



## SECURITY ASSISTANCE TEAMS

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Air Force security assistance teams supplement security cooperation organization capabilities by providing training, advice, and technical assistance to a [host nation](#) (HN). The teams vary in size and composition, and may or may not be funded and organized by the Department of Defense (see Joint Publication 3-20, [Security Cooperation, Appendix A](#), for more information).

Air Force personnel may deploy as an Air Force team or function as the air component of a larger joint effort. When the operation involves training or advisory efforts aimed at developing tactics, techniques, and procedures, teams should include Air Force members and members from the other US Services when appropriate. [Appendix C](#) has additional details on Air Force security assistance efforts.

Combatant commanders may employ Air Force security assistance teams for limited support on technical training in the operation and maintenance of specific airpower systems. The principal criteria for team selection are competence in the requested specialty, teaching skills, and language compatibility with HN recipients. When training and advisory teams are required to provide guidance on planning, developing, and employing airpower, teaching skills in one technical specialty are rarely sufficient.

Country teams or combatant commanders normally initiate in-country support requirements, which should be based on recommendations derived from surveys and assessments. This approach avoids the problem of a team deploying overseas to develop or improve operational capabilities of a particular weapon system when the host air force lacks the infrastructure or resources to employ the system effectively.

Surveys on security assistance support of [foreign internal defense](#) should include three basic tasks. The first task is to determine appropriate airpower roles and operations for the situation. Secondly, conduct an assessment of the HN ability to fulfill those roles with existing airpower resources. Finally, develop requirements and recommendations for improvements that can be carried out through HN initiatives or through additional US assistance. In addition to providing US defense equipment and services to the HN, Air Force logistics personnel should advise host-nation authorities on the use of airpower to establish and sustain [internal defense and development](#) programs through aerial lines

of supply and personnel movement.

Training and equipment provided to the HN may not be sufficient to ensure the success of aviation programs in some conflict situations. When authorized and directed by appropriate legal authority, Air Force advisory personnel may also be employed to advise host air force units on how to employ air-support resources in a manner that serves the combined interests of the US and the HN.

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