



The National Guard State Partnership Program

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2013

**National Guard Bureau
Division of International Affairs, J53
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Executive Summary—SPP Annual Report FY2013

This Annual Report provides an overview of the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP), data on events and program highlights for Fiscal Year 2013. SPP is one of the most innovative, low-cost, small footprint security cooperation tools available to the Department of Defense. SPP is administered by the National Guard Bureau, guided by State Department foreign policy goals, and executed by the State Adjutants General in support of Combatant Commander and US Chief of Mission security cooperation objectives and Department of Defense policy goals.

SPP has marked its 20th year of successfully building relationships that today include 65 unique security partnerships involving 71 nations around the globe. Through the years, SPP has evolved to meet the changing requirements of the Department of Defense's security cooperation efforts. From helping to reform Eastern Europe's defense forces after the Cold War to aiding countries to participate in coalition operations, SPP has consistently provided the right capabilities at the right times. The National Guard remains committed to maintaining the enduring relationships that SPP provides that help to ensure US strategic access, sustained US presence, and enhanced National Guard and partner country defense and security force capabilities.

In addition to military-to-military engagements, SPP leverages whole-of-society relationships and capabilities to facilitate broader interagency and whole-of-government engagements in accordance with Department of Defense authorities. The unique, dual nature of the National Guard's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen places SPP at the crossroads of diplomacy and defense and embodies the widely-accepted 'smart power' approach to United States foreign policy and spans the military, political and economic realms of society. Activities are coordinated through the Combatant Commanders, Chiefs of Mission, and other agencies as appropriate to ensure National Guard cooperation is tailored to meet both US and partner country objectives.

SPP is designed to provide a consistent, enduring, and genuine presence, built over time through professional, personal, and institutional relationships that span continents and decades. Some partnerships have grown so close that the partner country prefers to deploy on operational missions with its National Guard State partner and utilize capabilities developed through their partnerships. Since 2003, 28 partner countries in SPP have deployed troops to Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan; 16 of those partner countries valued their SPP relationships so much, that they deployed with their State partners. SPP is a proven model for building long-term relationships that promote regional security while addressing US national security needs.

"I saw what a potent contribution reserves can make in [building partnership capacity overseas]. Link this concept with one of the best foreign policy bargains our nation has—namely the Guard's State Partnership Program, which I very strongly support."

- Admiral James Winnefeld, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, September 2013

History of SPP — Two Decades of Building Relationships

The State Partnership Program evolved from a 1993 European Command decision to set up the Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP) in the Baltic region using reserve component Soldiers and Airmen. At the time, it was believed reserve component personnel would present a less aggressive posture to the new Russian Federation. A subsequent National Guard Bureau proposal to pair National Guard State units with the countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania formally initiated the program.

SPP quickly grew to support other Combatant Commands by developing relationships in South and Central America and Europe throughout the rest of the 1990's. Since 2000, SPP has added almost 20 country partnerships in Africa and Asia, including seven partnerships in Africa before the establishment of US Africa Command. SPP demonstrated responsiveness to national and Combatant Command priorities by adding Vietnam as its 65th partnership (Oregon) and will add Tonga as its 66th partnership in early 2014 in the context of the national strategic rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region, with more partnerships planned in the region.



Chaplain (Capt.) J Kroencke and Sgt. Ryan Twist take part in an annual pilgrimage in Czestochowa, Poland, August 2013

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65 State Partnerships

STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

USEUCOM - 22

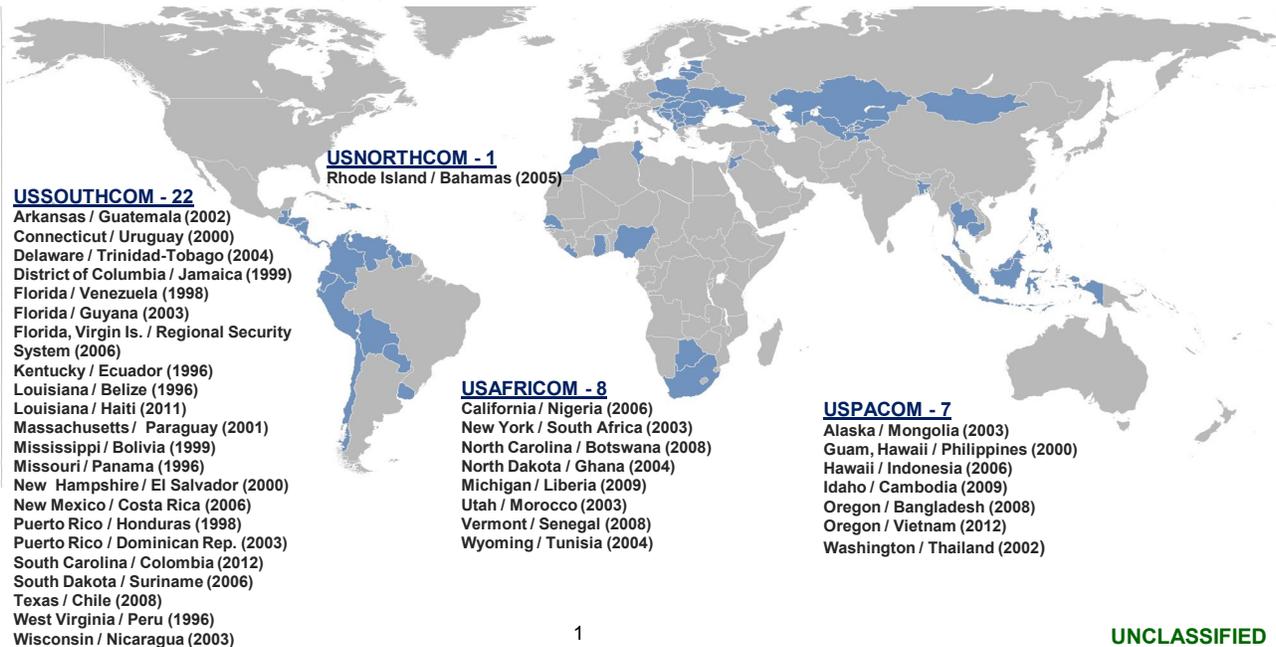
Alabama / Romania (1993)
California / Ukraine (1993)
Colorado / Slovenia (1993)
Georgia / Georgia (1994)
Illinois / Poland (1993)
Indiana / Slovakia (1993)
Iowa / Kosovo (2011)

Kansas / Armenia (2002)
Maine / Montenegro (2006)
Maryland / Estonia (1993)
Maryland / Bosnia (2003)
Michigan / Latvia (1993)
Minnesota / Croatia (1996)
New Jersey / Albania (2001)
North Carolina / Moldova (1996)

Ohio / Hungary (1993)
Ohio / Serbia (2005)
Oklahoma / Azerbaijan (2002)
Pennsylvania / Lithuania (1993)
Tennessee / Bulgaria (1993)
Texas, Nebraska / Czech Republic (1993)
Vermont / Macedonia (1993)

USCENTCOM - 5

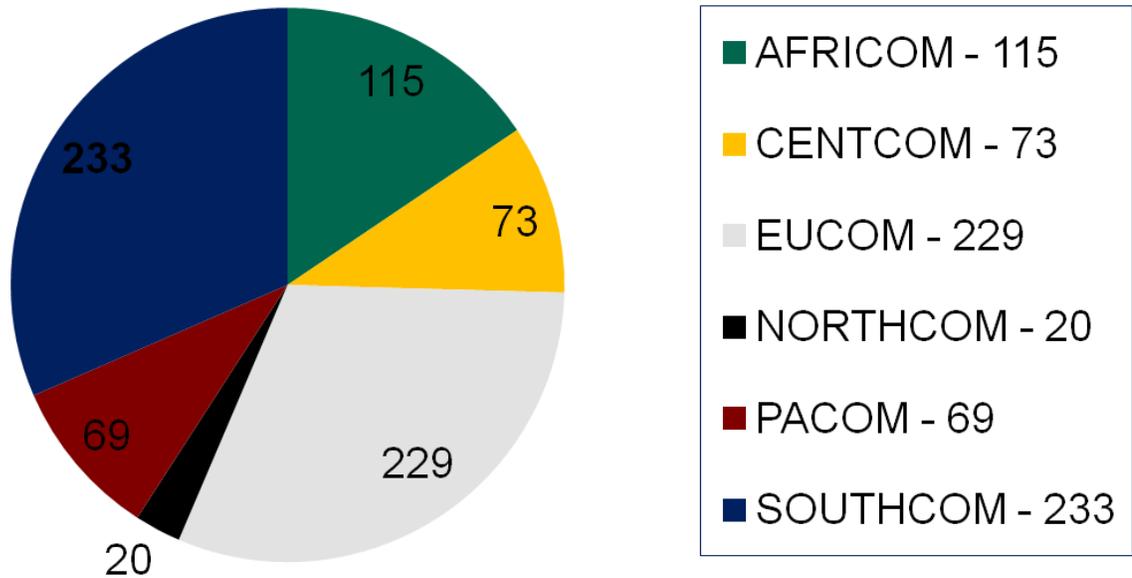
Arizona / Kazakhstan (1993)
Colorado / Jordan (2004)
Mississippi / Uzbekistan (2012)
Montana / Kyrgyz Republic (1996)
Virginia / Tajikistan (2003)



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Snapshot of SPP Success—FY2013 Events

FY2013 SPP Events – 739 Total Events

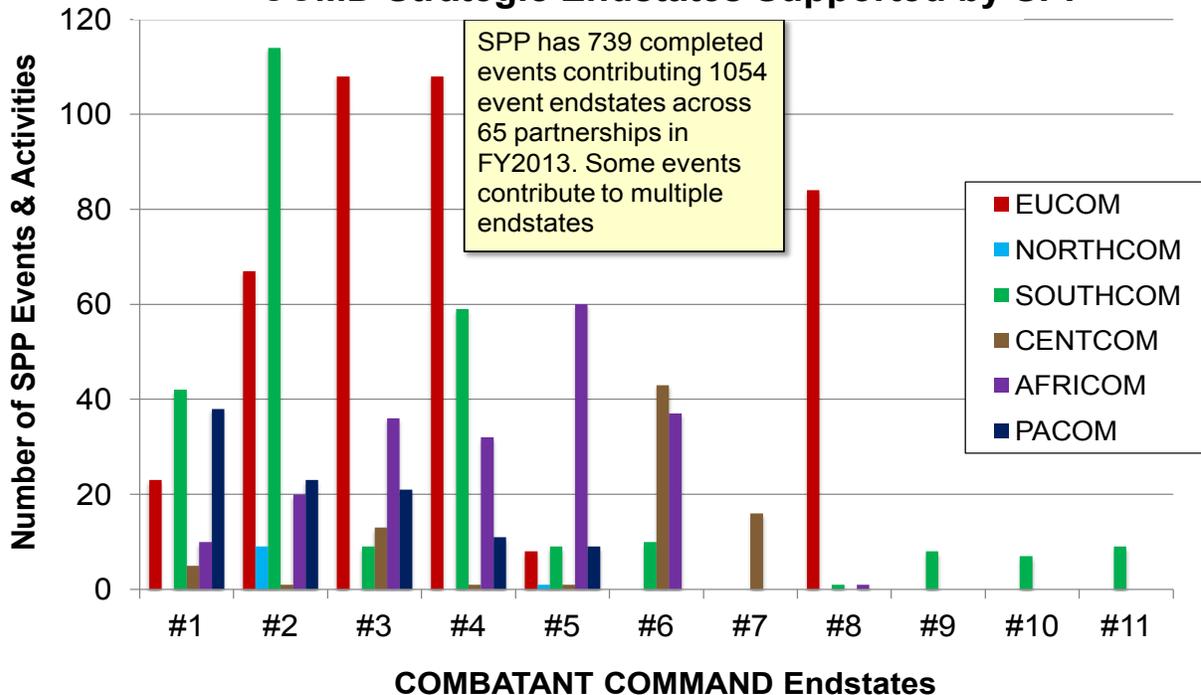


In FY2013, SPP completed 739 security cooperation events across all six Geographic Combatant Commands, in the US and abroad, contributing towards all Combatant Command End States.



SPP Military-Military Exchanges FY2013

CCMD Strategic Endstates Supported by SPP



FY2013 Program Highlights—Return on Investment

Iowa-Kosovo: Institutionalizing “Whole of Society” Engagement

The Iowa-Kosovo SPP relationship has blossomed in to what Iowa Adjutant General Tim Orr envisioned as a “whole-of-Iowa, whole-of-Kosovo approach.” The new partnership, begun in 2011, has used the military-military relationship as a springboard to broader societal linkages. Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga have signed partnership agreements to increase investment, trade, and education opportunities between Iowa and Kosovo. Iowa entrepreneurs have made business deals with Kosovo businesses. Kosovo’s ambassador to the US has led youth-focused technology seminars to bring innovation to Kosovo and place Kosovar exchange students in high schools in Iowa. Johnston, Iowa and Peje, Kosovo have also started a partnership through the Sister Cities program.

“The real benefit of the State Partnership Program is the enduring nature of the relationship, that sergeants and lieutenants and captains grow up together and have multiple engagements. You probably have the co-chairs of the State Partnership Program fan club seated here (referring to Admiral Stavridis).”

- **General Carter Ham, Former AFRICOM Commander**



Bosnia-Maryland co-deployment to ISAF

“The value here [with SPP] is almost incalculable. What you have here is not episodic, but long term.”

- **Major General Frederick S Rudesheim, US Army South Commander**

Oregon-Bangladesh: Utilizing Civilian Skill Sets

The Oregon National Guard facilitated a concept where Portland Police Officers would help teach at the Bangladesh Police Academy in Rajshahi to support a community-oriented policing program. Utilizing funds from the US Department of Justice, the Oregon National Guard used contacts within the Portland Police Bureau to expand the SPP partnership between Oregon and Bangladesh beyond military-to-military events to achieve one of the strategic goals of the US Ambassador.

Chief Staff Officer of the Bangladesh Armed Forces Lieutenant General Abdul Wadud has asked the Oregon National Guard to be a key partner in the development of Bangladesh’s Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response Center given the long-term SPP relationship and Oregon’s Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response expertise. Lieutenant General Wadud has also visited high schools and other state facilities in Oregon and has discussed exchange programs with Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber.

Return on Investment, cont'd

Maryland-Estonia: Enhancing Allied Cyber Defense



Cyber Endeavor exercise hosted by the EUCOM with the participation of Estonia and Maryland National Guard

Enhancing Estonia's cyber defense capabilities has been a lead focus of the Maryland-Estonia partnership in recent years. A future goal of the partnership is for Estonia to continue to export its enhanced cyber defense capabilities within the Baltic region and throughout Europe. In fact, Estonia is already taking a lead role in regional cyber defense training with neighboring countries and assisting Belarus, Georgia, Tunisia, and others in cyber defense and secure e-government issues. Cyber defense capabilities are quickly becoming a priority in all facets of the US government.

"We have been engaged in SPP with the Colorado National Guard for 20 years now. It is much more than just a program, it is a relationship which we both have built. We faced challenges, shared hardships together and always came out stronger in the end. The SPP and the Colorado National Guard played a major role in Slovenia becoming part of NATO, we have strengthened our ties with our allies and we ourselves became a stronger force in the Alliance."

- **Brigadier General Dobran Bovic, Slovenian Chief of the General Staff**

"[I have] a very, very close relationship [with Jordan's Prince Faisal]"

- **Major General H. Michael Edwards, Colorado adjutant general**

Colorado-Jordan: Supporting Key Allies in a Strategically Vital Region

The Colorado National Guard has served as a key liaison and mentor for the strategically vital US ally Jordan. In summer 2013, Colorado and Ohio Air National Guard fighter units participated in Eager Lion, a CENTCOM-directed, irregular warfare-themed exercise that also included U.S. Marines. "When we fly together, we fly as one team. If a [Colorado Air Guard] pilot is the flight lead, the Jordanian pilot will follow his command and likewise, if a Jordanian pilot is in command of the flight, the American will follow his direction." – **Maj Ali Shabana**, Royal Jordanian Air Force Project Officer



Jordanian and Colorado Air National Guard jet fighters fly over northern Jordan during Exercise Eager Lion in June 2013

National Guard: Unique Capabilities and Support to National Security Strategy

The National Guard's unique structure of low personnel turnover, consistent units, and small unit size make it the ideal Department of Defense asset to provide an enduring security relationship with small to moderate size countries. Many National Guard State units are of a similar size to their partner country national units which makes emulation of US military organization, strategy, and doctrine straightforward for SPP partner countries. Being a reserve component force makes the National Guard ideally suited for developing capabilities in many countries with relatively small force structures. Additionally, the National Guard, as the primary US homeland defense force, has niche capabilities in areas such as disaster response and consequence management that contribute directly to many Combatant Command and partner country objectives. Such coordination is ensured by National Guard Bilateral Affairs Officers placed within the US Embassy Security Cooperation Offices who participate in planning meetings with the Embassy Country Team.

"[SPP] definitely helped Estonia to prepare for NATO membership. Today, the benefits are mutual. Looking at these developments, I can't even imagine what the cooperation will be in ten years' time."

- **Permanent Secretary Mikk Marran, Estonian Ministry of Defense**

SPP is aligned to, and supports, national-level security strategies and foreign policy goals. The program adheres to the security cooperation themes outlined in the National Security Strategy, Quadrennial Defense Review, National Military Strategy, Defense Strategic Guidance, Defense Budget Priorities and Choices, Department of State Joint Regional Strategies, and Chief of Mission Integrated Country Strategies. The activities enabled through SPP are integral components of the Combatant Commander's theater security cooperation efforts.

A number of Combatant Commanders and senior US and foreign leaders have praised the SPP as an indispensable contribution to regional and global security cooperation. These testimonials highlight the value of SPP in advancing US and Combatant Command security cooperation goals and objectives.

"We rely on the National Guard's State Partnership Program... [to] provide long-term mentorship to our partner nations to advance democratic principles and values and to encourage subordination of the military to civilian authority."

- **General John F. Kelly, SOUTHCOM Commander**



Alaska and Mongolia co-deployed forces to Afghanistan and met with CNGB GEN Grass

SPP Global Security Contributions and Future State Partnership Strategy

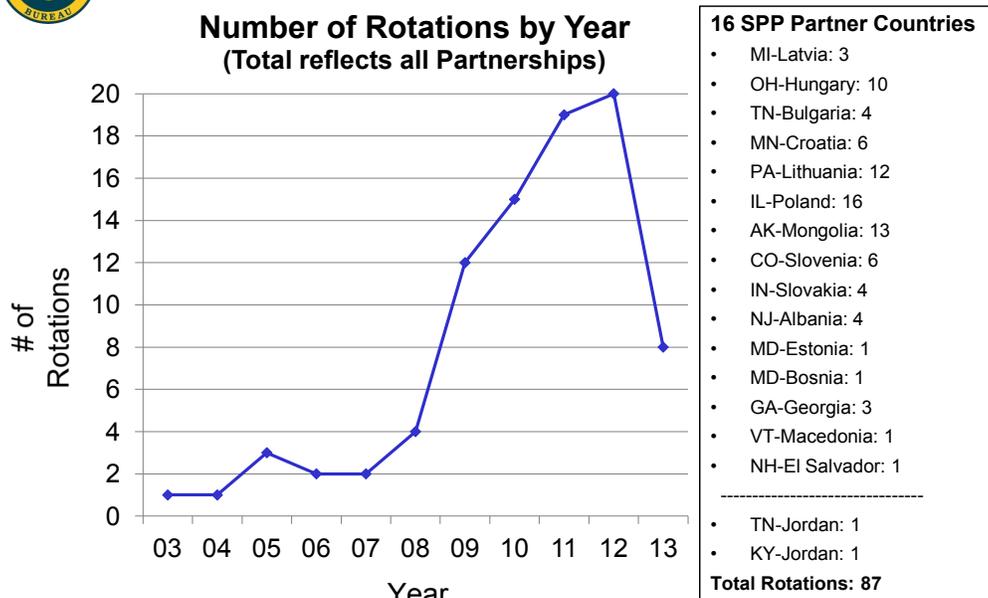
United Nations and other international peacekeeping missions, supported by Department of State training programs and SPP events dedicated to building the capability of partner countries to deploy peacekeeping personnel, benefit Combatant Commands by helping to maintain regional and global security without the direct involvement of US forces. This correlates directly with the SPP mission of building partner capacity to share the burden of ensuring global security. According to the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as of November 2013, 44 SPP partner countries (37% of all United Nations–troop contributing countries) have 33,153 peacekeeping personnel (34% of all United Nations–deployed personnel) deployed to all 14 active United Nations peacekeeping missions. Over 30 SPP partnerships have included peacekeeping-related events in their activities and engagements.

Future Global State Partnership Strategy

The National Guard is being asked to play a larger role in security cooperation with a special emphasis in US Pacific Command and US Africa Command based on national strategic priorities and increasing requests for state partnerships. SPP has added 17 new partnerships within US Africa Command, US Central Command, and US Pacific Command since 2002 while maintaining its enduring partnerships in US European Command and US Southern Command. The National Guard Bureau works closely with the Combatant Commands and the Office of the Secretary of Defense to determine priority countries for program growth. Chief, National Guard Bureau General Grass has guided NGB to aggressively pursue new SPP relationships requested by the partner countries and by the Combatant Commands.



SPP Co-Deployments 2003-2013



- *Twenty-eight SPP partner countries from Europe, Asia, Central Asia, and South and Central America have participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.*
- *Sixteen of those SPP partners have co-deployed forces in 87 troop rotations from 2003-2013 ranging from NATO Military Assistance Teams to embedded support teams*

Conclusion

As equal partnerships based on mutual respect and mutual interests, SPP helps improve the ability of US and partner militaries to work together, deploy together, and learn from each other. The cost effectiveness, versatility, and enduring focus of the SPP provides the Department of Defense, Combatant Commands, the interagency community, and international partners with the ability to address security challenges today and prepare for a wide range of security threats well into the future. The program promotes defense reform and modernization, and provides a training venue for National Guard forces and personnel in meeting Joint and Service doctrine and training requirements.



Montana National Guard soldiers, members of a FEMA task force, and soldiers from the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic practice Urban Search and Rescue scenarios in May 2013

“The cooperation between the National Guard of Minnesota and the Croatian Armed Forces has played a vital role in development standards and capabilities needed for our accession to NATO. Also, we must emphasize our joint engagement of Combat Support OMLT in ISAF. I am pleased that this cooperation continues now that Croatia is a full member of the Alliance.”

- **Lieutenant General Drago Lovric, Croatian Chief of Defense**

No one can predict what the next international security crisis will be, or where it will occur. Major world events that have changed the way the US views international security such as Pearl Harbor, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the fall of the Soviet Union, and 9/11 are often unanticipated. Maintaining and growing partners and allies around the world through diplomacy and military cooperation is essential to responding to the next crisis. The National Security Strategy reminds us that successful engagement depends on “the effective use and integration of different elements of American

power.” This includes strengthening the US military’s capacity “to partner with foreign counterparts, train and assist security forces, and pursue military-to-military ties with a broad range of governments.” SPP broadens the pool of ready, willing, and able security partners and positions the US to respond effectively to anticipated or unanticipated global scenarios as they emerge. Just as the National Guard stands always ready to respond to domestic and foreign emergencies, SPP partner countries, through enduring, functional relationships, stand ready to share the burden of maintaining international security.

“[SPP] is a very powerful tool. It is unmatched. They are, bang for the buck, one of the best things going. Anything that enhances state partnership is money in the bank for the regional combatant commanders.”

- **Admiral James Stavridis, Former EUCOM Commander**