



BARBADOS

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 estimated population of Barbados is 280,000 people with an average life expectancy of 73 years. English is the official language of Barbados, which has an estimated literacy rate of 99%, evenly distributed between men and women. The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita is \$19,300. Historically, the Barbadian economy had been dependent on sugarcane cultivation and related activities, but production in recent years has diversified into light industry and tourism. The country enjoys one of the highest per capita incomes in the region and an investment grade rating that benefits from its political stability and stable institutions.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the Barbadian general population is estimated at 1.5%, with approximately 2,700 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Unprotected heterosexual contact is attributed to most HIV cases in Barbados.

Military Statistics

The Royal Barbados Defense Force (RBDF) consists of approximately 1,000 personnel distributed among the Troops Command and the Coast Guard. The RBDF is responsible for national security and can be employed to maintain public order in times of crisis, emergency, or other specific need. The percentage of the Barbados GDP expended on a military purpose is 0.5%. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

In 2006, staff members of the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine, implementing agency for the United States Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, traveled to Barbados to meet with members of the RBDF and the National AIDS Council to discuss program development. However, no DHAPP funding was sent to the RBDF in FY07.

