

# Department of Defense State Partnership Program (SPP)









#### **Mission**

Mission Statement: SPP supports the security cooperation objectives of the United States and Geographic Combatant Commands (GCC) by developing enduring relationships with partner countries and carrying out activities to build partner capacity, improve interoperability, and enhance U.S. relations, while increasing the readiness of the U.S. and partner forces to meet emerging challenges.

- SPP is a Department of Defense (DoD) Security Cooperation Program
- State Department Concurrence
- Managed by the National Guard Bureau
- Executed by the COCOMs
- Sourced by the National Guards (NG) of the U.S. States and Territories



The Indiana Air National Guard's 122<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing hosts members of Niger's armed forces.



# **SPP History**

- Established in 1993 to assist ten former Soviet Union and Yugoslav countries
- SPP is authorized by law (section 341 of Title 10, United States Code) and governed by DoD Instruction 5111.20
- Focused on building partner military capacity and defense capability thru relationship building
- Now includes 100 partner nations; growing 5 partnerships this year.
- Continues to grow with an average of two new partners per year



1992: Then-Chief of the NGB, Lt Gen John B Conaway, lays a wreath at the Freedom Monument in Riga, Latvia



2018: Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner and Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak mark SPP's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary



### What Does SPP Do?

#### Tailored approach per country:

- Developed with COCOM and Embassy
- NGB BAO at each post
- Senior Leader engagements
- Subject Matter Expert exchanges
- Familiarization visits
- Cooperative training and exercises
- Co-deployments

#### **Historic Areas of Focus:**

- Disaster response / emergency response
- Leader, staff, officer & NCO development
- Aviation operations, maintenance & safety
- Cyber defense & communications security



Soldiers from Hungary, Serbia, and the Ohio National Guard practiced small unit infantry tactics at the "Neighbors 2018" exercise in Hungary

- Infantry tactics
- Engineer activities
- Counter-terrorism
- Military medical



## **SPP Strengths**

#### -Building Relationships, Access and Influence-

- Best return on investment
  - Less than 1% of the \$6B Security Cooperation budget
  - > 20-30% of all COCOM engagements are SPP
- Key Leader Engagement with Presidents, Prime Minister, Minster of Defense, Chief of Defense
- Supports Country Team, Partner Nation and COCOM Objectives (5 Year Plan)
- Whole of Society approach (<u>Diplomatic</u>, <u>Informational</u>, <u>Military</u>, and <u>Economic</u>)
  - Beyond Defense
  - Civic Institutions (Governance, Economics, Law Enforcement)
  - > Academia
  - Medical community
  - Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Reduction



# **SPP Map**





## **How are Partnerships Developed?**

## Request

**Requests State Partnership** 

**Endorses partnership concept** 

Endorses partnership concept & provides request(s) to OSD/JS

Selects which country(ies) and forwards to CNGB

Provides information and nomination packets to the states

Requesting Nation

**US Ambassador** 

Combatant Commander

OSD Partnership Strategy Joint Staff J5

Chief, National Guard Bureau

**Approval** 

Approves of state partner – Partnership activities begin

Endorses partner selection & notifies requesting country

Endorses partner selection & coordinates with US Ambassador

**SECDEF icw SECSTATE Makes Selection and Tasks States** 

Coordinates w/ OSD(P) & JCS J5; Performs selection analysis and nominates state partner





States self-nominate