SENEGAL

# 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 Senegal is estimated to be 11.9 million people, with an average life expectancy of 59.2 years. French is the official language of Senegal, which has an estimated literacy rate of 40.2%, unevenly distributed between men and women. In January 1994, Senegal undertook a bold and ambitious economic reform program with the support of the international donor community. As a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Senegal is working toward greater regional integration with a unified external tariff and a more stable monetary policy. The gross domestic product per capita is $1,800, with 54% of Senegalese people living below the poverty level. Senegal remains one of the most stable democracies in Africa, and has a long history of participating in international peacekeeping.

### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Senegal's general population is estimated at 0.9%, with approximately 61,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Senegal is considered to have a concentrated epidemic. Although the HIV rate in the general public has been consistently low, specific vulnerable populations have much higher prevalence, such as a prevalence rate of 17% among commercial sex workers. Identified risk factors include heterosexual contact with multiple partners and contact with commercial sex workers.

### Military Statistics

The Senegalese Armed Forces (SAF) consists of approximately 9,000 active-duty members. Senegal expends 1.4% of its GDP for military purposes. Although the military has not performed force-wide testing, screening of a sample of 4105 SAF personnel revealed an HIV infection rate of 1.24%.

## PROGRAM RESPONSE

### In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff members provided technical assistance to the SAF in the form of review, assistance, and preparation of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Mini-Country Operational Plan (Mini-COP) for fiscal year 2007, as well as military-specific planning and technical assistance to the SAF and US Embassy personnel. DHAPP staff mem-

bers represent the SAF as members of the PEPFAR Core Team, and have been involved in every level of country planning, ensuring that SAF programs are adequately addressed.

### Foreign Military Financing Assistance

Senegal was awarded Foreign Military Financing funding for the acquisition of laboratory and medical equipment. This award was allocated for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, and 2003 funding was released for expenditure during FY05. Fiscal year 2003 funding has been used to procure CD4 count equipment, an ELISA machine, hematology analyzer, and HIV rapid test kits, in addition to other supporting diagnostic supplies and reagents.

### Proposed Future Activities

Ongoing successful SAF 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 Senegal country team, and were included in the FY07 Mini-COP.

## OUTCOMES & IMPACT

### Prevention

The SAF reported continued successes during FY06 in meeting their targets in prevention, care, and treatment activities. During the year, 1849 SAF personnel were reached with comprehensive prevention messages (all men) and 60 others were trained in the provision of these messages. The SAF supported 75 targeted condom service outlets. Eighteen (18) outlets carried out blood-safety activities. Thirty (30) outlets provided basic services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT). During the year, 532 pregnant military women were provided with PMTCT services at these outlets, 4 of whom were provided a complete course of antiretroviral therapy (ART) prophylaxis.

### Care

Fifty-four outlets (54) provided military members with HIV-related palliative care services. During the year, 217 military members and family members were provided with HIV-related palliative care (200 men, 17 women). Two (2) of these were provided with treatment for tuberculosis. Thirteen (13) military health workers were trained in the provision of HIV-related care.

The SAF supported 27 counseling and testing centers. During the year, 5934 SAF members and families were tested for HIV and received their results (5769 men, 165 women).

### Treatment

Six (6) SAF outlets provided ART for service members and families. At the end of the year, 30 SAF members had been established on ART (20 men, 10 women). Thirteen

(13) military medical personnel had been trained in the provision of ART. Three (3) SAF laboratories had the capability to perform HIV testing and CD4 and/or lymphocyte testing.

### Other

Two indigenous organizations were provided with technical assistance on strategic information and institutional capacity building. Thirty-eight (38) individuals were trained in capacity building.