



DEFENSE INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL OPERATIONS (DIMO)



“HIV/AIDS Planning and Policy Development” Expanded IMET (E-IMET) MASL D175467

Background: Militaries form an important population bridge for HIV transmission, having both increased risk for acquiring HIV and increased ability to transfer it between geographically distant populations. A consequence of this high infection prevalence is that the infected soldiers may be symptomatic and not able to function. It is impossible to maintain a secure, robust, highly trained and effective fighting force with so heavy an attrition rate. In many developing nations, a solid military represents the most significant stabilizing force to preserve civil order and the rule of law. Better prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in military organizations will improve health security and enable affected countries to assume leadership roles in the promotion of regional stability and security.

Program Scope: The purpose of this course is to develop effective and transparent force and resource planning for military HIV prevention and treatment programs. This is a peer-based education course emphasizing understanding and implementation of best practices of military HIV engagement programs. A faculty of experts will combine presentations on HIV/AIDS strategies and policy options utilizing group discussions, classroom exercises, and presentations by course participants on country-specific issues. Representatives from the Office of the Surgeon General, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Health, and HIV program coordinators are examples of individuals who would comprise the ideal participant. Participants will be asked to bring information on their HIV/AIDS strategies and policies to present to others during the poster session. The course draws together leadership from military medical command structure along with medical and public health experts to provide a forum for communication. Emphasis is placed on leadership planning for optimal utilization of constrained resources for maximum effect in maintaining a fit and competent military force. Special emphasis is placed on dealing with HIV issues in the military peacekeeper role. Students work together in regionally organized small groups on problem solving tasks such as HIV prevention program development and anti-retroviral therapy program implementation. These group exercises teach through skill-based learning the importance of regional cooperation for problem solving, and make apparent the obvious benefit that is had by improving interoperability in planning and response. Selected expert speakers help students identify resources for program development, funding and identifying target populations for program focus in their nation.

Course duration: 6 days; **Course Size:** 80 students; **Location:** San Antonio, Texas; **Intended Target Audience:** senior civilian and government officials from the Ministry of Defense, senior military line officers and staff officers responsible for health care planning and delivery, officers involved with HIV program development.

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