



APPENDIX C: AIR FORCE SECURITY ASSISTANCE TEAMS

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This appendix assists commanders in identifying and selecting appropriate options for [foreign internal defense](#) (FID) by providing a brief survey of teams who perform functions under security assistance. One of the key operational-level objectives of Air Force advisory operations is to help integrate host-nation airpower into the multinational and joint arenas. Commanders should refer to current directives and publications for guidelines and specific policy on assistance provided under the Air Force security assistance program. This appendix also discusses functions, goals, and special constraints associated with Air Force advisory support to host nations.

BASIS OF REQUIREMENT

Legislative guidance limits training and advising by permanently assigned [security cooperation organization](#) (SCO) personnel. Also, SCOs are not sufficiently sized or configured to advise and train or perform technical assistance duties that extend beyond primary (and essentially logistical) SCO functions. Outside assistance may be required in specific instances.

TYPES OF TEAMS

Besides SCOs, several teams and organizations may perform limited security assistance functions for specified periods of time on a TDY or PCS basis. These teams include technical assistance teams (TAT), technical assistance field teams (TAFTs), mobile training teams (MTTs), extended training service specialists (ETSS), quality assurance teams, language training detachments, site survey teams, and defense requirement survey teams.

Commanders for FID activities can employ these teams and others assembled for specific purposes, such as health service support teams. In certain instances, temporarily deployed Air Force teams may be called on to advise foreign personnel on operational matters directly related to the use of host-nation resources in specific conflict situations.

NON-TRAINING SUPPORT OF HOST-NATION FORCES

A variety of non-training assistance functions can be accomplished under the security assistance program. The principal vehicles for non-training support are TATs and TAFTs.

Technical Assistance Teams

In cases where the operational readiness of host aircraft and support equipment is seriously degraded because of battle damage, unexpected materiel failures, or long-term deficiencies in local maintenance and funding, a requirement for one-time repair and refurbishment may exist. Introducing new equipment provided under security assistance may also require specialized Air Force assistance to place the systems in operation.

TATs and civilian engineering technical surveys can be deployed to provide these services. In some cases, US or foreign civilian contract personnel may be used. Such non-training support may be conducted in the host country or, when prohibited or deemed impractical because of inadequate local facilities, conducted out of country.

TATs should not be used to provide technical training or instruction except for incidental over-the-shoulder technical assistance in conjunction with their primary duties.

Technical Assistance Field Teams

Where ongoing aviation support requirements cannot be met through the combined efforts of the host air force, the SCO, and temporarily deployed Air Force teams, TAFTs can be sent to the host nation, normally for one year or longer, from Department of Defense (DOD) resources. TAFTs help install, operate, maintain, and support foreign military sales, purchased weapon systems, and equipment.

Specialized Non-training Support

Besides TATs and TAFTs, other forms of non-training support allow commanders to tailor team capabilities to meet specialized field requirements.

Air Force assistance teams (funded through security assistance) can use periodic visits to offset host-nation aircraft materiel management deficiencies by performing inventories, refining procedures, clearing up back orders, and resolving accounting discrepancies.

The Air Force can provide other specialized forms of non-training support. An example is theater technical training of US logisticians through the logistics team training (LTT) program. Small teams (10 to 15 individuals) train in such combat support skills as aircraft battle damage repair, corrosion control, materiel management, specialized

maintenance, transportation operations, or other combat support functions. Service O&M funds support the training of US personnel. Host-nation security assistance funds pay for repair parts and other expendables used by an LTT during training activities.

- ✦ The LTT concept is designed to ensure, and the Service must certify, that deployments offer opportunities for critical training that would not occur, or would occur at significantly higher costs or reduced efficiency in another similar geographic area. The concept is based on the precept that certain US forces training is so critical and reasonably unavailable that incidental, spin-off services provided to a foreign country in exchange for the training opportunities are insignificant in the balance of benefits, thereby making the training in the best interests of the US Government.
- ✦ As with TATs, training or instruction of host personnel is limited to incidental, “over-the-shoulder” technical assistance.

TRAINING SUPPORT TO HOST NATION’S FORCES

In many cases, incidental “over-the-shoulder” instruction occurring as a byproduct of certain non-training functions may not be sufficient to produce significant improvements in long-term self-sufficiency. Training teams, funded under security assistance, should be used where more extensive, formally structured courses of instruction are required. The teams can be deployed to reinforce SCO capabilities.

Mobile Training Teams

MTTs deployed to the recipient nation add to SCO capabilities by training [host nation](#) (HN) personnel in the operation, maintenance, and employment of airpower weapon systems and support equipment. MTTs are authorized for specific in-country training requirements beyond the capability of SCOs, primarily to develop the recipient’s self-training capabilities in particular skills. MTTs may be funded from either foreign military sales or international military education and training programs.

MTTs are also authorized to provide training associated with equipment transfers or to conduct surveys and assessments of training requirements. MTTs may be requested to carry out specific training tasks for limited periods of time. MTTs will not be used to assemble, maintain, operate, or renovate a system.

Extended Training

Sustained Air Force training capabilities are available through ETSS who are technically qualified to provide advice, instruction, and training in the engineering, installation, operation, and maintenance of weapons, equipment, and systems.

ADVISORY SUPPORT TO HOST-NATION FORCES

When specifically authorized and directed, deployed Air Force security assistance teams advise host military personnel on using airpower systems and related support capabilities. Advisory functions are subject to legislative restrictions and DOD directives on levels and types of assistance provided. Commanders and SCO personnel requesting this type of assistance must ensure that advisory activities fall within current policy guidelines and legal parameters.

Command Advisory Functions

Air Force advisory assistance may be required to facilitate host air force support of [internal defense and development](#) (IDAD) objectives and to encourage a satisfactory correlation between US security assistance goals and the recipient's use of security assistance assets. Advisory assistance teams accomplish these tasks by advising central command elements of the host military on the capabilities, limitations, and correct use of airpower in a given conflict. Command advisory functions focus on operational-level planning that can bridge the gap between IDAD strategy and tactical employment.

Field Advisory Functions

Air Force advisory assistance conducted at the field level (operational flying units, aviation support elements, and army maneuver units) focuses primarily on improving host military tactics, techniques, and procedures for airpower operations.

Air Force advisory functions include mission-related advice on intelligence collection and analysis, maintenance, logistics, communications, and administration as well as tactical operations. Field advisory support also has important applications in medical and military civic action programs, military construction, and influence operations. Its principal objective is to provide guidance fostering self-sufficiency in the use of airpower resources for the conflict at hand, not to supplant host-nation capabilities.

Field advisory functions should be closely linked to operational-level objectives supporting overall US/HN strategic goals. This entails such field advisory functions as testing and verifying HN airpower employment and sustainment capabilities, focusing HN aviation resources on appropriate roles and missions, and facilitating the availability of safe, reliable, and interoperable aviation support as a force multiplier for the US joint force commander.

Field advisory functions are not automatically linked to direct participation in host military operations. Advisory functions that expose US personnel to hostile fire represent a significant increase in US commitment with profound legal and political implications. Under current law, personnel performing defense services may not perform any duties of a combatant nature, including any duties related to training and

advising, that may engage US personnel in combat activities outside the US.
