

## Security Cooperation and the Army National Guard (ARNG)

**What is it?** JCS Pub 1-02 defines Security Cooperation (SC) as “All Department of Defense (DoD) interactions with foreign defense establishments to build defense relationships that promote specific US security interests, develop allied and friendly military capabilities for self-defense and multinational operations, and provide US forces with peacetime and contingency access to a host nation.” The ARNG has a long history of SC engagement activities spanning from the cold war era to the present. As an operational force, the ARNG contributes to Theater Army (TA) phase zero shaping operations by participating in SC exercises, engagements, and exchanges worldwide. The Guard’s unique dual state and federal mission status empowers the organization with peerless access as the leading Army component for enduring military-to-military relationships through the National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP).

**ARNG Security Cooperation Activities:** Today’s ARNG is a capable global stabilization force participating not only in the 65 global SPP partnerships that promote contingency access, interoperability, and improve the capacity of key and regional partner country self defense capabilities – but also supports Global Combatant Command (GCC) and TA campaign objectives. For example, in FY11, the ARNG sourced more than 50 percent of SC missions requested by TAs for worldwide joint exercises. In 2011, the ARNG provided approximately 18,575 Soldiers to support 69 military exercises in 104 countries. The NGB SPP accounts for 44 percent of all military-to-military engagements in the U.S. European Command; 46 percent in the U.S. Africa Command; and 38 percent in U.S. Southern Command. In 2011, 4,200 ARNG Soldiers participated in SPP bilateral familiarization and training events with 63 partner countries that promoted SC activities such as emergency management; medical; disaster response; border and port security; peacekeeping operations; and, Agriculture Development Teams.

**Why is this important?** The ARNG SC program is unique because citizen soldiers combine their professional skills, gained through civilian careers and education, with their military knowledge to forge enduring relationships with key individuals over long periods of time. For example, an Active Component Soldier’s assignment may require regular contact with a foreign military over a two to three year window; by comparison, ARNG Soldiers may participate in partner country engagements with the same individuals throughout an entire career. In many cases, these crucial bonds with partner countries have been cultivated and maintained for the past two decades. ARNG capacity-building activities serve to deepen and strengthen a foreign country or region’s positive perception of the United States as a valued partner and, ultimately, could serve to *prevent* future conflicts, which is one of the four key objectives in the 2010 QDR. Participation in SC sustains the readiness of the ARNG for both state and federal missions.

**Future Plans:** The ARNG continues to develop SC capacity and field innovative capabilities to meet TA demands in the ever-changing global SC environment. Collaborating with Department of the Army, Office of the Secretary of Defense, and Department of State initiatives, the ARNG provides an economy of force solution that is trained, ready, and capable. The ARNG continues with the alignment of modular brigades in support of TA SC requirements. In 2013, the ARNG will field a pilot program of Mission Engagement Teams (MET) responding to GCC capability gaps. The brigades and METs can team with a partner country’s army to assist with interoperability and development of force generation, operational interoperability, and institutional improvement.

**Click on the following link for additional information:** For additional details on these and other Security Cooperation related activities, please see <http://www.arng.army.mil/>