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IMPROVING LIVES

Military Humanitarian and Assistance Programs

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE / BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAMS

FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA

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A U.S. Army nurse assigned to Joint Task Force 510 examines a young Filipino child in Bunguiao Barangay of Zamboanga City during Operation SMILES' 20 Medical Civic Action Project that provided medical help to the people in Mindanao and Basilan Island areas. (U.S. Army Photo by Major C.F. Teramae)

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

A little told story is how the U.S. armed forces carry out military training and humanitarian assistance programs for countries around the w orld. These programs have numerous values for all concerned. They serve to strengthen national and regional security interests; promote democracy and civil authority over militaries; foster human rights and open-market economies; and provide medical, educational, disaster-relief, and other kinds of aid.

The Department of Defense, in cooperation with the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, funds many of the assistance and training programs, which are in keeping with President Bush's stated goal, as expressed in a recent radio address, "to pursue a confident foreign policy agenda that will spread freedom and hope and make our nation more secure.

"America seeks wider trade and broader freedom and greater security for the benefit of America, our partners, and all of the world."

General Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, introduces this edition of *eJournal USA: Foreign Policy Agenda* by reflecting on the dynamic and challenging nature of the current international security environment. He stresses that because of this environment, cooperation and assistance is more important than ever. Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., assistant secretary of state for political-military affairs, discusses the role of the International Military Education and Training Program in helping foreign defense establishments improve their national defense capabilities, plan and implement defense reforms, and develop capacities to address national security threats.

Navy Lieutenant Commander Matthew L. Lim writes about the U.S. Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program and its success in combating HIV/AIDS infections in participating foreign militaries throughout the world. His article is followed by a specific look at the U.S.-Angolan partnership to combat HIV/AIDS in the Angolan armed forces.

Rodney A. Robideau and Lloyd Carpenter of the U.S. Department of Defense Humanitarian Demining Training Center discuss the role the center plays in training demining specialists who support the U.S. Humanitarian Mine Action program by training deminers in 43 nations currently receiving demining funding. Professor Thomas C. Bruneau of the Center for Civil-Military Relations explains the important role of civilian control of the military and how his center at the Naval Postgraduate School helps provide graduate-level education to foreign military officers and civilian government officials with the aim of fostering greater democracy and stability.

Colonel George Topic of the National Defense University in Washington describes the historical evolution of military foreign assistance training and humanitarian assistance programs, and the purpose they play in fostering regional and national security while enhancing global relations.

The Editors

FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE / NOVEMBER 2004 / VOLUME 9 / NUMBER 3
http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/journals.htm

IMPROVING LIVES: MILITARY HUMANITARIAN AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

4 Introduction
General Richard B. Myers, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The United States works closely with allies, other NATO and United Nations member states, nongovernmental organizations, and local governments to provide humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and civil affairs support around the world.

6 Education and Training: A Common Foundation for Security
Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs
International Military Education and Training programs help foreign defense establishments improve their national defense capabilities, plan and implement defense reforms, and develop capacities to confront national security threats.

9 A Long Tradition Of Cooperation and Support
Colonel George Topic, Professor, National Defense University
A military scholar describes the evolution and historical role of military foreign assistance training and humanitarian assistance programs in furthering regional and national security objectives, and in enhancing global relations.

12 A Center for the Handicapped
Abdelsalem Harrath, an education specialist in Sidi Bou Ali, Tunisia
The vision of community leaders in Tunisia, coupled with the moral and financial support of the U.S. Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Program, has significantly improved lives and learning opportunities for handicapped children in the town of Sidi Bou Ali.

13 Combating Aids
Lieutenant Commander Matthew L. Lim, MD, Program Manager, U.S. Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program
The HIV/AIDS prevention program is serving military organizations in 41 countries worldwide.

16 An Angolan-American Partnership Against HIV/AIDS
Eric Bing, MD, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
The author describes the comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention program he began for the Angolan armed forces in 2001.

18 Training Deminers
Rodney A. Robideau and Lloyd Carpenter, U.S. Department of Defense Humanitarian Demining Training Center
The U.S. Department of Defense's Humanitarian Demining Training Center conducts training according to International Mine Action Standards, and teaches safer ways to carry out humanitarian demining operations in support of the U.S. government's Mine Action Engagement Program.

21 Teaching Civil-Military Relations
THOMAS C. BRUNEAU, PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, AND DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS, U.S. NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL
The Center for Civil-Military Relations helps strengthen democratic civil-military relationships among allied nations through a diverse mix of training, seminar, and degree programs at home and abroad.

24 State to State
Through its ties with 44 emerging democracies, the U.S. National Guard's State Partnership Program fosters democracy, encourages market economies, promotes regional cooperation and stability, and provides humanitarian assistance.

27 Bibliography

28 Internet Resources

INTRODUCTION

General Richard B. Myers
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

The dynamic and challenging nature of the current security environment makes cooperation within the international community more important than ever. We face a wide variety of threats to peace: from weapons of mass destruction, to terrorism, to natural disasters. Humanitarian assistance and foreign military training are valuable means of building constructive, long-term relationships across the globe: partnerships that encourage stability in regions faced with unique challenges. Offering nations the tools for self-sufficiency, self-protection, security, prosperity, and self-government are shared responsibilities.

Cooperating closely with allies, other NATO and United Nations member states, non-governmental organizations and local governments, our humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and civil affairs support go the extra mile to stem human suffering. We combine forces with many agencies and nations to respond to famines, floods, and other natural disasters, calling on America's unique global lift and logistical capabilities to support those who need it most. For example, in Mozambique, U.S. pilots for Joint Task Force Atlas Response flew over 600 sorties and delivered nearly a thousand tons of cargo to flood victims while Army engineers assisted local governments with dam projects, Marines provided communications, and Naval personnel provided medical support. Today, more than a thousand patients a month receive medical care by Coalition Special Forces troops in Afghanistan, often in remote rural villages without doctors.

We engage in a variety of ways to help struggling nations eliminate terrorist safe havens in lawless areas, thwart proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and promote economic stability. The U.S. military integrates with partners through foreign military training, professional military education exchanges, and military exercises. The ultimate goal is to allow emerging nations to improve security within their borders, humanely govern their people, administer the rule of law, provide food and shelter to the indigent, and cooperate productively with their neighbors.

• Under Plan Colombia we have assisted the Colombian government with training their troops for counternarcotics operations and helping to provide security for their citizens.

• We provided aid to Georgia to fund training and equipment essential for stability operations. Now Georgia is preparing to send forces that the U.S. trained and equipped to Iraq to provide the United Nations mission with security.

• In Afghanistan, the Coalition and NATO are helping a fledgling democracy take root for the first time after

hugely successful elections, and create a professional Afghan military that cuts across ethnic and tribal lines.

• Servicemen and women, from young enlisted soldiers to general officers, come from across the world to America for professional military education, including war colleges, peacekeeping training, and flight school. We also send our officers to many countries in exchange, to broaden our military education programs and encourage familiarity with diverse cultures.

• We also hold dozens of combined exercises around the globe every year with a wide variety of partners, such as: Cobra Gold, with Thai and Singaporean forces; Exercise Lariat Response, with NATO forces; and Exercise Cornerstone, an engineering exercise with the Moldova armed forces, during which they constructed a functioning medical facility to provide health care to over 600 children.

• We are also working and training with the Philippine army and marines to help an ally in the war on terrorism fight violent extremists.

• Likewise, in Iraq, the Coalition has trained over a hundred thousand security personnel and revitalized much of their electricity, water, sewage, and medical infrastructures — after decades of extreme neglect.

Across the globe today, we see the fruits of cooperation expanding economic and political stability and, at the end of the day, quality of life for millions of people. This issue of *e-Journal USA* examines U.S. humanitarian assistance, military foreign training, and other programs that are critical to building meaningful and enduring friendships. By fostering these interagency and international programs, we can help create stability and set the conditions necessary for democracies around the globe to flourish. ■

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: A COMMON FOUNDATON FOR SECURITY

Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr.

The International Military Education and Training program is more important now than ever before, given the security challenges countries around the world face together. IMET training has helped defense establishments improve their national defense capabilities, plan and implement defense reforms, and develop capacities to better address national security threats.

Lincoln P. Bloomfield is the assistant secretary of state for Political-Military Affairs. In addition to his duties as assistant secretary, Mr. Bloomfield was designated by President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell to be the special representative of the president and secretary of state for Mine Action. Further, he is chair of the International Affairs Committee reporting to the president's Critical Infrastructure Protection Board.

The International Military Education and Training (IMET) program, established in 1976, has become a key component of U.S. national security and foreign policy. The program, which is implemented by the Defense Department at the direction of the Department of State, provides training to students from approximately 120 allied and friendly countries, primarily at military schools and other facilities in the United States. More than 11,000 students were trained in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 alone. Secretary of State Colin Powell believes so strongly in the IMET program that he has nearly doubled its budget over the past four years — from $50 million in FY 2000 to $92 million in FY 2004.

IMET has three objectives: a) to enhance the capabilities of allied and friendly militaries to participate effectively in peacekeeping and stability operations under U.N. or other multinational auspices; b) to promote interoperability with U.S. forces by exposing IMET students to U.S. military doctrine, strategic planning processes, and operational and logistical procedures; and c) to build positive defense relationships as civilian and military officials from the United States and other countries exchange views and values, developing mutual respect and understanding at both a professional and a personal level. In our experience, this last objective is most important. There are countless examples of how friendships forged through IMET training have contributed significantly to the resolution of crises and important foreign policy concerns throughout the years.

The IMET program is more important now than ever before, given the security challenges countries around the world face together. IMET training has helped defense establishments improve their national defense capabilities, plan and implement defense reforms, and develop capacities to better address national security threats. In addition, IMET training and education have enhanced capabilities of countries to carry out vital roles in multinational operations. For armed forces to operate together efficiently, military operations must be

With facilities located in Washington, D.C., and Norfolk, Virginia, more than 1,000 military and civilian students attend National Defense University courses and programs on any given day. NDU, an accredited graduate-level university, awards more than 500 masters degrees to those who complete studies at the National War College and Industrial College of the Armed Forces every year. Through agreements with a number of universities, Information Resources Management College students can earn 15 graduate credits for work completed at NDU. Pictured above is the National War College on the NDU campus. (NDU Photo)

coordinated from the ground up. This is best accomplished when there is common understanding on skills and procedures among participants at all levels.

Through IMET, both technical training and Professional Military Education (PME) courses help build a shared understanding of military techniques, tactics, and doctrine. The success of this approach is reflected in Afghanistan and Iraq, where 29 of the 50 countries with troops on the ground have had IMET training. In FY 2004, the U.S. provided approximately $67 million in IMET funds, nearly three-fourths of the IMET program, to partners joined with us in the global war on terrorism. Many others pay for the cost of their participation in U.S. military schools from their own defense budgets. Taken together, this has strengthened everyone's capabilities to pursue peace and stability in a world confronted with terrorism.

Best and Brightest

IMET's success is reflected in international leadership as well. Since 1985, the National Defense University Fellows Program has trained 471 international officers, of whom 25 have gone on to become heads of state, ambassadors, ministers of defense, chiefs of their services, or senior participants in U.N. peacekeeping efforts. We are encouraged that nations around the world value and respect U.S. military training and education courses, and that they select their best and brightest soldiers and officers to benefit from U.S. training opportunities. We are proud of what IMET has accomplished by promoting a healthy exchange of views on defense matters, and by giving IMET students the opportunity to experience American values first-hand as students in the United States.

One particular strength of the IMET program is its flexibility. Curriculum for a single student or a group of students can be tailored to meet unique needs. There are occasions when it makes more sense to be trained at a location outside the United States. Through IMET, mobile training teams, or MTTs, can be dispatched around the world to train friendly military units or to educate a broad spectrum of civilian and uniformed defense personnel in their own countries. MTTs allow U.S. trainers to teach specific military skills and techniques to a large number of students in the same environment and under the same conditions that they will ultimately use those skills and techniques — and at a lesser cost.

More conventional IMET courses, including professional military education at schools such as the service war colleges, account for approximately 75 percent of the program. Technical proficiency training for officers, enlisted technicians, and supervisors make up the remainder of the IMET program. This training covers a wide range of courses, including developing specific skills required to operate and maintain weapons systems, or to perform required functions within a military occupational specialty, such as program management or logistics. Other interesting courses include Cold Weather Survival, which teaches techniques necessary to operate successfully in harsh climates. The Government Contract Law course provides information on the impact of government contract law on daily decision-making in contract management.

While we are honing technical skills and providing military education, we also take precautions to ensure that we are training the right people. Under U.S. law and as a matter of policy, human rights concerns are a key consideration when using IMET funds to provide military training to foreign forces. The Department of State ensures that each individual receiving IMET training has been vetted to ensure that he or she has never committed a gross violation of human rights.

Language difficulties encountered by some students can hinder the effectiveness of training. IMET's mandatory English language proficiency requirement establishes a baseline of communication skills necessary for students

to attend and perform well in courses. This helps build rapport and establish a common basis for communication between students from many different countries. In Afghanistan and elsewhere, mobile education training teams have conducted English language training programs to prepare those countries' students for studies in the United States. As English is the basic language of international peacekeeping, these language skills further enhance the ability of countries to participate in United Nations and other multinational operations.

Civil-Military Values

The IMET program encourages participation from the broad range of people necessary to create a healthy military culture within a country, and has adapted curricula to meet the requirements of a changing security environment. Each year, IMET participation has become more diverse, expanding beyond the traditional base of military officers. Indeed, the number of civilian participants has expanded to include legislators, judiciary officials, representatives from nongovernmental organizations, and civilians working in defense establishments. Expanded IMET (E-IMET) courses focus on topics such as military justice, civil-military relations, human rights, rule of law, and defense resource management, and seek to inculcate constructive civil-military values, which are the cornerstone of stable and law-abiding armed forces. In offering E-IMET courses, we recognize that enlightened civilian officials are essential to building an environment that is conducive to a professional role for the military in democratic society.

In that sense, IMET can help transform the perspectives of influential people in other societies. In addition to enhancing institutional capabilities, the program touches individual officers and soldiers, influencing their views about the United States and the core values we hold deeply. Winning hearts and minds worldwide will play a significant role in successfully prosecuting the global war on terrorism. The IMET program will help the United States work toward this goal, one heart at a time. As the world continues to change, IMET will adjust accordingly, finding the best and most relevant way to advance our national interests, and giving others the opportunity to experience the core American values of democracy, human rights, and civilian rule of the military. ■

A LONG TRADITION OF COOPERATION AND SUPPORT

Colonel George Topic

One of America's most strongly held values is its enduring commitment to assist other nations and to develop strong ties with U.S. friends and allies through cooperative education, training, and humanitarian assistance programs. Over the past 60 years, a wide variety of activities have built strong friendships and promoted mutual understanding at all levels around the world.

Army Colonel George Topic is a professor of Strategic Logistics at the National Defense University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington. He is a graduate of Claremont Men's College, and his military education includes the Army's Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Logistics Executive Development Course, Army Command and General Staff College, and the Navy War College.

Since the end of World War II, the Department of Defense has been deeply involved in humanitarian assistance efforts. And over the past six decades these activities have consistently been an important part of the U.S. national security strategy. The Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airlift, and numerous other activities have all contributed to the strong network of alliances, coalitions, and friendships that have helped to promote cooperation, avoid conflict, and, above all to ease the pain and suffering of those in need.

The legal foundation for much of the Defense Department's work is based in the Mutual Security Act of 1954. Throughout the Cold War period, the U.S. military worked closely with the State Department, other government agencies, and various nations and international organizations to provide support for development efforts as well as disaster relief. Thousands of U.S. military personnel have been involved in efforts in virtually every nation. The range of activities includes famine relief, disaster response, and timely preventive action taken to head off impending crises. The major efforts the United States undertook in response to Hurricane Mitch in the Caribbean, and after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, are representative examples of hundreds of similar operations undertaken all over the globe.

Logistics and Transport

Exceptional U.S. military logistics and strategic transport capabilities are tailor-made for ready humanitarian assistance service. In addition to the ability to move significant cargo into some of the most remote places on earth, airdrop capabilities enable the United States to provide critical supplies rapidly in disasters where victims are cut off completely from the rest of the world. In addition, U.S. military medical personnel have critical tactical training that enables them to operate literally under any conditions — a skill often needed

HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFT BRINGS $15 MILLION IN AID TO KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Staff Sergeant Chuck Marsh

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyz Republic — The largest amount of humanitarian aid to enter the Kyrgyz Republic since it became an independent country in 1991 came by way of C-17 Globemaster IIIs from McChord Air Force Base, Washington [state], in September.

About $15 million worth of medicines and medical supplies were unloaded at the Bishkek International Airport — a civilian airport and the base's flightline — by 376th Expeditionary Logistics Squadron workers.

The supplies will be used in hospitals as part of Operation Provide Hope, a medical aid program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

"The United States is trying to help the Kyrgyz people by way of humanitarian efforts, taking advantage of our military capability to spread that aid," said Colonel Mark Glibbery, the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander. "While the Manas Air Base mission is to support the global war on terrorism in Afghanistan, our ability to support Operation Provide Hope helps to give the local communities a positive image of the U.S. military."

Glibbery said, "It takes the whole system from headquarters and above all the way down to the base to make an operation work.

"At the base level, it requires the operations side to get the aircraft here and be able to integrate with the support group functions to offload and distribute the cargo, as well as the maintenance functions to ensure the aircraft is mission capable," he said. "The entire base plays a part in making any operation happen."

Included in the supplies were life-saving antibiotics and cancer medicines.

"I'm just glad to be making a difference," said Senior Airman Joshua Onge, a 62nd Airlift Wing loadmaster. "I see so much going into Afghanistan and Iraq; it's good to be able to help other parts of the world as well."

in support of humanitarian operations. As a concrete example of a logistics success, the U.S. Army provided water purification support in the mid-1990s to over a million refugees in central Africa — a truly challenging deployment location.

The U.S. military's flexible, responsive leadership ability and fluid command-and-control systems also make a difference. The best example was the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force's 1991 mid-ocean diversion in support of Operation Sea Angel in Bangladesh. Already in the process of redeploying after Operation Desert Storm, the Marines were called upon to assist in the wake of a typhoon that killed over 130,000 people. Their speed and effectiveness, along with those of many other governmental and international organizations, are credited with saving tens of thousands of lives. The plans for the operation were drafted on the go as the Marines were steaming into the Bay of Bengal to initiate relief operations.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 provided the guidance and funding under which many humanitarian assistance programs have thrived over the past 40 years. Military units have deployed to refurbish medical facilities; build schools, wells, and roads, and to provide sanitation, preventive medicine, and medical assistance under the provisions of this legislation. These programs are carried out through the coordination and leadership of the in-country U.S. ambassador and his or her country team.

Excess Property

The Department of Defense delivers additional humanitarian support to allies and friends through the Excess Property Program. Over the years excess medical equipment, transport, administrative, and logistical materiel and general supplies have been offered at little or no cost to other nations. Hospitals, clinics, schools, and community facilities throughout the world have been equipped through this program. This support goes beyond funding provided through Foreign Military Financing, Economic Support Funds, and various other programs.

Manas Air Base, Kyrgyz Republic -- Trucks line up as Operation Provide Hope aid is unloaded from a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III from McChord Air Force Base, Washington. More than $15 million worth of medicines and medical supplies were flown in. (Air Force Photo by Staff Sergeant Chuck Marsh)

Since 1985, the Denton Amendment has facilitated the use of U.S. military aircraft to be used to transport humanitarian relief supplies and related cargo on a space-available basis in support of assistance programs. As a result, thousands of tons of cargo have been delivered, not only for U.S. government agencies but also for the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations, and private charities. Several years ago, for example, a U.S. Army officer working in Ukraine decided on his own to equip several medical clinics in small towns around the country. After soliciting donated equipment while on leave in the United States, he coordinated free transport under the Denton Amendment and practically established three Ukrainian medical facilities single-handedly.

The United States has been a major partner and supporter of regional and international relief and other humanitarian efforts. The Defense Department also provides logistical support and coordination for United Nations humanitarian missions. The United States participated in the highly successful Australian-led U.N. operation in East Timor — considered to be a textbook example of effective multinational response.

There are many other areas where the U.S. military is involved. The U.S. Mine Action Plan has been operating for many years to mitigate the danger from mines and unexploded ordnance, some of which dates back to World War II or before. The result has been the reclamation of land that had been unsafe for decades.

Additionally, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard perform hundreds of search-and-rescue operations every year. They have also provided assistance to ocean-going refugees who are at risk in overcrowded and unstable vessels.

Emergency assistance is often provided ad-hoc, but over the years an assortment of programs have grown into major cooperative training and education efforts. In addition to the International Military Education and Training program (IMET), which brings foreign military officers and other officials to the United States for instruction, a significant portion of the foreign military funds the U.S. provides to other nations is used for education, training, and enhancing civil support. U.S. military medical training teams have deployed to almost a hundred countries, and foreign medical specialists receive training routinely in the United States. Similarly, deployed U.S. Special Operations Forces often conduct training or information campaigns in developing nations and regions, and their services are highly valued by U.S. ambassadors and country teams.

A Positive Difference

Helping others and building strong friendships are core values of the American people, and humanitarian assistance remains an important and highly visible expression of ways the United States can make a positive difference in the world. The Department of Defense has been a leader in these efforts, and its programs and operations have saved many lives and enriched many more.

The U.S. military has also benefited from its involvement in these operations. Many senior officials have developed life-long friendships with their counterparts. Military personnel at all levels profit from these contacts, exchanges, and cooperative efforts. Such exposure promotes cultural sensitivity and new ways of thinking. Last, but not least, logisticians receive invaluable on-the-job training through rapid humanitarian deployments and operations conducted in often austere environments. ■

A CENTER FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Abdelsalem Harrath

The vision of community leaders in Tunisia, coupled with the moral and financial support of the U.S. Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Program, has significantly improved lives and learning opportunities for handicapped children in the town of Sidi Bou Ali.

The community lacked sufficient funds to meet the educational needs of the town's mentally challenged children. Moreover, the number of handicapped children from surrounding areas was increasing, making the building of a new school that could address their needs a real emergency. Plans, revolutionary in concept, called for a social assistance center within a school infrastructure.

The Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Program, by way of the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, generously supplied the necessary financial support and technical equipment to construct the institution. The result was a new, fully furnished and equipped facility that is enhancing the quality of education for, and permitting the admission of, increasing numbers of handicapped children.

Abdelsalem Harrath is an education specialist in Sidi Bou Ali, Tunisia.

An immediate result was seen in the behavior of the 66 children enrolled in the school. Real progress has been made in enhancing their autonomy. Some children with severe limitations are now relatively independent and more confident in their contact with the people and facilities around them. Others have improved their capabilities in speaking and producing handicraft work. The most amazing results were revealed when some students were successfully integrated into the public school system.

The Social Assistance Center for Mentally Handicapped Children in Sidi Bou Ali, Tunisia, which was constructed with financial support from the U.S. Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Program and assistance from the U.S. Embassy.

On a wider scale, the institution has stirred the national conscience and created new attitudes and awareness among the public toward the handicapped. People are more compassionate and understanding of the challenges and issues facing such children, and the school's mandate of integration is a concrete example of the democratization of education in society. ■

The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. government.

COMBATTING AIDS

Lieutenant Commander Matthew L. Lim, MD

Military populations are as much, or, more at risk of HIV infection than the population at large due to their relatively youthful, mobile members. High rates of infection can hamper international peacekeeping as well as national and regional operations. That is why the United States has been promoting the health and wellness of foreign military personnel worldwide. The Defense Department's HIV/AIDS' prevention program seeks to stem and reverse the devastating effect of AIDS in foreign military communities.

Navy Lieutenant Commander Matthew L. Lim, MD, is a program manager with the U.S. Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. He is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases.

In the new era of rapid international travel, porous borders, and unstable nation-states, emerging infectious diseases have become significant threats to global security and development. Among these diseases, HIV/AIDS is uniquely destructive because the suffering is not limited just to those infected. The loss of many of their most educated and productive citizens can cripple the economies of countries heavily afflicted by HIV/AIDS; many African nations have seen decades of economic gains reversed. The loss of teachers deprives the next generation of an education. The death of parents leaves millions of orphans.

HIV/AIDS represents a grave threat to international security and the global economy. In his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on September 21, 2004, President George W. Bush singled out AIDS as "the greatest health crisis of our time."

Military populations are at as much, or more, risk of HIV infection as the general population because of the relative youth of service members as well as their mobility. Military forces with significant HIV rates cannot engage as effectively in peace-keeping efforts, and may not be able to maintain their own nation's security, which in turn may lead to regional instability and increased conflict. Thus, U.S. national security interests are served by promoting the health and well being of foreign uniformed military personnel.

Since 1999, the Department of Defense HIV/AIDS Prevention Program (DHAPP), located in San Diego, California, has served as executive agent for the United States' HIV/AIDS military-to-military HIV prevention efforts. Administered by the U.S. Navy's Naval Health Research Center, the AIDS Prevention Program can draw on nearly 20 years of experience in the field of HIV/AIDS epidemiology and prevention. As of 2004, the AIDS prevention program has served in or worked with 41 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia, the former Soviet Union, and the Pacific Rim.

Two other Department of Defense programs are involved

in HIV/AIDS. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency may construct rudimentary structures serving as voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) centers, HIV/AIDS clinics, or laboratories. The agency may also provide serviceable or functioning excess DOD property, and supports the Foreign Military Sales program, which recently purchased HIV/AIDS-related laboratory equipment. Also, the U.S. Military HIV Research Program conducts molecular epidemiological surveillance of HIV samples and participates with the National Institutes of Health in conducting HIV vaccine trials.

Abroad, the AIDS prevention program works closely with foreign military services and U.S. State Department personnel to improve foreign militaries' ability to cope with the burden of HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the program seeks stronger links with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), recognizing that in many instances NGOs possess superior experience, sustainability, and access in foreign countries.

The AIDS prevention program's Request for Proposals process to solicit NGO involvement has proven unusually cost-effective. For example, Drew University contracted with the program to start an HIV education program for the Angolan military; in less than two years, nearly half of all active-duty members have been reached. In many countries DHAPP-sponsored projects are the first joint efforts between militaries and NGOs.

The AIDS prevention program provides funding for surveys on knowledge, attitudes, and practices among foreign troops, as well as educational and training materials. These surveys and materials are developed and utilized in culturally appropriate contexts, with the full participation and approval of the host nation's military establishment. In addition, the AIDS prevention program provides support for the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted illnesses, which are known risk factors for the transmission of HIV. A major focus has been the expansion of voluntary counseling and testing facilities to identify those infected with HIV and offer support services as well as referral to medical treatment. Simultaneously, the AIDS prevention program has supported efforts to reduce the ostracism and stigmatizing of those with HIV/AIDS, to improve their lives, and to encourage use of the counseling and testing centers. The AIDS prevention program also assists those militaries that wish to conduct force-wide HIV testing, which provides the most valid estimate of the epidemic's magnitude, as well as a method of assessing the efficacy of prevention efforts.

The AIDS prevention program also participates in the expansion of health care infrastructures. In the past, this support has ranged from the construction and refurbishment of health care facilities, to the provision of computers, printers, Internet access, and other information management tools, to the purchase of laboratory equipment (HIV diagnostic kits, CD4 cell counters, and other sophisticated medical devices).

The AIDS prevention program is a major supporter of HIV/AIDS education. Program activities include a collaborative effort with the University of California-San Diego and the Naval Medical Center-San Diego, in which foreign military physicians are brought to San Diego for a one-month intensive course on clinical epidemiology, HIV basic science, clinical experience with HIV care (including the use of anti-retrovirals) and social, psychological, and spiritual aspects of care for HIV/AIDS patients. To date, 44 persons have participated in this course. Overseas, the program sponsors two- to three-day regional workshops for foreign military representatives at which health care workers from various countries discuss issues of regional health care and research. Soon, the program hopes to expand training opportunities to include a military HIV course in Uganda, in conjunction with the Infectious Diseases Society of North America.

A firm principle of the AIDS prevention program has been support for the HIV/AIDS strategies of individual countries, based on their own identification of needs, rather than imposing an external solution. Typically, a host nation will approach the AIDS prevention program either directly (e.g., through its website, http://www.nhrc.navy.mil/programs/dhapp/index.html) or via the U.S. embassy. Once a relationship is established, the host nation then submits a funding proposal via the embassy; the program can offer assistance with preparing the proposal, up to and including visits to the host nation by program staff.

After the proposal has been submitted, its merits are evaluated, based on the perceived need for assistance, the elements of the proposal itself, and the funding priorities of the secretary of defense and the relevant regional Combatant Command. Additional yearly proposals can then be submitted for follow-on funding. This process ensures that funds are allocated where the need is greatest, and eliminates duplication of efforts of other U.S. government agencies or NGOs. The AIDS prevention program's goal is for host nations to expand their permanent health care capabilities, which

will become self-sustaining within a few years; thus, the program facilitates a true partnership of equals between the United States and foreign nations.

A significant example of this philosophy has been the groundbreaking Phidisa trial in South Africa. This HIV treatment study, the largest of its kind ever attempted, is a collaborative effort of the South African National Defense Force, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, and the AIDS prevention program (representing the Department of Defense). The program's clinical director, retired Captain Stephanie Brodine, is a member of the trial's executive committee, and the program has sponsored 15 U.S. military physicians as clinical workers in South Africa. When fully enrolled, Phidisa will offer HIV/AIDS care (including National Institute of Health-funded antiretroviral drugs, when indicated) to up to 50,000 South African military personnel and family members.

The most important recent development in DHAPP has been the collaboration with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). This unprecedented, $15-billion effort aims to provide highly effective antiretroviral therapy to two million AIDS patients within five years. AIDS prevention program representatives are closely involved in the evaluation and monitoring processes of PEPFAR. Cooperation between these programs ensures that the United States speaks with one voice in the field of global HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and reduces duplication of effort. In many cases, the teamwork of the AIDS prevention program and the AIDS relief plan has fostered closer host nation relationships between military and civilian health care authorities.

In the four years since the AIDS prevention program's inception, it has expanded to a truly worldwide effort. The program strengthens the relationships between the U.S. and foreign countries by helping to stem and -- it is hoped — to reverse the devastation wrought by AIDS on foreign militaries. If AIDS and its attendant risk of economic destruction, social upheaval, and political instability, are to be contained, a massive, coordinated, and sustained effort will be required. ■

AN ANGOLAN-AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Eric G. Bing

The U.S. Department of Defense funded an American team from Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles, California, to go to Angola to help the Angolan military develop and implement a strategic plan to combat HIV/AIDS. Since then, the Angolan-American collaboration has developed an HIV prevention program, collected data on the prevalence of HIV in the Angolan military, trained military health providers in HIV treatment and public health, and is opening up HIV testing sites in the border regions of Angola.

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Private Gaspar, a 25-year old soldier in the Angolan Armed Forces, had been feeling sick for months. He felt tired, was losing weight, and his colds were lasting longer and happening more frequently. He could not understand why he should be feeling badly when things were finally going so well. The civil war in Angola had ended, and his country was experiencing stable peace for the first time in his life. He and his new bride were trying to have a baby. He was now going to school and learning to read and write.

Yet, he kept getting sicker. Private Gaspar soon learned that he had HIV/AIDS.

The U.S. armed forces are doing something to help soldiers like Private Gaspar. The U.S. Department of Defense works closely with African militaries to educate soldiers about HIV/AIDS and to combat the epidemic. UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, estimates that even during peace time HIV rates are two-to-five times higher among soldiers than among the general population. Soldiers in sub-Saharan Africa, where overall rates of HIV are high, are particularly at risk. Away from home for long periods, soldiers find readily available sex partners. They consume lots of alcohol, which dulls their senses, and makes them more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior.

In 2001, the U.S. Department of Defense funded an American team from Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles, California, to go to Angola to help the Angolan military develop and implement a strategic plan to combat HIV/AIDS. Since then, the Angolan-American collaboration has developed an HIV prevention program, collected data on the prevalence of HIV in the Angolan military, trained military health providers in HIV treatment and public health, and is opening up HIV testing sites in the border regions of Angola.

The Angolan-American HIV prevention curriculum

explains how HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases are passed, how to use a condom correctly, how alcohol use can put soldiers at greater risk for HIV, and the importance of HIV testing. Thirty HIV prevention activists were intensively trained in the curriculum and sent out to teach other soldiers. In the first two years alone, more than 40,000 soldiers were reached with prevention messages; and, demand for condoms and HIV testing increased substantially. The Angolan-American team has received additional support from the U.S. National Institutes of Mental Health to evaluate the effectiveness of their military HIV prevention program.

To fight HIV/AIDS effectively, there must be accurate data about the extent and spread of the disease in Angola. In 2003, the Angolan-American collaboration surveyed nearly 3,000 soldiers throughout Angola. The survey found that many Angolan soldiers were engaging in behavior that placed them at very high risk for HIV and that few knew how to protect themselves adequately against infection. Soldiers were also tested for HIV to determine how common the disease is among the Angolan armed forces. Though nearly all were at high risk for HIV, 91 percent had never been tested. The data from the study are already being used to help guide and improve the armed forces' HIV/AIDS programs.

Although antiretroviral medications to treat HIV infection are just beginning to reach Angola, military doctors have already been trained to treat HIV. Two Angolan military doctors received intensive HIV clinical training at the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego, California, in 2003, and have begun to train other military doctors in Angola.

The Angolan-American collaboration has also encouraged the training of Angolan medical providers in public health. As a result, three Angolan doctors came to the United States to receive three months of training in epidemiology and public health at Drew University, and at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). These doctors have returned to Angola to lead programs in HIV testing, laboratory support, and strategic planning. An additional doctor is currently earning a master's degree in public health at UCLA, so that he may return to run the Angolan military's research programs.

Finally, the Angolan-American collaboration is expanding HIV prevention to the geographic limits of the country, by providing voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) in the border regions of Angola. Through funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Angolan military is working with the Angolan Ministry of Health to build or renovate VCT centers to offer HIV testing and to counsel soldiers before and after they learn the results of their tests. The centers also teach soldiers how to protect themselves and others from becoming infected with HIV/AIDS. The Angolan-American collaboration is strengthening the technical expertise of local health workers to ensure that HIV testing remains available in these areas.

The American military has an important role to play in fighting HIV/AIDS among militaries around the world. Private Gaspar now receives treatment for his HIV through doctors trained in the Angolan-American program. His wife was also diagnosed with HIV at the military hospital. She is now eight months pregnant and is receiving antiretroviral treatment to improve her health and to prevent infection from being passed on to her baby. With increased awareness of HIV, increased availability of HIV testing and treatment, the Angolan-American military HIV team hopes to avert more cases of the disease and ensure that people such as Private Gaspar, his wife, and their unborn child get the care that they need.

Information on a Public Broadcasting System (PBS) documentary film on HIV in the Angolan military that features Private Gaspar and his wife can be found at http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/shows/angola/. To order a copy of the documentary film, please contact Mr. Micah Fink at fink@thirteen.org. For more general information on the U.S. Department of Defense program in HIV, please refer to http://www.nhrc.navy.mil/programs/dhapp/. ■

The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. govenment.

TRAINING DEMINERS

Rodney A. Robideau and Lloyd Carpenter

Landmine clearance is a deadly serious business. The U.S. Department of Defense's Humanitarian Demining Training Center was established to conduct all training according to International Mine Action Standards, and to identify, evaluate, and teach safer ways to carry out humanitarian demining operations in support of the U.S. government's Mine Action Engagement Program.

Rodney A. Robideau, left is director of the Humanitarian Demining Training Center. Lloyd D. Carpenter is an HDTC course manager.

Humanitarian Mine Action is a field known for shifting paradigms. Emerging technologies continually offer newer and safer ways to detect and destroy landmines, thus saving innocent civilians from danger to life and limb. The challenge is to integrate such advances into the broader community that is addressing landmine clearance and to ensure that the advances are reflected in current training curricula — which the staff of the U.S. Department of Defense Humanitarian Demining Training Center is doing.

Established in 1996, the Humanitarian Demining Training Center (HDTC) is located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and is the U.S. Department of Defense training facility for humanitarian mine action. Since its inception, the Center has trained more than 1,500 U.S. soldiers who have then deployed to 34 mine-affected countries to train local demining teams. In December 2003, the demining training center was transferred from the Department of the Army to the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA). The DSCA provides funding and operational orientation.

The typical student for the Humanitarian Mine Action course comes from the Army's Special Operations Force

Honduran military Sergeant Oscar Gonzalez from the Alfa Command puts a red flag as a sign of danger where he found a landmine with his metal detector. Gonzalez is demonstrating demining techniques during operations in Las Canoas, Choluteca, 188 kilometers (117 miles) south of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Since 1995 the Alfa Command has found and destroyed some 2,189 mines as part of a humanitarian demining program. (AP Photo/Ginnette Riquelme)

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DELIVERS WHEELCHAIRS TO IRAQ

Donna Miles

Several hundred Iraqis have newfound mobility, thanks to a public-private partnership that provides wheelchairs to victims of war, disability and disease.

About 280 wheelchairs, donated by churches and private contributors through the Wheelchair Foundation, were delivered to Iraq in December 2003 and are being distributed throughout the country. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), in coordination with the State Department, arranged and paid to transport the wheelchairs. A nongovernmental organization, Life for Relief and Development, is overseeing the distribution.

"This is a great example of private-public partnerships," said Judith McCallum, who coordinates transportation for humanitarian assistance goods for the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. It's a way for DOD to work with nongovernmental organizations to help people in need, she said. So far, Life for Relief and Development has distributed the wheelchairs at events in Baghdad, Tikrit, Karbala, and the province of Wasit. Another shipment of 500 to 600 wheelchairs is scheduled for June.

The project is part of an ongoing DSCA effort to support U.S. humanitarian assistance efforts worldwide, McCallum explained. The goal is to strengthen America's alliances and partnerships and to build trust and understanding of what America is all about. Last fall, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency took part in "Operation Afghanistan," a similar initiative that delivered more than 5,000 wheelchairs to disabled Afghans. The agency arranged and paid to transport the wheelchairs into Kabul, and the U.S. military provided logistics support on the ground.

"We are here to show the love and friendship of the people of the United States of America," said Wheelchair Foundation founder Kenneth Behring to an audience of more than 300 who gathered for the Afghanistan distribution. "We are here to show you that we care. Our hope is to give you hope – to help provide freedom and dignity so you can more fully enjoy life."

The goal of the Wheelchair Foundation is to provide a wheelchair to everyone who needs but can't afford one, worldwide. Since 2000, the foundation has donated more than 160,000 wheelchairs in more than 100 countries.

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(SOF) community. Graduates can expect to support missions in one of 43 mine-affected nations presently receiving U.S. funding. These missions range from establishing a new mine action program to supporting on-going mine action initiatives.

Special Operations soldiers are well suited to this because of frequent overseas deployments and their cultural awareness training. This is important because they often establish close relationships with their local counterparts and students.

During the first week of the two-week course, the curriculum is the same for all. It focuses on the basic premises of mission planning, U.S. policy, and the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) that were developed by a United Nations working group in 1997 and are subject to periodic review. All students are exposed to the rigors of demining with an early introduction to mine detectors and basic mine clearing procedures. During this phase, all students don protective equipment to find and uncover a mine within a one-meter training lane while simultaneously practicing safe and proper clearance techniques and procedures. Novices soon learn the difficulties and tedium of clearing vegetation, avoiding trip wires, and then readying a mine for destruction.

During the second week, students are trained for responsibilities associated with upcoming missions. Special Forces soldiers focus on mine-clearance skills since their job will be to train host-nation deminers. These soldiers arrive already equipped with previous training experience, advanced language skills, and extensive explosives training.

Civil Affairs soldiers arrive trained and experienced in working with ministerial levels of government. They have the program management and infrastructure development skills required for mine action. These students are given additional training in general management, the State Department's Country Plan Assessment process, the host nation's current work plan, and an overview of other organizations involved within the country. Armed with this knowledge, these soldiers are called upon to teach or assist in strategic planning, coordinate efforts with other mine action activities, and advise in logistical planning.

An Iraqi child operates his new wheelchair, donated through a public-private partnership. (Source: DOD)

Mine Risk Education

Mine Risk Education (MRE) is a vital component of mine action. U.S. Army Psychological Operations soldiers bring product-development skills to the table. They receive much of the same training as Civil Affairs soldiers regarding the mine action situation in a host nation. Additionally, they receive mission-focused training on MRE methods, identification of at-risk groups, and integration of community-based MRE efforts into a larger countrywide program.

Another group of soldiers supporting the U.S. government's mine action effort come from the U.S. military's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) community. These highly trained technicians are drawn from throughout the armed forces. Since they already have a strong background in how to dispose of unexploded ordnance, they mostly prepare for the type of training they will provide host nation students.

The Training Center

With over 100 acres of land available for training, the HDTC provides students with full-scale layouts of mine clearance operations. Some areas illustrate indigenous marking systems used in clearance operations throughout the world. A particularly interesting display shows how mines look after aging a few years in natural vegetation and terrain. Students can observe mines that have changed color, rotted, or even shifted position. Students leave with an innate understanding of how the effects of nature over time—including fallen tree limbs or heavy undergrowth—can make the deminer's job more difficult.

The HDTC staff comprises experienced professionals — most with prior military experience. They have extensive backgrounds in EOD, engineering, information technology, and Special Operations. Also on staff is a military representative of the Royal New Zealand Army, and a representative of the Vietnam Veteran's of America Foundation, a nongovernmental organization. The New Zealand Army representative is the only active-duty military member bringing his engineering experience to the classroom.

The HDTC sends its staff on military training missions and to conduct program assessments worldwide. Benefits of such out-of-classroom experience include first-hand observation and an opportunity to practice state-of-the-art techniques and tactics using advanced technologies.

The Center also benefits from student feedback. Recently, information operations students suggested new areas for training. In response, the Center sent a representative for training with the United Nation's Children's Fund and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. The program focused on the latest findings in epidemiology and in methods to analyze and present public health data.

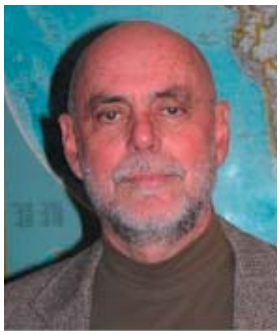
The Center plans to add two additional training modules to its curriculum. The first will enhance the ability of technicians to clear UXO in contaminated areas. Students will graduate with specialized, hands-on knowledge that will be used in teaching host nation students.

Another training module will focus on the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) -– the database managed by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining in Switzerland. The module will allow students to work with actual survey data collected from simulated hazard areas and incorporate them into the IMSMA process. ■

TEACHING CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS

Thomas C. Bruneau

The Center for Civil-Military Relations in Monterey, California, helps nations resolve issues resulting from defense transformation, stability and support operations, terrorism, and other security challenges. In the past two years, the Center has helped educate almost 7,000 foreign military officers and civilians in programs conducted in host countries and in the United States.



Thomas C. Bruneau is a professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School's School of International Graduate Studies and serves as director of the Center for Civil-Military Relations. His research interests include Latin American and Iberian security, civil-military relations and democratic consolidation, politics in Portugal, and democratic control of intelligence organizations.

In a democracy, those who govern have power by virtue of a popular vote of their country's citizens. While not similarly elected, the military also holds power. Consequently, effective civil-military relations — the relationship between elected civilian leaders and the military — are vital to those seeking to create a government that is ultimately responsive to the people who elected it.

The key issue remains how a democratic government can exert control over the military, rather than the other way around. This is especially important since the military formed the government in many countries, and in others the military is relied on periodically to support a civilian government. As always, "the devil is in the details" because institutions such as defense ministries, legislative committees, oversight commissions, and others must exercise control over the military for a democratically elected civilian government to succeed.

Value of Democracy

The study and teaching of civil–military relations is extremely important because unless civilians know how to establish and manage these key institutions, real democratic civil–military relations cannot be achieved. Absent effective institutional controls, a country is simply not a democracy. Democracy is a value by itself, derivative of the benefits of liberty and freedom, and it is widely known that democracies create better conditions than other political systems for human progress and the minimization of conflict and war. By employing a "lessons–learned and best-practices approach," civilians can learn how to control the military, and officers can come to understand that, in the long run, such control benefits them and their nation.

The Center for Civil–Military Relations at the Naval Postgraduate School was established in Monterey, California, in 1994 to provide graduate level education to foreign civilian and military participants through resident and nonresidential courses. The Center's program assists

Faculty from the Center for Civil-Military Relations of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School conducts classes in Nigeria. (CCMR Photo)

foreign nations in resolving civil–military issues that can occur as a nation addresses defense transformation requirements, participates in stability and support operations, seeks to combat terrorism, and steps up to other security challenges.

Last year the Center reached 3,717 students through 89 programs — 75 organized abroad and 14 at its California campus. Through October 2004, the Center had conducted 121 nonresident programs; 17 took place away from Monterey in the United States and 104 abroad. It also offered 17 resident programs in Monterey. Participants in these 138 programs included 2,241 foreign officers, 1,259 foreign civilians, 10,951 U.S. military personnel, and 247 U.S. civilians.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency and the Postgraduate School created the Center to develop programs and projects for several different departments and bureaus in the departments of Defense and State.

All of the Center's programs emphasize three main goals:

• First, consolidate and deepen democracy with particular reference to national defense and the armed forces;

• Second, increase the effectiveness of the armed forces in fulfilling the multiple roles and missions assigned to them by their democratically elected civilian leaders; and

• Third, seek success in the most efficient manner possible at the lowest possible cost.

While these goals apply to all of its programs, the Center has developed a number of different programs tailored for specific purposes: for example, teaching leaders how to carry out defense restructuring, how to formulate defense policy and strategy, how to implement defense reform, how to address civilian control and personnel management issues, how to pursue defense acquisitions, and how to handle civil–military relations and public affairs.

In the area of counter-terrorism policy and strategy, the Center has created programs that emphasize how to implement these policies effectively while simultaneously strengthening democratic processes and culture. Of particular emphasis is the theme of reforming intelligence policies and processes. The Center has taken the lead in U.S. graduate-level education and training for stability or peace support operations. Three dozen nations, for example, are receiving education about the most current doctrine and peacekeeping methods through the Enhanced International Peacekeeping Initiatives program. The United Nations provides the doctrine, and the Center contributes to its formulation.

Peacekeeping

Through other programs, officers and civilian leaders learn about the challenges and opportunities provided by international peacekeeping duties. And through its program, Leader Development & Education for Sustained Peace (LDESP), the Center prepares U.S. military units and personnel for peacekeeping support missions in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Increasing demand on the Center has led to the proliferation of programs and greater student participation. The Center has rapidly expanded its graduate-level, short-course educational programs for international civilians and officers, as well as for American civilians and officers scheduled to serve abroad.

The Center's programs incorporate requirements established by the U.S. government and, when abroad, by the host nation. The programs are rigorous and demand graduate-level thought and analysis. The Center draws on the teaching expertise of academic experts, retired military officers, members of Congress, executive and legislative staffers, and international experts. Discussion groups and simulations are emphasized throughout.

Successful programs generate additional requests. Examples include creation of a civilian defense cadre in Taiwan; reform of the defense planning and management

system in Estonia; ministry of defense reform and promotion of national security public awareness in Colombia; and development of a national defense planning system in Ukraine. Building upon previous seminars and workshops, the Center can institutionalize its three goals of achieving democratic civilian control, demonstrating military effectiveness, and promoting efficient use of resources.

The Naval Postgraduate School faculty leads most Center programs. Organized into teams, the faculty maintains geographic academic currency and reaches out to prominent civilians, officers, and members of academic and other communities to promote learning. This, in turn, has been an effective recruiting tool to build a cadre of young faculty members with expertise in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, Latin America, Asia, and Central and Eastern Europe. U.S. military officer students at NPS are allowed to augment their educational experience by participating in Center programs abroad.

Scholarly Publications

The Center's decade of experience has allowed the faculty to publish scholarly articles on such topics as democratic consolidation, defense reform, and democratic control of intelligence organizations. Soon, the University of Texas Press will publish *Soldiers and Statesmen: The Institutional Bases of Democratic Civilian Control,* which includes chapters by eight Civil-Military Relations faculty. Another book will discuss reform of intelligence organizations throughout the world. A book examining case studies on defense reform will follow this.
The Center has been able to compound its influence through partnerships with other educational and research institutions. In El Salvador, for example, it has been working with the Center for Higher Strategic Studies (CAEE) for a decade. Graduates are now spread throughout the upper levels of the government and the military. In addition, the Defense University of Mongolia created the Civil–Military Relations Research Center in 2002, establishing close links to the Monterey center. Together the two centers have now published two books.

The Center also signed a cooperation agreement with the Geneva Center for Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF) to create courses and produce publications. And, most recently, the Center helped establish NPS as the U.S. education and training center for 39 Partnership for Peace (PfP) countries. Such links strengthen partner institutions and deepen the impact of Center programs.

The Center for Civil-Military Relations is a unique institution. It combines academic excellence in teaching and publishing with customized courses on all aspects of civil-military relations and security decision-making. Its reputation is well known in NATO and PfP circles, within the U.N. community, and among international scholars. ■

STATE TO STATE

The U.S. National Guard promotes civil-military relationships and provides humanitarian and infrastructure development assistance through partnerships with more than 40 countries

The National Guard State Partnership Program was established in 1993 in response to the radically changed political-military situation following the collapse of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Authorities questioned how the National Guard, having provided the United States with strategic credibility during the Cold War, could continue to be relevant in an era when protecting Europe was no longer the driving force behind America's national defense strategy.

The National Guard is the longest serving military service in the United States. Original colonial militias, which formed the basis of the current U.S. National Guard, predate the nation and have been serving for over 367 years. Today, it is being used in a new way: as a full-spectrum force supporting the Army and the Air Force of the United States abroad and defending the homeland, while also responding to natural disasters such as hurricanes.

Every state and territory of the United States has a National Guard, which often features both an Army Guard that supports the Army and an Air Guard that supports the Air Force.

Lasting Contribution

Mindful of the uniqueness and strengths of its citizen-soldiers, the National Guard foresaw an opportunity to make a lasting contribution to solidifying the newly established peace. The response was the State Partnership Program (SPP). Elegantly simple in concept, the program sought to link the National Guard in states and territories throughout the United States with ministries of defense in the emerging democratic nations of Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia so that each might pursue cooperative activities of mutual benefit.

The National Guard's international initiatives foster

Capt. Colleen Kennedy, right, a doctor for the Virginia Air National Guard, examines a young patient during a 14-day humanitarian mission in July 2002 to four towns in El Salvador. (Photo by Staff Sgt. John Houghton, U.S. Air Force)

democracy, encourage market economies, promote regional cooperation and stability, and provide opportunities for National Guard soldiers and airmen -- as well as civilian members — to interact with and learn from other nations and cultures.

Currently, the state National Guards are partnered with 21 countries in the U.S. European Command area of responsibility, five countries in the U.S. Central Command area, 15 in the U.S. Southern Command region, and three countries in the U.S. Pacific Command area.

National Guard units support every combatant commander around the globe: the Northern Command and NORAD, Strategic Command, Pacific Command and Pacific Command for Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, and the Marianas, as well as having significant numbers of troops in Europe, Asia, South America, Central and Southwest Asia, and other regions.

The National Guard envisions its partnership program as a way to initiate military-to-military contacts, as well as a way to focus on the economic, political, and military

U.S. military engineers smooth a cement sidewalk adjacent to a health center in St. Kitts and Nevis, a federation of islands in the Caribbean Sea. Army National Guard, Air Force, Army Reserves, and Marine Corps units worked in conjunction with the St. Kitts and Nevis Defense Force in a 2003 exercise known as New Horizons. (Photo by Senior Airman Michele G. Misiano, U.S. Air Force)

benefits accruing to countries that have a viable reserve force of ordinary citizens trained and motivated to answer their country's call to duty in emergencies. The U.S. National Guard is ready, as needed, to organize, staff, train, and equip an effective military reserve force to ensure civilian control of the military.

The National Guard's "Minuteman Fellows" program brings hundreds of citizens of the emerging democracies each year to their partner states in the United States, to learn how the U.S. National Guard ensures the support and participation of "Hometown America" in the defense of the nation, and how the soldiers and airmen of the National Guard balance their military lives with their civilian careers.

Interestingly, the National Guard State Partnership Program was already launched and operating before NATO's Partnership for Peace initiative was approved and established. Now, some 11 years after the establishment of the State Partnership program, it has become a principal way in which the United States supports the Partnership for Peace Program. The State Partnership Program has expanded well beyond its original area of focus, and now has partnerships in Europe, Central Asia, the Far East, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. The program's "Bridge to America" holds the promise of strengthening America's ties to democratic partner nations around the world, and promoting increasing international understanding at the grass-roots level

The Partnering Process

The formal process to establish a partnership begins with a request submitted by the host nation to the U.S. ambassador in that country. The ambassador then formally requests the theater Combatant Commander who, in turn, requests the Chief, National Guard Bureau, to select a state for the partnership. The Chief of the National Guard Bureau selects a state partner based upon political, military, and socioeconomic criteria relevant to the needs and capabilities of the host nation and the participating state.
This selection is then forwarded to the Combatant Commander for final approval. After a public announcement, the partnership is officially initiated through a ceremony conducted in the partner nation.

Security Cooperation Objectives

The State Partnership Program strives to achieve the following security cooperation objectives:

• Improve military interoperability between the United States and the forces of partner nations.

• Demonstrate military subordination to civil authority.

• Demonstrate military support to civilian authorities.

• Assist with the development of democratic institutions.
• Foster open-market economies to help develop stability.

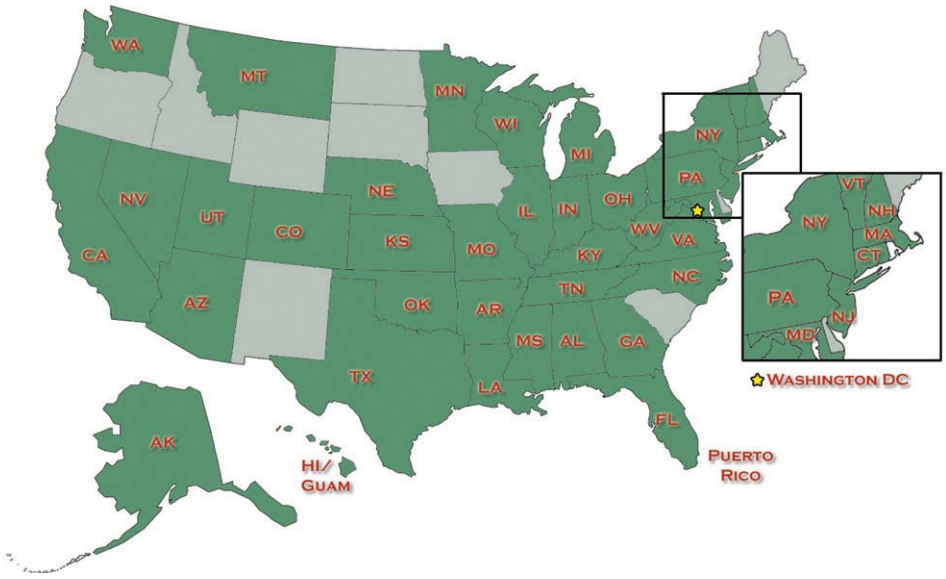
• Project and represent United States humanitarian values.

Security cooperation involves at least 16 types of exchanges and programs, from professional military education to civic leader development.

Materials developed by the U.S. National Guard Bureau's Office of International Affairs were compiled and adapted for this article. ■

National Guard State Partnership Program

Alabama	AL	Romania	Missouri	MO	Panama
Alaska	AK	Mongolia	Montana	MT	Kyrgyzstan
Arizona	AZ	Kazakhstan	Nebraska	NE	Czech Republic
Arkansas	AR	Guatemala	Nevada	NV	Turkmenistan
California	CA	Ukraine	New Hampshire	NH	El Salvador
Colorado	CO	Slovenia	New Jersey	NJ	Albania
Connecticut	CT	Uruguay	New York	NY	South Africa
District of Columbia	DC	Jamaica	North Carolina	NC	Moldova
Florida	FL	Venezuela/Guyana	Ohio	OH	Hungary
Georgia	GA	Georgia	Oklahoma	OK	Azerbaijan
Hawaii/Guam	HI	Philippines	Pennsylvania	PA	Lithuania
Illinois	IL	Poland	Puerto Rico		Honduras/ Dominican Republic
Indiana	IN	Slovakia			
Kansas	KS	Armenia	Tennessee	TN	Bulgaria
Kentucky	KY	Ecuador	Texas	TX	Czech Republic
Louisiana	LA	Belize / Uzbekistan	Utah	UT	Morocco
Maryland	MD	Estonia/Bosnia	Vermont	VT	Macedonia
Massachusetts	MA	Paraguay	Virginia	VA	Tajikistan
Michigan	MI	Latvia	Washington	WA	Thailand
Minnesota	MN	Croatia	West Virginia	WV	Peru
Mississippi	MS	Bolivia	Wisconsin	WI	Nicaragua



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INTERNET RESOURCES

Online resources for information about U.S. military assistance programs

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Army Corps of Engineers
http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/history/enduring_freedom_new_articles.htm

U.S. Agency for International Development: Humanitarian Assistance - The Funds
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/the_funds/

U.S. Center of Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
http://www.coe-dmha.org/humaff.htm

U.S. Central Command: Humanitarian Assistance
http://www.centcom.mil/CentcomNews/humanitarian.asp

U.S. Department of Defense: HIV/AIDS Prevention Program
http://www.nhrc.navy.mil/programs/dhapp/index.html

U.S. Department of Defense: Humanitarian Demining Training Center
http://www.wood.army.mil/hdtc/ushma.html

U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Political-Military Affairs
http://www.state.gov/t/pm/

U.S. Department of State: Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
http://www.state.gov/g/prm/

U.S. Department of State: Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA)
http://www.state.gov/t/pm/wra/

U.S. European Command: Humanitarian Mine Awareness Operations
http://www.eucom.mil/Directorates/ECPA/index.htm?
http://www.eucom.mil/Directorates/ECPA/Operations/demining/demining.htm&2

MILITARY EDUCATION

Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS)
http://www.apcss.org/

The Center for Civil-Military Relations (CCMR)
http://www.ccmr.org/public/home.cfm

Defense Security Cooperation Agency: International Training Programs
http://www.dsca.osd.mil/programs/imet/imet2.htm

George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies
http://www.marshallcenter.org/

International Military Education and Training (IMET)
http://www.dsca.osd.mil/home/international_military_education_training.htm

National Defense University: International Student Management Office
http://www.ndu.edu/ismo/

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) School
http://www.natoschool.nato.int/internet_ns/ns_body.htm

Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences: Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine
http://www.usuhs.mil/mim/CDHAM.htm

U.S. Army: Command and General Staff College: International Military Student Division
http://cgsc.leavenworth.army.mil/DSA/IOSD/

U.S. Army: Security Assistance Training Field Activity (SATFA)
http://www-satfa.monroe.army.mil/WHOWEARE.htm

U.S. Coast Guard International Affairs Office
http://www.uscg.mil/international/

U.S. Department of Defense: Defense Language Institute English Language Center (DLIELC)
http://www.dlielc.org/mission/index.html

U.S. Department of Defense: Regional Defense Counterterrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP)
http://ctfellowship.org/pages/whatCTFP/programVIEW/indexPROJ.htm

U.S. Navy School of International Graduate Studies: Naval Postgraduate School
http://www.nps.navy.mil/sigs/index.htm

Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation
http://www-benning.army.mil/whinsec/about.asp?id=13.

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http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/journals.htm

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