



NATIONAL GUARD

# STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

## FACT SHEET

### PARTNERSHIP

“Building Relationships that Enhance Global Security, Understanding, and Cooperation”

The National Guard has forged enduring partnerships through the State Partnership Program (SPP) for almost 30 years while helping to build U.S. and partner capacity to meet 21st century security challenges.

### THE PROGRAM

Beginning as a program to assist countries emerging from behind the Iron Curtain, the SPP now involves more than 45% of the world’s countries paired with the National Guard of every U.S. state and territory. Most of the earliest SPP partner countries in Europe have gone on to become U.S. allies in NATO, and many of them credit the SPP, and their National Guard state partners, with helping make that possible. This cost-effective, small footprint program delivers a significant return on investment by broadening the pool of foreign security partners.

### MISSION

The SPP supports the security cooperation objectives of the United States and the 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. access and influence while increasing the readiness of U.S. and partner forces to meet emerging challenges.

### NATIONAL DEFENSE

The SPP is strategically important to our national defense. National Guard service members’ efforts make vital contributions to the Joint Force, executing national defense strategy by advancing multinational understanding and support. The SPP helps the United States react effectively to anticipated or unanticipated global scenarios as they emerge.



### CODIFIED IN LAW

In Section 341 of Title 10, United States Code, Congress authorized the secretary of defense to establish a program of activities “to support the Security Cooperation objectives of the United States, between members of the National Guard of a State or territory and any of the following: a) the military forces of a foreign country, b) the security forces of a foreign country, c) governmental organizations of a foreign country whose primary functions include disaster response or emergency response.”

*The SPP is a Department of Defense security cooperation program, managed and administered by the chief, National Guard Bureau, executed by the GCCs, and sourced by the National Guard of the states and territories. The SPP supports the security cooperation objectives of the appropriate GCC and U.S. chief of mission.*

**\$40M Annual  
Budget**

**85  
Partnerships**

**1,000+  
Events Annually**