GUATEMALA

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 Guatemala is 13 million people, with an average life expectancy of 70 years. Spanish is the official language of Guatemala, which has an estimated literacy rate of 69%, unevenly distributed between men and women. The GDP per capita is $5,400, with an unemployment rate of 3.2%. Guatemala is the most populous of the Central American countries with a GDP per capita roughly one half that of Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. The agricultural sector accounts for about one tenth of GDP, two fifths of exports, and half of the labor force. Coffee, sugar, and bananas are the main products, with sugar exports benefiting from increased global demand for ethanol.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the general population of Guatemala is estimated at 0.8%, with approximately 53,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. The Guatemalan epidemic is spread primarily through sexual activity, and is growing rapidly among men who have sex with men, and commercial sex workers.

Military Statistics

The Guatemalan Armed Forces (GAF) consists of approximately 15,500 members, stationed in 44 military bases across the country. Guatemala has a draft system and requires 18 months of military service. Guatemala expends 0.4% of the GDP on the military. In a 2003 study, 3,000 military personnel were tested for HIV, and 0.7% of these members were diagnosed as HIV positive.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The GAF, in collaboration with UNAIDS and the MOH in Guatemala, began HIV prevention and HIV counseling for military personnel in 2003. In the past, DHAPP and USSOUTHCOM had engaged the GAF. No subsequent engagement occurred in FY08 for HIV/AIDS prevention programming.

OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

No programmatic activities took place with GAF personnel during the current reporting period.