

# Military International HIV Training Program

## BACKGROUND

Clinicians from militaries around the world have had the unique opportunity to visit the United States for 30 days to participate in the *Military International HIV Training Program (MIHTP)*. During FY08, 13 clinicians, mostly physicians, from 7 countries participated in *MIHTP*. Trainees experience in-depth lectures, tour US medical facilities, and take part in rounds and counseling sessions with HIV/AIDS patients. Trainees are exposed to the most up-to-date advances in HIV/AIDS prevention and care, specifically ART, treatment of OIs, and epidemiology. *MIHTP*, which is administered several times per year, involves intense study, collaboration, and coordination. DHAPP staff examined results from the training sessions that took place during FY08 to assess the program's effectiveness.

## MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS

Pretest and posttests have been developed with the expertise of the physicians and epidemiologists affiliated with DHAPP, Naval Medical Center San Diego, University of California San Diego, and San Diego State University. The test consists of 40 multiple-choice questions taken directly from the lectures, covering topics such as ART, military policies, OI, and statistical analysis. Pretests are administered during the trainees' orientation prior to any lectures; if needed, the test is translated into the trainees' native languages. Posttests are administered during the out-briefing following the 30-day training program. The test comparisons allow for evaluation of the trainees' competence in the subject matter, and identification of areas for improvement, emphasis, or deletion.

## RESULTS

### **April through May 2008: Zambia and Mozambique Results**

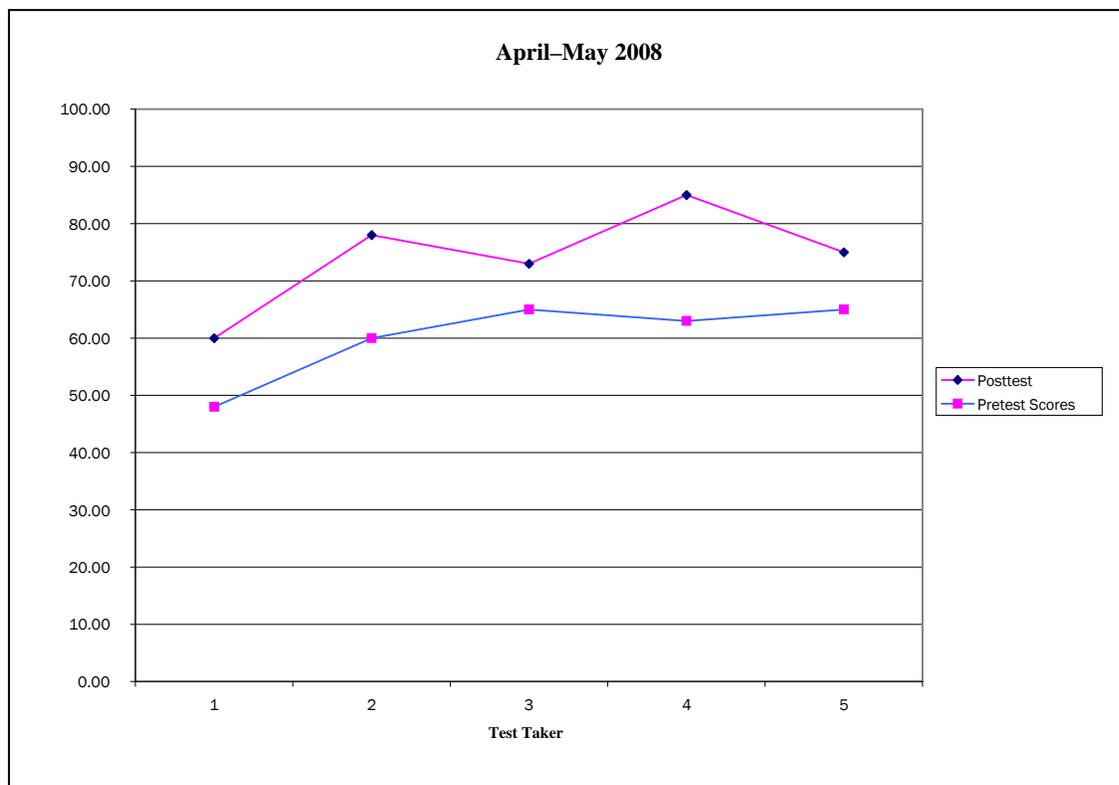
Five (5) trainees attended the most recent training program, 4 from Zambia and 1 from Mozambique, and all participated in the testing. The table below shows the pretest scores, illustrating a somewhat similar competence level among the trainees. Pretest scores ranged from 48.0% to 65.0%, while posttest scores ranged from 60.0% to 85.0%, proving that it was a valuable training for all participants. The average pretest score went from approximately 60.2% to a posttest average of 74.2%. Below is a table of scores, followed by a graphical representation. It is evident that all participants improved their score

## Military International HIV Training Program

from pretest to posttest with the difference in scores ranging from an 8.0% increase to a 23.0% increase over the *MIHTP* course duration.

	Trainee 1	Trainee 2	Trainee 3	Trainee 4
Pretest score	57.5%	62.5%	52.5%	50.0%
Posttest score	82.5%	72.5%	47.5%	75.0%

Trainees had significantly higher scores at posttest (74.2%) than at pretest (60.2;  $p = .006$ ).



## RESULTS

### August through September 2008: Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Rwanda Results

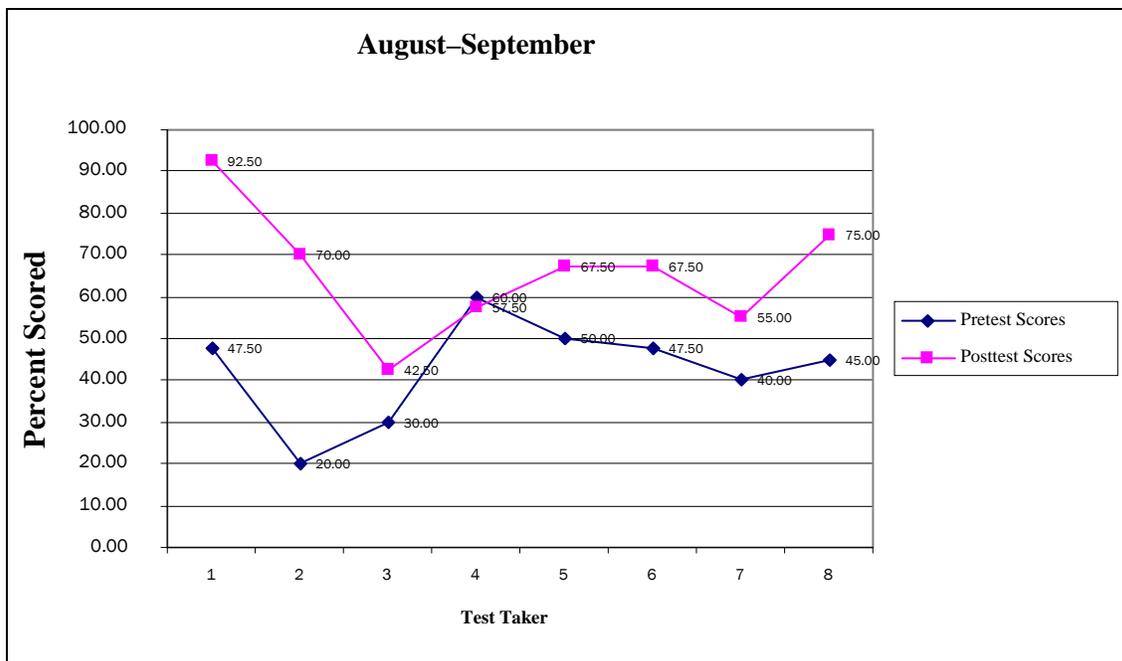
Eight (8) trainees attended the most recent training program, 1 from Nepal, 1 from Papua New Guinea, 2 from Sierra Leone, 1 from The Gambia, and 3 from Rwanda, and all took part in the testing. The table

## Military International HIV Training Program

below shows the pretest scores, illustrating a somewhat similar competence level among the trainees. Pretest scores ranged from 20.0% to 60.0%, while posttest scores ranged from 42.5% to 92.5%, indicating that the training was valuable for most of the students. The average pretest score increased from approximately 42.5% to a posttest average of 65.9%. Below is a table of all 8 trainees' scores, followed by a graphical representation. The majority of participants, with the exception of 1, improved their score from pretest to posttest, with the difference in scores ranging from a -2.5% decrease to a 44.5% increase over the duration of this *MIHTP* course.

	Trainee 1	Trainee 2	Trainee 3	Trainee 4	Trainee 5	Trainee 6	Trainee 7	Trainee 8
<b>Pretest score</b>	47.5%	20%	30%	60%	50%	47.5%	40%	45%
<b>Posttest score</b>	92.5%	70%	42.5%	57.5%	67.5%	67.5%	55%	75%

Trainees had significantly higher scores at posttest (65.9%) than at pretest (42.5%;  $p = .007$ ).



## Military International HIV Training Program

### SUMMARY

Since 2002, 130 military clinicians (110 clinicians, 3 nurses, and 17 auxiliary health care professionals) from 33 countries around the world have attended 23 sessions of the *Military International HIV/AIDS Training Program* in San Diego. According to all participants and instructors, the program has evolved into an experience of great professional value. After compiling data from all 130 past attendees to date, pretest scores average 50%, while posttest scores average 65.7%, resulting in an overall increase of 15.7% for all participants to date. We can see a difference in scores at  $p = .001$  significance level, which indicates that the increase in score is not by chance, but can be attributed to the training. As the program and the number of participants grow, more and more trends begin to arise, allowing for changes and improvements. Additionally, all *MIHTP* students have agreed that the skills they have developed during training will be valuable in their own militaries' fight in the war against HIV and AIDS.

