



# 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 282,000 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 GDP per capita is \$20,200. 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 1.2%, with approximately 2,200 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Most HIV cases in Barbados are attributed to unprotected heterosexual contact.

#### **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**

DHAPP staff have been working in conjunction with the US MLO in Bridgetown and the RBDF on planning a comprehensive prevention program. During FY08, the RBDF submitted a proposal to DHAPP for funding that would cover activities in prevention and CT as well as a KAP survey among the RBDF. Activities are expected to begin in FY09.

