

NEPAL

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

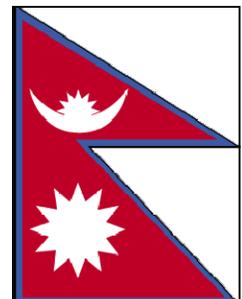
The estimated population of Nepal is 29.5 million people, with an average life expectancy of 61 years. Nepali is the official language of Nepal, which has an estimated literacy rate of 49%, unevenly distributed between men and women. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for three fourths of the population and accounting for 38% of the GDP. Bumper crops, better security, improved transportation, and increased tourism pushed growth past 4% in 2008, after growth had hovered around 2.3% for the previous three years. The GDP per capita is \$1,000.

#### HIV/AIDS Statistics

The estimated HIV prevalence rate in the general population of Nepal is 0.5%, with approximately 68,000 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Estimates in most at-risk populations consistently exceed 5% in one or more high-risk groups, which include female sex workers, intravenous drug users, men who have sex with men, mobile populations, and young people.

#### Military Statistics

The Nepalese Army (NA) is estimated at 100,000 members. Nepal expends 1.6% of the GDP on military expenditures. While no seroprevalence data are available for the NA and force wide testing has not been implemented, pre- and post-tests among NA personnel on UN peacekeeping missions indicate a rate of 0.11%.



## PROGRAM RESPONSE

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

USPACOM and its implementing agent, COE, have continued to collaborate with the NA.

## OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

### **Care and Treatment**

One (1) clinician from the NA attended the *MIHTP* course in San Diego during August and September 2008. The clinician experienced in-depth lectures, toured US medical facilities, and took part in rounds and counseling sessions with HIV/AIDS patients. The clinician was exposed to the most up-to-date advances in HIV/AIDS prevention and care, specifically ART, treatment of OIs, and epidemiology.

USPACOM/COE, together with the US Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences and the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and with funding from DHAPP, stood up a military Regional Training Center (RTC) in Bangkok, Thailand. The RTC is responsible for the education of a core group of military medical officers. In FY08, 2 members of the NA attended the *Asia-Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Lab Infrastructure and Capacity Building (Train the Trainer in Lab and Diagnostics) Course* in August 2008. Also in FY08, 2 NA members attended the *Asia-Pacific Regional Support and Training Capacity for Treatment and Care Initiatives (Train the Trainer in HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment) Course* in July 2008.

