranged from 47.5% to 82.5%, making it clear that it was a valuable training for some, but not for others. Unfortunately there was not always an increase from pre- to posttest. The result of a *t* test from pretest to posttest was not significant, with an alpha of .15. In an attempt to find significance, Trainee 3 was removed and another *t* test resulted in an alpha of .057.

	Trainee 1	Trainee 2	Trainee 3	Trainee 4
Pretest score	57.5%	62.5%	52.5%	50.0%
Posttest score	82.5%	72.5%	47.5%	75.0%

SUMMARY

In summary, military clinicians from around the globe have attended the *Military International HIV/AIDS Training Program* in San Diego. According to all participants and instructors, the program has evolved into an experience of great professional value. All MIHTP students have agreed that the skills they have developed during training will be taken back to their countries and put to valuable use in their militaries' fight in the war against HIV and AIDS.