



The State Partnership Program (SPP)

What is the SPP?



- **Joint Department of Defense (DoD) security cooperation program managed by the National Guard Bureau, executed by the geographic combatant commands (CCMDs), and sourced by the National Guards (NG) of the U.S. States and territories**
- **Links a State's NG with a partner nation's military, security forces, and disaster response organizations in a cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship**
 - **Innovative, cost-effective, flexible, small-footprint program**
 - **Supports CCMD, U.S. Embassy, and partner nation objectives**
 - **Builds defense capability and capacity**
 - **Fosters enduring personal and institutional relationships**



The Indiana Air National Guard's 122nd Fighter Wing hosts members of Niger's armed forces

SPP History



- **Began in 1993 with the three Baltic Republics**
- **Expanded that same year to ten other former Soviet bloc and Yugoslav countries**
- **Currently 82 SPP partnerships encompassing 89 partner nations**
- **All 54 State and territory NGs participate**
- **Continues to grow by an average of two new partnerships 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 25th anniversary

SPP in Law and Policy



- **The SPP is authorized by law (section 341 of Title 10, United States Code) and governed by DoD Instruction 5111.20**
- **Partnerships are established by the Secretary of Defense with the concurrence of the Secretary of State**
- **By law, the mission of the SPP is “to support the security cooperation objectives of the United States.”**



Brig. Gen. Christopher Walker of the West Virginia National Guard gives a C-130 aircraft tour to Maj. Gen. Luis Gutiérrez of Peru in April 2019



Supporting NDS Objectives



“Mutually beneficial alliances and partnerships are crucial to our strategy, providing a durable, asymmetric strategic advantage that no competitor or rival can match.” - National Defense Strategy



Soldiers from Croatia and the Minnesota National Guard train together in preparation for a co-deployment to Afghanistan

- Offers tailored/expandable approach based on evolving requirements
- Matches military organizations of comparable size, focus, and mission
- Provides full spectrum of military capabilities, plus others not found in the active component
- Enhances operational skills and regional expertise of National Guard soldiers and airmen

What We Do



Tailored approach can include:

- Senior Leader engagements
- Subject Matter Expert exchanges
- Familiarization visits
- Cooperative training and exercises
- Co-deployments



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

Examples of SPP focus areas:

- Disaster response / emergency response
- Leader, staff, officer & NCO development
- Aviation operations, maintenance & safety
- Cyber defense & communications security
- Infantry tactics
- Engineer activities
- Counter-terrorism
- Military medical