



**PERU**

# 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 Peru is 29 million people, with an average life expectancy of 70 years. Spanish is the official language of Peru, which has an estimated literacy rate of 88%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Peru's economy reflects its varied geography — an arid coastal region, the Andes further inland, and tropical lands bordering Colombia and Brazil. After several years of inconsistent economic performance, the Peruvian economy grew by more than 4% per year during the period 2002-2006, with a stable exchange rate and low inflation. Growth jumped to 7.5% in 2007, driven by higher world prices for minerals and metals. The gross domestic product per capita is \$7,600, with 45% of Peruvians living below the poverty level.

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

The HIV prevalence rate in the Peruvian general population is estimated at 0.6%. It is estimated that 96,000 Peruvians are living with HIV/AIDS. Most HIV transmission occurs through sexual contact, and most cases occur among individuals aged 20–39 years. Most heterosexual HIV transmission appears to occur in women whose partners have sex with men or who have contact with commercial sex workers.

#### **Military Statistics**

The Peruvian Armed Forces consist of Army, Air Force, and Navy. There are approximately 120,000 personnel (including 25,000 civilians) in active service. Mandatory conscription ended in 1999, and the current force is composed of volunteers. Peru participates in several United Nations-sponsored peacekeeping operations.

## PROGRAM RESPONSE

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

DHAPP staff has stayed in contact with the Peruvian Armed Forces, but no funding was sent during FY07; therefore, no program activities were reported.

### **Proposed Future Activities**

DHAPP received a proposal for FY08 from the US Naval Medical Research Center Detachment in Lima on behalf of the Peruvian Armed Forces. The objectives of the proposals include (1) provide educational needs assessment of current uniformed services HIV/AIDS policies, (2) perform clinical needs assessment for uniformed services' HIV/AIDS programs, (3) develop educational programs, and (4) conduct a behavioral survey for the Peruvian Armed Forces.

