

UNAIDS FORMS PARTNERSHIP WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN BRAZIL

Goal is to enable recruits to deal with HIV/AIDS in the Armed Forces along with the population

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS- UNAIDS received in Brazil, between March 22 and 25, the mission of Dr. Ulf Kristofferson, Chair of the UNAIDS Office on AIDS, Security and Humanitarian Response (SHR), and of Andrea Boccardi Vidarte, Technical Officer for the UNAIDS/SHR Office and Latin America and Caribbean Adviser.

The objective of the SHR chair's mission in Brazil was to secure a partnership between UNAIDS/SHR and the Brazilian Government in order to strengthen actions of prevention against HIV/AIDS in the Brazilian Armed Forces. On Wednesday, the 24th, a "Memorandum of Understanding" was conducted by the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Health, and UNAIDS. The document was prepared by UNAIDS/Brazil, the Ministry of Defense (Secretaria de Organizacao Institucional, Departamento de Saude e Assistencia Social) and by the Ministry of Health (Secretaria de Vigilancia em Saude, Programa Nacional de DST/AIDS.)

For the first time in January 2000, the HIV/AIDS theme was a guideline for discussions for the UN Security Council. Since then, the Council has adopted a relative resolution regarding the question of health. Resolution 1308 focuses primarily on maintaining the peace, but it derives from discussions of HIV/AIDS in the Armed Forces in general. This is the context in which UNAIDS/SHR acts. The main objective is to strengthen the local/regional capacity for the establishment of specialists and centers that will terminate the epidemic of HIV/AIDS in the Armed Forces, especially in the Military.

For more information, please contact Luciano Milhomem, UNAIDS, Brazil, T:(+55 1) 61329 2108). You may also visit the UNAIDS website, www.unaids.org, for more information about the programme.