



Dr Bhandari Singh (seated from left), acting director of National HIV/AIDS Council Bomal Gonapa, US embassy deputy chief of mission Bruce Kleiner, PNGDF chief of personnel Col Paul Mai and PNGDF director of health services Major Bais Gwale getting together with the workshop participants and organisers for a photo session.

PNGDF completes HIV/AIDS workshop

THIRTY-five members of the PNG Defence Force and Department of Defence have completed a four-day training on HIV/AIDS care, treatment, monitoring and evaluation.

The training was held last Friday in partnership with the US Pacific command through the centre for excellence in disaster management and humanitarian assistance and the United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

The US is working with

PNGDF to prevent and reduce HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections as well as provide treatment and care services to military personnel, dependents, and civilians accessing military HIV/AIDS services.

The programme included the PNG National AIDS Council and the Defence and Health departments.

According to a US embassy media statement, the efforts were to ensure minimum duplication of resources across partners, resource-sharing for max-

imum programme effectiveness, and utilisation of the partners' areas of expertise.

It said the PNGDF in partnership with US Pacific command had, between 2005 and last year, trained 40 personnel in peer education, more than 12 personnel in institutional capacity building, two master trainers in voluntary counselling and testing (VCT), more than 30 personnel in care and treatment services, and five personnel in strategic information.

The National 10-6-08