

# Alcohol Abuse and HIV/AIDS in Military Populations



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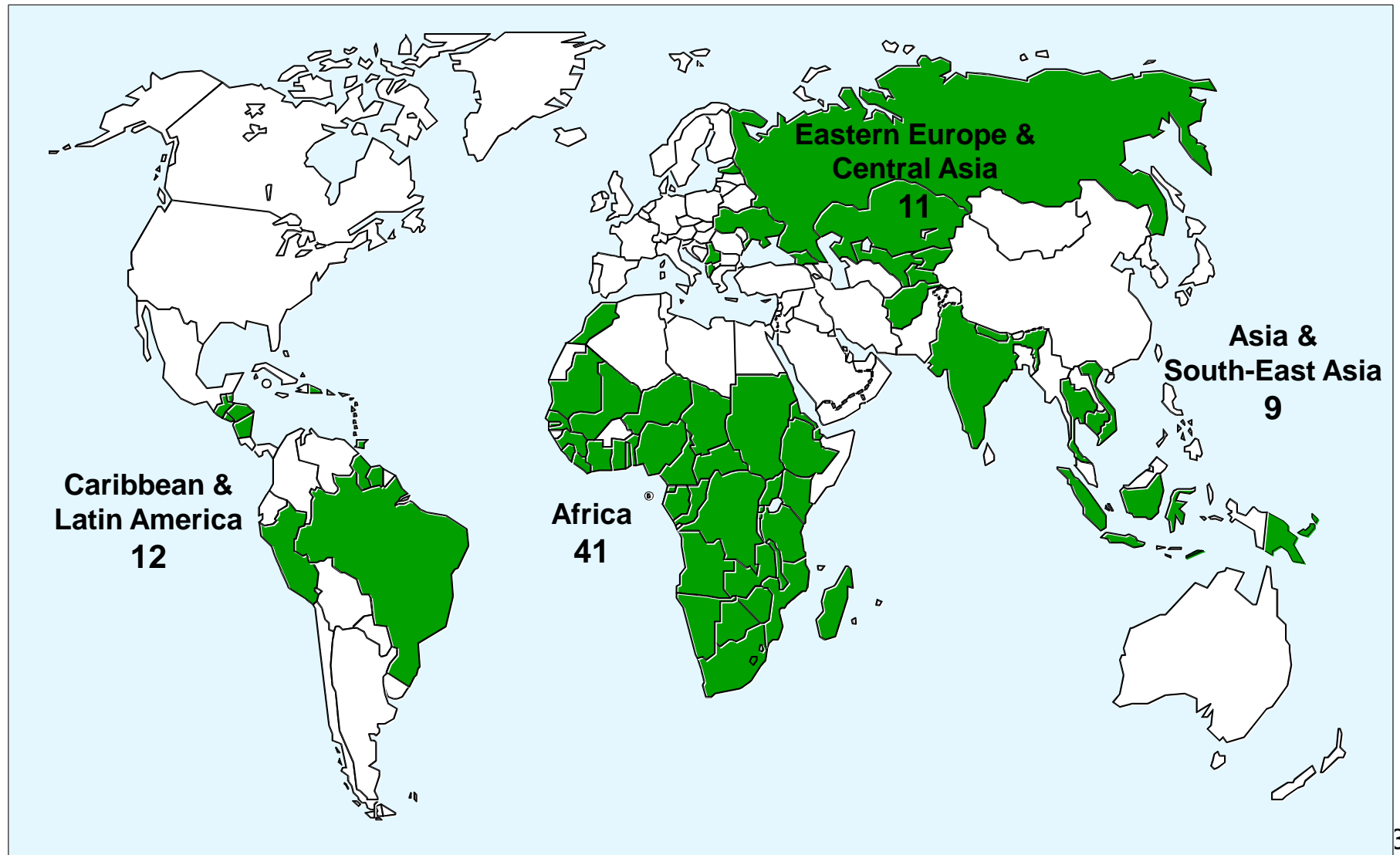
# DHAPP – U.S. Dept. of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program

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- Promote regional and national stability
- Develop “able partners”
- HIV/AIDS is a “National Security concern”
- Cornerstone of DoD military to military activities worldwide
- All global regions have HIV/AIDS assistance programs – 73 countries



# DoD Activities with Militaries in 73 Countries





# HIV Risk Factors for Militaries

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- Sexually active age group
- Relatively good pay
- Separated from family
- Units attract impoverished locals & CSWs
- Hyper-masculine culture
- Risk-taking is valued
- Sense of invincibility



# Other Risk Factors

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- War related trauma - PTSD
- Domestic Violence
- Peacekeeping missions in high prevalence countries
- Sexual violence as military weapon
- Inconsistent testing policies
- Military Sexual Trauma



# Challenges to Data Collection

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- HIV prevalence rate is a security issue – reluctance to make data public
- Stigma & denial about MSM and drug use in military – underreporting
- HIV+ status results in mandatory or voluntary discharge – low disclosure rate



# Is HIV Prevalence Higher in Militaries?

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- Varies by country
- Factors:
  - Exclusion of HIV+
  - Source of recruits
  - Stage/nature of epidemic
  - Alcohol/drug use
  - Deployments
  - Policies & practices



# Alcohol Use and Sexual Risk Behaviors in Military

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- Studies find positive relationships between:
  - Frequency of intoxication and number of sexual partners
  - Alcohol use and inconsistent condom use
  - Alcohol use and unplanned sex
  - Alcohol use and sex with FSW



# DHAPP Studies in 4 African Militaries

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- In past 3 months:
  - 62% report drinking
  - 8% report having “black out” from alcohol
  - 77% of drinkers report at least 1 binge (5+ for males, 4+ for females)
  - 13% report alcohol use prevented use or correct use of condom
  - 14% reported unintended sex after drinking



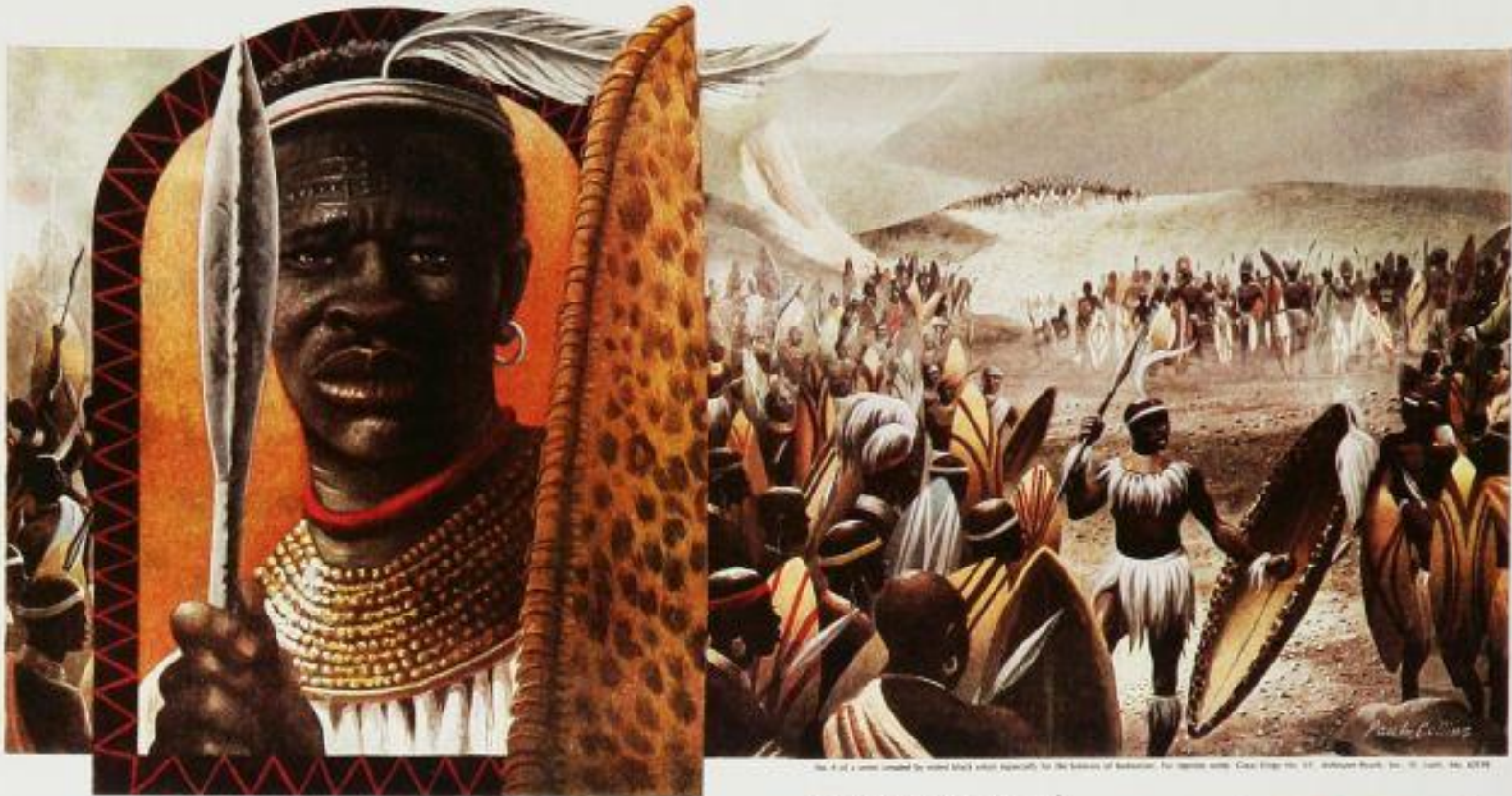
# Interventions to Reduce Alcohol

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- Leadership-centered approach more likely to be effective
- Strategies include accountability, discipline and enforcement of regulations
- Post-conflict situations require complex interventions



# Shaka – King of the Zulus



No. 4 of a series created by artist John Russell for the National Geographic Society. For opposite page. Color. Page 100. U.S. Government Printing Office. No. 10-7000. No. 10719

## Great Kings of Africa

### Shaka—King of the Zulus (1818–1828)

A strong leader and military innovator, Shaka is noted for revolutionizing 19th century Zulu warfare.

He was first to group warriors by age, and to train his men to use standardized weapons and special tactics. He developed the "isimpi," a short-shafted spear, and recruited his warriors in tight formations using long shields to fend off the enemy. Winning wars, over the years, Shaka once earned such a reputation that enemy armies would flee at the sight of them.

With cunning and confidence as his tools, Shaka built a small Zulu tribe into a powerful nation of more than one million people, and united all tribes in South Africa against colonial rule.





# Tenkamenin – King of Ghana

*Great Kings & Queens of Africa*

**Tenkamenin, King of Ghana, 1037-1073 A.D.**

The warriors of Ghana reached the height of his greatness during the reign of Tenkamenin. Through his careful management of the gold trade across the Sahara desert came from Africa. Tenkamenin's empire flourished.

But his greatest strength came not in commerce, but in government.

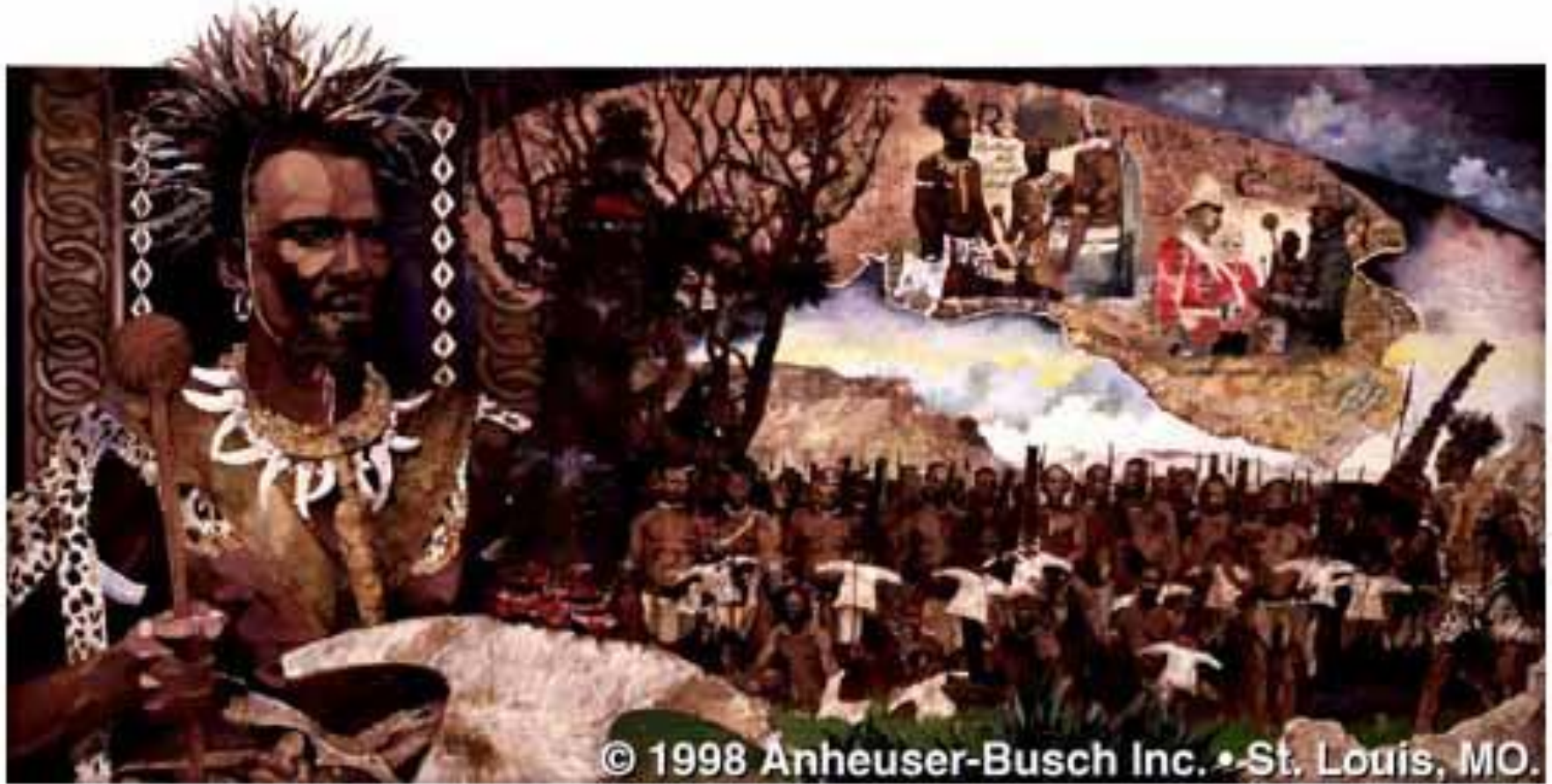
Each day Tenkamenin would hold court on a bench and listen to the problems and concerns of his people. He insisted that no one be punished until they had been allowed to explain to his presence and accept that justice had been done.

His principles of democratic leadership and religious tolerance made Tenkamenin respected by the great leaders of African art.

This African government by the people



# Moshoeshoe – King of Basutoland



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# Nandi – Queen of Zululand



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# Conclusions

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- Military population has specific risk factors
- Alcohol use in military is a risk factor
- Leadership driven interventions are key
- Include HIV prevention in pre deployment training for Peacekeeping missions
- Post conflict issues need to be addressed